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NEXO

The Official Newsletter of The Julian Samora Research Institute
The Midwest's Premier Latino Research Center

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JSRI's mission is to generate, disseminate, and apply knowledge to serve the needs of Latino communities in the Midwest and across the nation.

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JSRI at Michigan State University is committed to the generation, transmission, and application of knowledge as it relates to Latinos and Latino communities throughout the Midwest and the nation.

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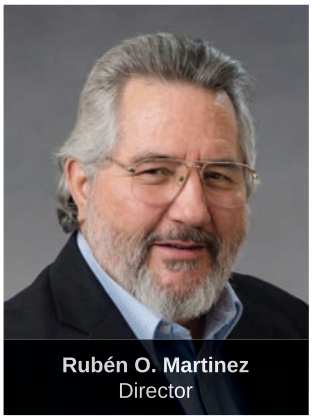
Michigan's Drug Shield Law



Rubén O. Martinez
Director

Two critical features of the ideology of neoliberalism are the emphases placed on innovation and the time that it takes to get products to market in today's economy. Innovation is emphasized as important for societal adaptation to change and critical for economic competitiveness and growth. Time to market, or speed, is always critical to market competitiveness. It is a feature of capitalism that has intensified with neoliberalism's globalization policies (i.e., trade agreements). Both of these features of neoliberal ideology have become important rationales for the passage and implementation of new laws and policies over the past four decades.

One such policy is Michigan's drug immunity law which protects manufacturers of prescription drugs from product liability under the State's tort laws. Passed into law under the leadership of Governor John Engler in 1995, the law, also known as the drug shield law, became effective in 1996 and made Michigan the first and only state to have such a law. Since then similar laws have been proposed and rejected in other states. For example, a similar law was proposed and rejected in Wisconsin in 2011 that was based on a model law proposed by the American Legislative Exchange Council, an ultraconservative non-profit organization funded by major corporations. What the law does is protect prescription drug manufacturers from lawsuits by persons who were harmed by a particular drug while, at the same time, putting public health and safety at risk.

The 1995 law in Michigan revised the Judicature Act of 1961 and today is codified in section 600.2946, which addresses product liability action and specifies admissible evidence. It states, for instance, that:

> [a] "manufacturer or seller is not liable unless the plaintiff establishes that a product was not reasonably safe at the time the product left the control of the manufacturer or seller, and that…a practical and technically feasible alternative production practice was available that would have prevented the harm without significantly impairing the usefulness or desirability of the product to users and without creating equal or greater risk of harm to others (Sec. 600.2946, subsection 2). …Evidence of compliance or noncompliance with a regulation or standard not relevant to the event causing the death or injury is not admissible (subsection 4).

Products approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are seen as reasonably safe. Actions exempted from the protections of the law are intentionally misleading the FDA to gain approval of a drug, which otherwise would have been disapproved under federal codes, and bribing FDA officials to get a drug approved.

In only one case has a plaintiff prevailed against a manufacturer, but it was on having to address a product in which it was difficult to draw the boundaries between a drug and a medical device. That case involved the narcotic pain drug fentanyl delivered through a transdermal pain patch made by Mylan Inc. The case involved the death of Beth Ann Kelly, and her estate sued Mylan

alleging that her death was caused by the fentanyl patch device. Mylan argued that it was immune from suit under Michigan's immunity law, and the judge determined that fentanyl was a drug rather than a medical device and dismissed the case.

However, on appeal, the Sixth Circuit Court held that the patch appeared to have both a mechanical and a chemical function, and that if such was the case, the manufacturer was not immune under Michigan's drug shield law. The Court, however, was not prepared to decide whether or not the fentanyl patch was a "combination product," but it rejected the lower court's decision and remanded the case back to the District Court to determine if the fentanyl patch should be viewed only as a drug with regard to Michigan's immunity law. And to do so within the frame of the Circuit Court's decision.

What were the rationales given to the citizens for the enactment of Michigan's drug shield law? The historical record shows that Governor Engler had a history of supporting restrictions on the rights of consumers and calling for limits on the legal rights of consumers injured by products. In the case of the drug shield law the public was told that the law would reduce frivolous lawsuits and move drugs approved by the FDA to the market faster, and consumers would thereby be the beneficiaries.

