



[Call for Presentations]

15th Annual Conference
*Latinos in the Heartland:
Building Bridges, Dialogue,
and Opportunity*

Columbia, Missouri
June 8-10, 2016
www.cambiodecolores.org

[Key Dates]

November 20, 2015: Abstract submission starts (online)

February 1, 2016: Deadline for submitting abstracts

March 1, 2016: Notification of accepted abstracts

March 30, 2016: Author/presenter registration deadline

June 8-10, 2016: Fifteenth Cambio de Colores

Conference – Latinos in the Heartland: **Building Bridges, Dialogue, and Opportunity**

August 19, 2016: Deadline for submission of papers for publication in Proceedings

Information about registration, lodging, and other details are posted on www.cambiodecolores.org.

[About the Cambio de Colores 2016 Conference]

Communities throughout the Midwest have seen dramatic demographic changes in the last three decades, including the arrival of large numbers of immigrants who are settling in rural and urban areas. Since 2002, the Cambio de Colores (Change of Colors) Conference has annually brought together community leaders and policymakers, those who provide services to newcomers in changing communities, researchers, and other professionals to discuss the issues resulting from these changes.

The theme this year, “Building Bridges, Dialogue, and Opportunity”, emphasizes the need for developing connections among the diverse groups that exist in our communities, facilitating dialogues that increase understanding, and motivating people to engage in processes that create opportunities for people to address differences and facilitate greater integration. As world migrations continue to surge this year, there is interest in building our communities to be more adaptive and to integrate newcomers, knowing that our communities grow stronger when they grow together and learn to respect differences. The movements for racial and economic justice on campuses and in communities have confirmed the need for more conversations, community work, research, and policy changes around issues of integration and understanding. While this conference focuses on the integration of Latinos and other immigrants, the planning committee encourages attendees to think broadly about how lessons learned at Cambio de Colores can be applied to other contexts.

Over the past fifteen years, this conference has served as a hub for researchers and practitioners to take stock of how our communities are adapting to changes and share experiences of how to improve community wellbeing and the integration of Latinos, minorities, and immigrants. While native and foreign-born Latinos may constitute the majority of new arrivals in these regions, the conference is also interested in immigrants from other areas of the world. The integration of these very diverse groups is being studied by academics and pursued by stakeholders, as the newcomers seek to become part and parcel of the social, economic, and cultural fabric of their new communities.

Cambio de Colores thus serves as a unique venue to share, learn, discuss, and identify critical areas where the development of information and promising practices will facilitate the successful transition of newcomers into communities large and small. The conference organizers seek presentations, posters, and panels on the conference themes described in this call, as well as workshops targeted to community members, leaders, and officials with the tools necessary to address these changes in ways that are sustainable and beneficial to all. Students are invited to participate in the student poster competition, as well as all parts of the conference.

Led by the University of Missouri, Cambio de Colores is a collaborative effort that includes University of Missouri Extension, the campuses of the Missouri system, and other educational institutions in the Midwest and Southern regions, as well as government and private organizations. Since 2009, the conference has benefited from the cooperation of the interstate initiative on “Latinos and Immigrants in Midwestern Communities,” North Central Education and Research Activity 216 (NCERA 216).

The conference convenes public and private service providers, grassroots organizations, education and healthcare providers, academic researchers and extension specialists, state and local government institutions, policymakers, corporations, and newcomers themselves. The conference program focuses and builds on the sharing of university, government, and community resources, linking academic studies to the more applied perspective and best practices of people and institutions working at the heart of the changing communities. This synergy is the signature characteristic of this conference, which engages a wide array of stakeholders in economic and social development.

Please distribute this message among your professional and organizational circles.

Please follow and share the [Conference page on Facebook](#).

