



LATINOS IN THE HEARTLAND

At the Crossroads: ¿Incorporation or Marginalization?

www.CambioDeColores.org & www.LatinosInTheHeartland.com

UM President, MU Chancellor and Provost Will Welcome Participants

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Columbia, MO) – The 2012 Cambio de Colores (Change of Colors) Latinos in the Heartland Conference will take place from June 13 - 15 at the Stoney Creek Inn in Columbia, Mo. This 11th annual conference's theme is "At the Crossroads: ¿Incorporation or Marginalization?"

The arrival of immigrants to the Midwest and South over the past two decades has inspired the conference to focus on research and best practices that will inform stakeholders, researchers and policymakers' approaches to integrating newcomers, most of them Latino or Hispanic. According to Census Data, the Hispanic population has grown 49.2 percent in the Midwest and 57.3 percent in the South between 2000 and 2010.

"As it has happened always in our country's history, immigrants bring youth, energy, and dreams. Whether that energy and youth is incorporated or marginalized will depend on what we do now, individually and institutionally," said Domingo Martínez, conference director.

This year's conference includes papers and presentations from 22 institutions in 13 U.S. States and from Mexico. The University of Missouri sponsors the Cambio de Colores Conference, led by its Cambio Center for research and outreach on Latinos and changing communities. The Cambio Center works with partner organizations including the land-grant inspired North Central Education/Extension and Research Activity 216: "Latinos and Immigrants in Midwestern Communities," and the Southern Extension and Research Activity 37: "The New Hispanic South."

The conference will provide a platform to present, discuss, share, learn and identify critical areas where the development of information and promising practices will facilitate the successful transition of all newcomers into our communities, while providing these communities with the tools necessary to address demographic and cultural change in ways that are sustainable and beneficial to all. The main topics of the

conference include: Change and Integration; Civil Rights and Political Participation; Health, Entrepreneurship and Economic Development; and Education.

UM President Tim Wolfe, MU Chancellor Brady Deaton and MU Provost Brian Foster will welcome the participants at the first session.

Plenary speakers for the 2012 conference include **Michele Waslin**, Immigration Policy Center, Washington, D.C.; **Rubén O. Martínez**, Julian Samora Research Institute at Michigan State University; **Bernardo Ramírez**, Hispanic Economic Development Corporation in Kansas City, Mo.; **Steve Ball**, University of Missouri; **Alejandro Morales**, University of Missouri; and **Andrew O. Behnke**, North Carolina State University.

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