The law, the public was also told, would reduce the cost of prescription drugs and at the same time save and protect jobs in the state. However, costs did not and have not gone down, and the company the law was intended to protect at the time, Upjohn Co., a Kalamazoo-based pharmaceutical company, merged with Pharmacia and moved its headquarters out of Michigan, cutting hundreds of jobs in the process. In April 2000, Pharmacia & Upjohn completed a merger with Monsanto and Searle, and when another merger occurred with Pfizer in 2003, over a thousand more jobs were cut in Michigan. Moreover, in 2009, Pfizer had $2.3 million levied as penalties for criminal and civil violations tied to the illegal marketing of its products. At the time the drug shield law was passed in Michigan, not everyone was, and today not everyone is, sold on the rationales that were given.

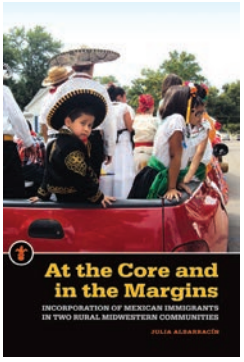
The Michigan drug shield law has been controversial since its enactment, raising important questions about consumer rights and public health. Moreover, implementation of this law occurred as neoliberalism was reducing the size of government agencies at the federal level, not to mention state government agencies. In particular, the FDA, like many other federal enforcement agencies, suffered substantial budget cuts, eroding its scientific base and limiting its capacity to provide a stringent approval process that protects the nation's citizens. Further, with regard to drug approval, the FDA has implemented an "accelerated approval" process that may not provide enough time to see some negative effects. This is occurring under a political climate in which there is great pressure to get prescription drugs and medical devices to market as quickly as possible.

As in other societal sectors, neoliberal policies are generating tensions between public health and commercial interests. Michigan's drug shield law essentially prevents litigation that reveals risks that were not identified by the FDA through its approval process. Such litigation provides the FDA with a valuable feedback loop that enables it to better carry out its function, that of protecting public health and safety. Further, without this important element within our tort system Michigan consumers are left without critical access to relief when they suffer personal injury from prescription drugs.

Consider, for example, the plight of Michigan consumers who have suffered severe personal injury from prescription drugs, yet they cannot seek relief through the courts. Patients have suffered strokes and died after taking Vioxx, a prescription drug that ultimately was taken off the market because it radically increased the risk of blood clots, stroke and heart attack. Or, consider the case of an adolescent who has a severe case of acne and treats it with Accutane, a prescription drug that has several negative side effects, including inducing ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, lifelong ailments that limit the quality of life. Those adolescents and their families do not have any legal recourse to relief under the drug shield law when they develop those side effects.

Efforts have been launched by concerned legislators to repeal this law, but in each case conservative legislators have defeated them, leaving Michigan the only state in the country in which residents cannot seek relief through the courts even as residents of other states are able to do so. Today, readers may have noticed, pharmaceutical companies are providing a long list of potential negative side effects in their prescription drug advertisements. Is that enough, however, to protect consumers and public health in Michigan? Are innovations in new drugs and increased speed to market to be favored over consumer rights and public health?

At the Core and in the Margins



by Julia Albarracín. 2016. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press.

Reviewed by Pilar Horner

Dr. Julia Albarracín examines the growing phenomenon of immigrant settlements into new destination sites. Traditionally, immigrants have settled in high numbers in industrial settings or border towns, however, Albarracín argues that as the Latino population continues to grow in the United States, they are increasingly settling in states outside of the West. Secondly, they are choosing to settle in non-metropolitan and rural areas. Her book focused on two new destination sites in west central Illinois: Beardstown and Monmouth. Both of these cities provide an interesting lens into new issues of immigrant incorporation due to the rapid growth of Latinos in each site.

Of concern for scholars in this area is the need to better understand how exactly incorporation functions, and by what mechanisms and processes immigrants and their families attain successful integration within their new homes. The implications of these processes remain significant. Successful incorporation opens doorways to immigrants and their families in terms of education, structural supports, and power. The dimensions these processes are measured on include cultural belonging, institutional supports, and legal rights. When these areas are limited then individuals can suffer estrangement and oppression in their host society. For example, the author notes that recent undocumented arrivals endure significant obstacles to incorporation due to their legal status, which can contribute to patterns of isolation, fear of authorities, vulnerability in the workplace, and discrimination. Scholars have also noted that the environment of the host country plays an increasingly interesting and vital part of the process of immigrant incorporation. Context matters. And the author does give some attention as to how larger geopolitical factors such as neoliberal agendas play into how receiving communities impact the culture of reception. These political agendas, along with fear of immigration in the post-9/11 period have created a new dynamic between immigrant and receiving communities.