Questions about submissions can be sent to: decolores@missouri.edu

Cambio de Colores (Change of Colors) - Latinos in the Heartland
2016 Conference
Columbia, Missouri
June 8-10, 2016
www.cambiodecolores.org
www.LatinosInTheHeartland.com
E-mail: decolores@missouri.edu

[Call for Presentation Proposals]

This is a call for proposals for presentations, posters, workshops, and papers on best practices and/or scholarly and applied research for the 2016 conference. You may submit a proposal by writing an abstract, or short summary, of the presentation content you would like to present.

All submitted abstracts should relate to one or more of the conference themes (each submission may select a primary and secondary theme). For a detailed explanation of these topics, please refer to the **Description of the Conference Themes** included in this document. Abstracts should summarize the presentation being proposed and are limited to 500 words.

The following themes provide the conference framework:

1. Change and Integration
2. Civil Rights and Political Participation
3. Education
4. Entrepreneurship and Economic Development
5. Health
6. Youth Development

If your abstract submission is approved, you will be able to present your work at the conference, and have the option to submit a paper for publication in the 2016 Cambio de Colores proceedings, that will later be distributed to all participants. Please see the **Paper Submission Requirements**—in the following pages— for details on preparing articles for the proceedings book.

Proceedings books from previous years are available in electronic form at the Cambio de Colores website at www.cambiodecolores.org. Each conference's program is also available on the archival sites and the library page, which has links to past presentations.

Important dates:

- Please submit your abstract online from November 20, 2015 through February 1, 2016.
- Authors of papers and presentations selected for the conference will be notified by March 1, 2016.
- Authors of selected papers will be requested to provide the paper in electronic format by August 19, 2016 for publication in the proceedings.

Please note that all presenters will be responsible for their own travel expenses and conference registration fees (\$175 early bird, \$200 regular, and \$110 students). At least one author per presentation must register by March 30 to guarantee their participation in the program. More detailed registration, hotel, and CEU information will be available at the conference website in January 2016.

[Information about Submissions of Abstracts and Papers]

Abstract submissions will be made online. The online form is available on the conference homepage (www.cambiodecolores.org) through February 1, 2016. If you have difficulties uploading your abstract, or if you have any questions regarding this call, please send a message to decolores@missouri.edu.

Theme Committees will evaluate and select the abstracts that best fit the needs of their respective themes. Additional information will be sent to the presenters of the accepted abstracts with instructions for the conference.

The following information is needed to successfully complete a submission:

A. TYPE OF SUBMISSION

Please select the type of submission:

- Research paper presentation (15 minutes)
- Best practices presentation (15 minutes)
- Organized panel (your submission includes several presentations sharing 60 or 75 minutes)
- Workshop – i.e. an interactive or training session (60 or 75 minutes)
- Poster (on display throughout the conference and interactive poster session)

Please indicate if you will submit a paper for publication in the 2016 Conference Proceedings (deadline: August 19, 2016). Please note that special consideration will be given to abstract submissions that include a commitment to submit papers.

B. ABSTRACT CONTENT

The abstract should be 500 words or less.

Please have the following for the abstract:

1. **Title** of the abstract
2. **Contact information** for the author(s): name, address, phone, email, title and organization; please list Contact Author first.
3. **Theme:** the theme(s) you want your abstract to be considered in; you may pick a primary and secondary theme.
4. **Type:** indicate whether the presentation is research or promising practices; if it's research, please specify methodology (qualitative, quantitative, case study, etc.).
5. **Scope of the presentation:** local, state, regional, national, or global
6. **Article:** identify whether your intention is to have a paper considered for inclusion in the conference proceedings (see paper submission guidelines below).

Please upload your abstract to www.cambiodecolores.org, starting on November 20, 2015. The deadline for submitting abstracts is February 1, 2016. Presenters chosen to participate in the conference will be notified by March 1, 2016.

C. POSTER SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please submit your poster proposal using the online abstract submission form (available November 20 – February 1) and be prepared to follow the requirements as explained above in the section on Abstract Content. Posters should be set up on the first day of the conference. Easels and boards will be provided, and presenters should bring their own tape, pins, paper, or other materials. Poster size should not exceed 4'x4'.