Notwithstanding these larger processes, the author argues that "immigrants in new destinations are transforming small-town America…[in] different stages, including contact, conflict/negotiation, incorporation, and full incorporation" (p. 115). Her findings demonstrate that key factors of these processes must account for command of English, the extent to which the immigrants believed they were linked with others in the community, participation in activities of their environment, and the command of political attitudes of the receiving community.

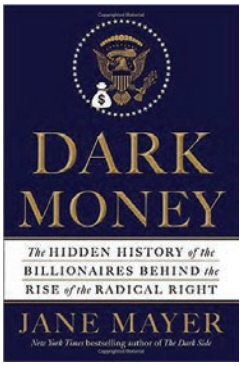
The author expertly demonstrates various aspects of the incorporation process which each community experiences and negotiates. When new arrivals feel hostility directed at them, for example, there is less desire to mix with the dominant community and more of an inclination to associate with only other Latinos. She discusses racism, length of stay, language, social service access, gender, and legal barriers (such as anti-immigration laws and policies). Access to health care and participation in political activities also provided insights into the incorporation process.

Overall, this book is a nice addition to the literature that examines how newly arrived immigrants navigate and negotiate the various individual, social, and political processes at work. Dr. Albarracín does not sugar coat the complexity of how to understand Mexican immigrant incorporation. Of note here is the attention paid to two Midwestern cities who are experiencing a significant increase in immigrant populations. Although perhaps outside the scope for this study, the author does not include any interviews with the receiving community, though the study places a great emphasis on it.

Finally, a major issue that needs further attention is the sample itself. The author notes that most of her sample came from the undocumented community. This population, composed of around 11 million of the United States population, is one of the most highly vulnerable and unprotected groups. Because of this special status, such individuals can not follow the traditional models of incorporation as laid out by the author's theoretical lens at the start of the book. With a sample of mostly undocumented Latinos primarily from Mexico, some of the results must be tempered. For example, in response to whether immigrants are politically active, one of the questions on the survey was "People express their opinions about politics and current events in a number of ways. In the United States, in the past year, have you contacted any elected official, or not?" and "In the United States, in the past year have you worked as a volunteer for or made a contribution to a political candidate, or not?" These questions more directly address the traditional immigrant, and not one who is in the United States with a tenuous and illegal status. So the questions as to political involvement must be moderated by the immigration status, knowing that individuals who are here without proper documentation would most likely steer away from any situation or volunteer activity that would compromise their status and the status and safety of their family.

This aside, the author's contribution to the literature is an important one, as it demonstrates how complex incorporation is in new destination sites such as two small Midwestern cities. The interaction between personal, social, structural, and political issues marks this analysis as one worthy of reading. Of worthy note is the new lens used by Dr. Albarracín and other emerging immigration scholars that challenges traditional immigration studies and assumptions. In this case, There is a vital need to examine the social, economic, and political outcomes of new immigrant destinations. Traditional models of core/margin theories have yet to fully understand the impact of how immigrants to new destination sites have impacted the realities of community social life. In this way, Dr. Julia Albarracín's work points to a much needed area of scholarly attention and rigor.

Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right



by Jane Mayer. 2016. New York: DoubleDay.

Reviewed by Rubén Martinez

The wealthy have always had disproportionate political influence in society, the United States of America included. In *Dark Money*, Jane Mayer presents a compelling account of how wealthy ultraconservative business leaders organized themselves over the past several decades to impose their political ideologies of anarchism on the rest of the nation. Led by Charles and David Koch in recent years, members of the group have joined politicians with similar political beliefs to carry out their policy agenda, which, prominent conservative William F. Buckley Jr. once called "Anarcho-Totalitarianism." These billionaires, however, prefer the label "libertarians" to that of "anarchists," believing that the latter term is too often associated with "terrorists." Still, they are anarchists nonetheless and are considered the radical right-wing faction of the Republican Party.

The book consists of an introduction and 14 chapters organized into three parts, each part focusing on a specific period defined according to the activities of the anarchist leaders. The Introduction identifies the key players, so to speak, and sets the context. Part One focuses on the period from 1970 to 2008, when philanthropy was co-opted as a key participant in the war of political ideas and the free-market political machine, the Kochtopus, was assembled. Part Two focuses on the period from 2009 to 2010, when the Kochtopus engaged covertly in electoral and policy politics, including paving the road to Citizens United, the Supreme Court decision that unleashed big money in electoral campaigns. Part Three focuses on the period from 2011 to 2014, after the Kochtopus had substantially influenced the outcome of the mid-term elections through campaign donations and the establishment of the Tea Party which resulted in a Republican-dominated congress. At a general level, Mayer's book provides a detailed account of how wealthy libertarians have reshaped contemporary American politics and American society.

The nation's turn toward anarcho-totalitarianism, which is based on radical anti-government and anti-democratic principles intended to ensure that capital has free rein in the economy, is rooted in the anti-socialist ideas of the first part of the 20th century. The intellectual heroes of anarcho-totalitarianism are the Austrian economists, Ludwig von Mises, Friedrich Hayek, and Murray Rothbard, and American thinkers, Milton Friedman, Ayn Rand, Robert Nozick, Robert LeFevre, and several others. Barry Goldwater was the first libertarian to rise as a major candidate seeking the U.S. presidency, but it was Ronald Reagan who welcomed the anarchists to the White House, granting the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Friedman. A few years later, George H. W. Bush followed by granting it to Hayek.

Much of the volume focuses on the Koch brothers, given their key role in organizing the Kochtopus. She traces their father's (Fred Koch's) path to early fortune by contracting with Stalin and Hitler to design and construct oil refineries. Exclusion efforts by the oil industry exposed him to "corporate cronyism" and a "crooked [law] clerk," and these experiences led him to view collaboration between big business and government as a corrupt system. Fred Koch, a stern and rigid man, indoctrinated his four sons with anti-government ideas. Years later, he was among the founders of the John Birch Society, an ultraconservative, extremist organization that was virulently anti-communist, racist, and anti-government, and which still exists today. Of importance is the emphasis placed by the Society on stealth and subterfuge, today the "trademark" approach of the Kochtopus.

It is not surprising then that the sons of Fred Koch, namely Charles and David, would reflect his political influence. Indeed, in the early 1960s Charles was affiliated with the Freedom School near Larkspur, Colorado. Founded by Robert LeFevre, a radical libertarian who claimed supernatural powers, the Freedom School, which later became the unaccredited Rampart College, sought to produce the next generation of libertarian intellectuals. It offered a curriculum on "freedom and free enterprise" and presented the robber barons as heroes. By 1966, Charles was a major funder, an executive, and trustee, and through him the School maintained ties to the John Birch Society.

Perhaps the most important influence on the Koch brothers and their political activities has been a confidential memorandum submitted to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce by Lewis F. Powell Jr. in 1971, before he was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1972. Titled "Attack on American Free Enterprise System," the memo presents the argument that a minority of college and university liberal faculty members and students, among others in society, were undermining the system of free enterprise. Supporters of free enterprise, Powell argued, must organize themselves to counter the influence of left-wing and liberal faculty members and students. This could be done by establishing media outlets, think tanks, and ties to like-minded faculty. The threat to the enterprise system, Powell argued, is also an attack on individual freedom. In short, based on libertarian ideas, the memo presents more than 20 pages of recommendations on how to counter the ideology of the critics of free enterprise. Overall, Powell argued for an ideological war and provided the strategy by which to win it.

The Koch brothers, Mayer argues, set about to implement the ideas presented by Powell, which awakened many other conservative millionaires and moved them to action. Richard Mellon Scaife, for example, a supporter of the American Enterprise Institute, supported the founding of the Heritage Foundation, an ultraconservative think tank. Joseph Coors was also stirred by the memo and sought to bar left-wing speakers, faculty and students from the University of Colorado. He also provided funding to the forerunner of the Heritage Foundation.