Students choosing to participate in the student poster competition should follow the submission requirements and indicate their participation on the relevant question during the submission process.

D. PAPER SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The following information is for authors who will be submitting papers for the conference's book of proceedings.

- **Submission Date:** Please submit the paper by August 19, 2016, in order to be included in the 2016 conference proceedings.
- **Keywords:** Provide six keywords that indicate the topic area, methodology, and any specificities of the paper.
- **Length:** limit the length of the paper to eight pages maximum. References should be included and do not count against the page limit. Papers should be double-spaced with one-inch margins in Times New Roman or an equivalent 12 pt. font. Include title of the paper and name and affiliation of each author, beginning with the primary and contact author.
- **Format:** electronic text formats only, including .doc, .docx, .rtf and .ods. Please do not submit PDF files.
- **Citation:** please follow APA style guidelines (www.apastyle.org).

All graphic elements, including diagrams, charts, and graphs, must be submitted with the paper as .jpg, .gif, or .png files, and must be high-quality images of no less than 300 dpi and be at least 3.5 inches wide.

[Description of the Conference Themes]

1. Change and Integration

The increasing immigrant population in the Midwest and other parts of the country is impacting communities, organizations, and institutions. In order to manage the changes taking place and facilitate integration, many policies and programs have been instituted at various levels to encourage dialogue. Change and integration are experienced differently between and among populations, so there is a crucial need for studies focused on: bridges between local longtime residents and newcomers; maintaining cultural diversity under resource constraints; and the opportunities associated with policy and political leadership.

The Change and Integration theme invites submissions by academics, professionals, practitioners, and educators from multiple disciplines that positively contribute to the current discourse surrounding causes, consequences, and responses to living in a changing society, incorporating more immigrants. The goal of these sessions is to explore research and best practices that help us a) better understand the various contexts of integration, b) identify methods to preserve cultural differences within community environments, and c) identify effective intercultural tools for engaging new populations in the integration process.

We especially encourage submissions relating to this year's conference theme: Building Bridges, Dialogue, and Opportunity. This may include strategies that programs or communities have developed to: address issues of immigration and ways to incorporate dialogue or bridges within communities; measure effects of federal, state and/or local policies in different community contexts; study the significance of place on integration of immigrants; and to explore the opportunities, vulnerabilities, uniqueness, and commonalities associated with urban and rural Latinos and other immigrants; among many other possibilities.

2. Civil Rights and Political Participation

Civil Rights and Political Participation The goals of the Civil Rights and Political Participation theme are to raise awareness and to share initiatives about legal, civil rights, and political engagement issues that affect and involve the livelihoods and integration of Latinos and other immigrants, especially in new destination states and regions. Changes and potential changes on the federal level deserve discussion, as well as ongoing attempts by state and local policymakers to address issues of immigration, and the effects those policies may be having on the integration efforts of communities. Special attention will be given to presentations addressing Latinos/as' and immigrants' effective engagement, participation, and representation in our democracy and public institutions; and addressing Latinos/as and immigrants within the growing movements for racial and economic justice; among other topics.

We encourage submissions that deal with appropriate legal changes, as well as training and information dissemination programs that strengthen the ability of immigrants, receiving communities, and supporting organizations to respond to legal, political, and cultural challenges, as well as to develop political agency in the newcomer population. We encourage submissions that deal with different ways in which Latinos participate in social and political activities, as active and engaged members of society (i.e. through democratic and social processes such as contacting and becoming policymakers, voting, using petitions, protest, volunteering at

neighborhood, educational, religious, political and other organizations, among other actions). Cambio de Colores is especially interested in presentations and workshops about outreach programs and legislative efforts that have improved, or might improve, the climate in communities receiving Latino and other immigrants, the study and analysis of the transition from undocumented to legal status and impacts on the individual and community, political engagement processes, and in presentations on current and historical research about the factors that favor or preclude integration of immigrants in the receiving communities.