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Survey of Cooperative Extension Educators:

On Serving Latino Populations in Michigan[1]

Rubén Martinez and Jean Kayitsinga

INTRODUCTION

According to the Center for Progress, by 2040 it is projected that 34% of Michigan's population will consist of persons of color. Latinos will contribute to this population shift as the fastest growing ethnic minority population in Michigan. As of July 1, 2015, the Latino population in Michigan was estimated at 485,974, representing about 4.9 percent of the total population in the state. In Michigan, Latinos are concentrated in the Southeast region, especially in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Washtenaw Counties, and in the West and Southwest areas of the state, especially in Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Kalamazoo, and Van Buren Counties. Other counties with sizeable concentrations of Latinos include Ingham, Saginaw, Genesee, Allegan, Berrien, and Lenawee counties (See Martinez et al. 2015). Although the Latino population in Michigan has been increasing, the state's populations and institutions are relatively unfamiliar with their cultures and generally lack the capabilities to serve them.

Leaders of Extension units at land grant universities across the Midwest recognize that unit capabilities must be increased at both individual and programmatic levels so that services can be extended to Latinos and other diverse populations in the region. A starting point for enhancing the capabilities of Extension personnel and units to effectively serve Latino populations is to identify the learning needs of Extension educators. Such an assessment sheds light on the perspectives that Extension educators hold relative to their own abilities and the capabilities of their units to effectively deliver services to Latino communities, and whether or not serving these communities is a priority for them and their units. This study assesses the needs of Cooperative Extension Outreach Educators in Michigan relative to their capabilities and skills to effectively serve the Latino population in their service areas.

METHODS

Data for this study were collected through an online survey of Extension educators in the North Central Region. The Julian Samora Research Institute at Michigan State University conducted the survey on behalf of the interstate initiative "North Central Extension Research Activity (NCERA) 216: Latinos and Immigrants in Midwestern Communities." Data were collected during the summer months of July and August, 2015, using Survey Monkey.

The questionnaire was a modified and expanded version of the questionnaire developed and used by "SERA 37: Latinos in the New South" in 2009 to assess the educational needs of Extension educators in the South to better serve Latino communities. Members of the Executive Board of NCERA 216 reviewed a draft of the questionnaire and provided suggestions for improvement, as did some Extension employees across the Midwest who were contacted by their respective directors to review the instrument. The questionnaire consisted of 25 questions covering a wide range of topics, including local and state demographics, populations served by Extension employees, opinion and attitudinal items on the populations served, community context of reception, and Extension unit services for Latinos.

A convenience sampling process (not a probability sample) was used to recruit respondents. A letter was sent to the North Central Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors asking for the support of state directors by endorsing the survey and promoting awareness of, and participation in, the study among their employees. A total of 727 Extension educators and employees in 10 of the 12 Midwestern states completed the survey questionnaire.[2] This report only uses the subsample of respondents from Michigan.

Analysis of the data proceeded in three stages: (1) descriptive analysis (means, standard deviations, frequency distributions, and graphs) of demographic and Likert-scale item variables; (2) factor analysis to reduce the number of items into composite factor scales; and (3) bivariate analysis of constructed factor scales by race/ethnicity. All analyses were performed using IBM SPSS Statistics, version 22 (IBM Corporation).

RESULTS

Sample Characteristics

Michigan Respondents by Race/Ethnicity and Sex

The sample of respondents in Michigan is comprised of 80 Extension educators, representing about 11 percent of the total sample of 724 in 10 Midwestern states. Of those who responded to the items, a majority of survey respondents in Michigan are female (71.8%). In terms of race/ethnicity, 82.3 percent of respondents indicated that they are White or European Americans. About 11 percent of respondents (7 cases) are Latinos/Hispanics, and five percent are Blacks or African Americans (3 cases).

Number of Years of Experience

With regard to experience, about 31.3 percent of respondents indicated that they have worked in Extension for 16 or more years, 26.3 percent between 6 and 15 years, and 42.6 percent for five years or less, respectively.

Fluency in Spanish Language

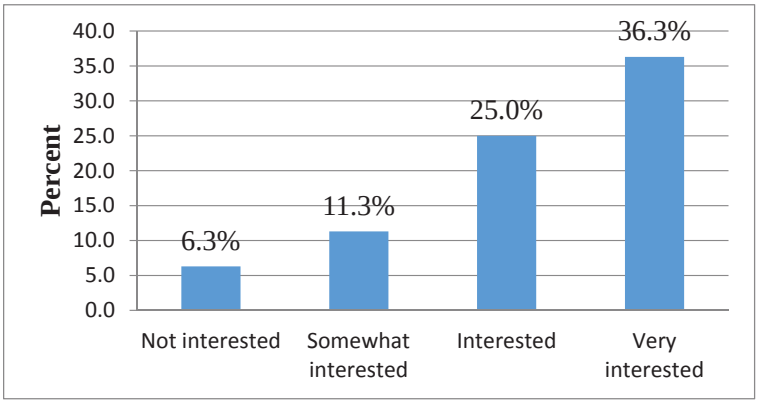
The majority of respondents indicated that they are not fluent in Spanish. About 72 percent indicated that their reading skills in Spanish are poor, 82 percent reported poor Spanish speaking skills, and 83 percent of respondents indicated that their writing skills in the Spanish language are poor. Only About 11 to 12 percent of respondents indicated that they are fluent in reading, speaking, and writing in Spanish.

About 30 to 32 percent of respondents indicated that they, individually or collectively in their Extension units, often or very often experience a language barrier in meeting the needs of Spanish-speaking clients. Approximately 27 percent reported that language is sometimes a barrier when serving Latinos and 39 percent indicated that it is a problem for their unit. Interestingly, 44 percent indicated that language is rarely or never a barrier when serving Latinos, and 29 percent indicated that it is rarely or never a barrier for their unit.

Serving the Latino Population

Figure 1 shows that about 61 percent of respondents are interested or very interested in collaborating with Latino-serving organizations in their area to more effectively reach out to Latino communities. Approximately 11.3 percent are somewhat interested, and 6.3 percent are not interested.

Figure 1. Proportion of Respondents Interested in Collaborating with Latino-serving Organizations in their Areas to Reach out to Latinos



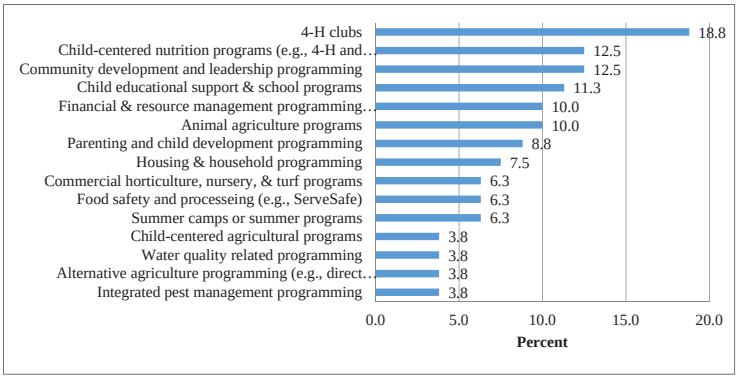
Respondents' Areas of Work

Figure 2 displays the top 15 focused areas of work of the respondents in the survey. Respondents were asked to indicate up to three areas of work in which they focus their

efforts. About 19 percent of respondents indicated 4-H clubs, followed by child-centered nutrition programming (12.5%) and community development and leadership programming (12.5%), child educational support and school programs (11.3%), financial and resource management programming and animal agriculture programs (10.0%), and parenting and child development programming (8.8%).

When asked about serving the Latino population, about nine percent of respondents indicated that their position specifically focuses on serving Latinos or Spanish-speaking populations. About 17 percent indicated that they have volunteers working with Latinos or Spanish-speaking populations. Among those who use volunteers to work with Latinos or Spanish-speaking populations, 64.3 percent have volunteers who speak the Spanish language.

Figure 2. Top Extension Work Areas of Focus of the Survey Respondents



Capacity to Serve Latino Communities

Respondents were asked to indicate on a scale ranging from "1 = strongly disagree" to "5 = strongly agree" if they interact with or are actively involved in reaching out to Latino communities, translated their programs into Spanish, or collaborated with members of their community, including the Latino community, in developing their programs. About 41 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they regularly interact with the Latino community, whereas 47 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed. About 42 percent of respondents indicated they are actively involved in reaching out to the Latino community in their respective county (or state). About 24 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they have program materials translated into Spanish to facilitate use by the local Latino population, whereas 47 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed. About 41 percent agreed or strongly agreed that they have worked with members of the community, including Latinos, in developing their program to make sure that it meets targeted population needs and interests. About 43 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they have worked with public and private agencies to address the range of services needed by Latinos.