3. Education

Education plays an integral role in the continued construction and progression of our society. In addition to academic development, formal and informal institutions of education serve as sites for the development of complex social, cultural, and linguistic skills and identities. The Education Committee welcomes proposals that explore educational issues, policies, and practices that influence Latino/a, immigrant, and refugee learners of all ages and backgrounds. Special attention will be given to submissions that emphasize the experiences of Latino/a students in the Heartland – in comparison to coastal cities and states – as they become more important and prominent throughout the Midwestern region.

Given the complexities facing educators, the Education Committee expects that submissions will employ perspectives and research methods from various academic disciplines and theoretical frameworks to understand and analyze the challenges, accomplishments, and contributions of all key stakeholders in education (e.g., students, family members, teachers, administrators, policymakers, and community members/educators). Examples of Research and Best Practice topics in Education include, but are not limited to: educational experiences spanning early childhood through adult in rural, suburban, and urban school districts; community/after-school programs and resources; the relationships between culture, language, legal status, education, and/or achievement; implications and development of federal, state, and local policies designed for immigrants, “English Learners,” and emerging bilinguals (including “Spanish Learners”); parent involvement and family outreach; dual language education as developed by parents, community members, school districts, and/or the state; access and transition to, as well as retention and success in PreK-12, post-secondary, and higher education.

4. Entrepreneurship and Economic Development

The 2016 conference theme, “Building Bridges, Dialogue, and Opportunity,” is especially suited to showcase research and educational programs that both explore and enhance the involvement of Latinos and immigrants in entrepreneurial activities. Empowering economic development through this entrepreneurialism can be a key element for the sustainability and expansion of local and regional economies, given the relative youth and the risk-taking and optimistic mindset that usually characterizes immigrants. Entrepreneurship builds bridges, promotes dialogue and creates additional opportunities that benefit all community members, acting as a cornerstone for a solid integration process. Proposals of special interest include those that take into consideration how to use Latinos’ and immigrants’ own cultural and social capital assets to further their success as entrepreneurs, workshops on best practices that could be applicable to Latinos and immigrants in US communities, and research and education on themes that hinder and/or promote Latinos and immigrants’ involvement and success in entrepreneurial activities, and that help to inform public policy, enhance service delivery, and provide additional support to individuals and communities. Scholars, public service agency representatives, community advocates, and others working in the field of Latino and immigrant business and economic development are encouraged to share their research, projects, programs, and best practices.

5. Health

In the age of globalization, more than ever, complexity defines health. Differences in economic circumstances, education, behavioral choices, living conditions and the physical environment can prevent newcomers in the Midwest from being as healthy as the general population, creating additional social and health inequalities. To help address the social determinants of health, we encourage submissions that highlight research and new perspectives, including comparative and multi-disciplinary studies, translating research into practice (best practices), and evaluation of policies which support or inhibit healthy behaviors. The following topics, among others, are very relevant: networking and community-based health care programs; cultural gaps and bridging; consequences of acculturation and health behavior modification; influence of race or ethnicity on doctor-patient relationship; cultural competence; traditional practices; health literacy; outreach to families with children with disabilities.

6. Youth Development

Latino and other newcomer youth are often under-served in positive youth development programs in our new destination communities. As the numbers of these youth grow, and as they become a larger proportion of the population in both rural and urban communities, we must understand, explore, and expand the research and best practices that can lead to the successful adaptation of out-of-school programs; moral and legal imperatives obligate us to ensure inclusive and appealing learning experiences that link to youths' well-being and educational achievement. It is also necessary to understand and address the risk and protective factors shaping Latino youths' experiences in the U.S. and pay particular attention to the cultural values and expectations that influence development.

This track brings together 4-H, extension specialists, researchers, and other educators to review and engage developments in research, to share updates on implementation of best practices for including Latino and other new populations, and to work collaboratively to share these targeted curricula and projects. We welcome presentation submissions on relevant research and best practices.