Only 22 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their Extension unit helps them stay informed of new policies and procedures and changing state and federal laws that impact Latinos in their region, whereas about 45 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed. About 19 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their Extension unit provides ongoing and well-crafted training opportunities for staff at all levels to learn about and work with Latino communities, whereas about 48 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed. Only six percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they were trained in adopting new strategies for dealing with mental illness, addiction, HIV/AIDS or incarceration in culturally competent ways that strengthen Latino communities, whereas 81 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed.

About 36 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their Extension unit reaches out to and establishes connections with Latino communities, as well as coalitions, councils, and other collaborative boards, to examine issues facing Latino communities and seek ways to address their needs. About nine percent agreed or strongly agreed that they do not have support from their Extension leaders to focus part of their educational programs on Latinos in their county (or state), whereas 63 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed.

About 34 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that key members of the Latino community are aware of the resources offered by Cooperative Extension, whereas about 25 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed that such is the case. The majority of respondents (64.1%) agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that they are familiar with other organizations that offer services to the Latino community in their region. By contrast, about 42 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they do not know how to find or approach key partners that could help them work with the Latino community. This is an area in which a programmatic effort could easily lead to important outcomes.

The majority of respondents in Michigan (76.8%) agreed or strongly agreed that Extension should invest in hiring bilingual persons to serve Latino populations. Only about two percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that devoting funds and resources to serve Latinos through Extension may not be a good idea given the current economic situation, whereas 21 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed with that view.

Approximately 42 percent of respondents agreed or strongly

agreed that Extension educators should learn Spanish in order to better serve Latino populations, whereas 17 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed with that view. However, 89 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that Extension educators should learn more about Latino cultures to more effectively serve Latino populations in their area. About 77 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that Extension agents should develop programs aimed at serving Latinos.

About 20 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that staff members in their county Extension unit are well prepared to work with the Latino community, whereas half or 50 percent of them disagreed or strongly disagreed that such is the case. About 27 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the Latino community in their county (or state) is reluctant to seek help from outsiders (i.e., from those outside of their ethnic community), while a majority (53.2%) neither agreed nor disagreed with that view, implying, perhaps, that they are not familiar with the Latino population.

The overwhelming majority of respondents (97%) agreed or strongly agreed that they interact with peoples with cultural backgrounds different from their own. About 74 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they are comfortable attending cultural celebrations held by Latino communities in their county (or state). Roughly 78 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they are interested in working with the Latino community, while about one fifth are not sure that they are interested in working with Latinos or that they are comfortable attending their cultural celebrations.

About 64 percent of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that schools in their county (or state) welcome the Latino community. By contrast, about 46 percent and 49 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that most churches and most businesses in their county (or state) welcome the Latino community, respectively. Overall, approximately 46 percent indicated that most of their institutions welcome Latinos in their county (or state).

About 39 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the needs of low-income Latino residents are similar to those of low-income, non-Latino populations. About 16 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that most Latinos in their county (or state) are poor, whereas 33 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed that such is the case. Approximately 52 percent neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement, again implying, perhaps, that they do not know the Latino population very well. On the other hand, a majority of respondents (78%) agreed or strongly agreed with the view that Latinos are represented in all socioeconomic strata in their county (or state).

About 13 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that most Latinos have low levels of education. Approximately 62 percent indicated that they neither agreed nor disagreed with that view, again implying that they may not be familiar with the Latino population in their respective counties. About 78 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that some members of the Latino community may be poor or lack formal education, but that they are generally hard-working and resourceful.

On immigration, about 8 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that new immigrants should understand "what it takes to survive in the U.S." before deciding to move here, whereas 47 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed with that view. Approximately 45 percent did not have a clear position on the matter. About 95 percent of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement that there is little that they can learn from members of the Latino community. Further, about 91 percent of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement that they are reluctant to develop programs for the Latino community because immigration is controversial.

About 81 percent believe to some or much extent that residents trust Latinos who live in their county (or state). About 89 percent of respondents believe to some or much extent that Latino workers contribute to the economic health of their county (or state). About 60 percent and 54 percent of respondents believe to some or much extent that Latinos are joining or creating local civic or social organizations in their respective community or county (state), and that they are actively involved in community improvement activities in their county (or state), respectively. Of interest is the 46 percent of respondents that indicated that Latinos are not involved or little involved in community improvement activities.

About 66 percent and 71 percent of respondents believe to some or much extent that local leaders and residents are working to make Latinos feel welcome in their county (or state) and that their county (or state) is working to provide needed services to members of the Latino community, respectively. Close to one-fourth (24.2%) of respondents believe to some or much extent that the growth of Latinos created more conflicts among local residents and/or groups, whereas 48 percent indicated that little conflict was created and 27 percent indicated that there was no conflict at all.

Scale Construction Using Factor Analysis

Factor analysis was used to reduce the number of items by combining them into composite scales (Kim and Mueller, 1978). Factor scales allow parsimonious analysis and presentation of similar items into a single measure (Kim and Mueller, 1978).

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Summit on Latinos and the Media Highlights Issues

More than one hundred persons attended the daylong summit "The Mass Media and Latinos: Overrepresentation and Underrepresentation" held on Friday, July 15th in East Lansing, Michigan. The summit included keynote presentations by Efrain Gutierrez, pioneer Chicano filmmaker, and Alex Lozano, President and CEO of the National Media Coalition. The summit also featured panels on Internet and traditional Latino radio, mainstream media, local Latino print media, and cinema. The event addressed the underrepresentation of Latinos in the mainstream media except as subjects of stories based on the use of negative stereotypes, the growth of local Latino media, and need for collective efforts for positive change in the industry.

Speakers stated that a focus on the successes of the Latino population by the mainstream media would have many positive consequences, including a decline in the negative portrayal of Latinos generally. Panelists recommended highlighting the skills and talents of Latinos, and more generally showcasing how Latinos have contributed to the economy, not only in Michigan but across the nation. Additionally, speakers made a call for the expansion of roles for Latinos in movies, advertisements, and television. Today, too often Latinos are depicted through only a few characters, such as tomato pickers, bandits, sex objects, gang members and drug lords, to name a handful. The common view among summit presentations was that it is time that the mainstream media accurately reflect not just the diversity of Latinos in the U.S., but the fact that they constitute a pool of untapped potential and that they are a positive force in this country as it moves into the future.

To address the need for an increased Latino presence in the media, the summit presenters supported the mentoring and representation of Latinos on and off screen. The purpose of mentoring and promoting Latinos, and other minorities, is to

address the exclusion of Latinos and increase their voice and contributions in this sector. Support for Latino filmmakers, for example, ensures that their creative views and perspectives will be seen and heard as part of the larger cultural mosaic that is the United States.

Speakers agreed that Latinos must be the source of positive change, if it is to occur. Through positions of leadership in the community, as innovative business owners, media operators, and as labor and political leaders, they must take it upon themselves to create and promote opportunities for other Latinos. National leaders, for example, must be encouraged to promote positive legislation that increases opportunities for the Latino population. Locally, Latino events could be promoted by the mainstream media along with those of other diverse communities. Moreover, providing bilingual programming, in English and Spanish, to vulnerable communities ensures they are not left out of the communications loop during times of crisis, such as what happened during the recent water crisis in Flint.

Finally, media in general should address the questions and the information needs of the Latino population. Radio broadcasts that serve communities with sizeable populations of Latinos should strive to inform them of local, national, and global news of interest to Latinos. The presenters with social media pages stated that they frequently host flyers and event notices on their sites to help the community stay informed of critical issues. Most presenters stated that they are open to receiving emails and telephone calls from the community for information on specific topics of interest and current issues. In response to these requests, follow-up services are provided by several of the Latino media outlets. Examples included hosting lawyers on the air, having a rotating help column with respondents of varying

credentials, and broadcasting public health announcements.

Summit participants heard the personal trajectories of Latinos and Latinas in the industry, and discussed several critical issues on the relationship between Latinos and the media. It was made clear by presenters that there is still need to improve Latino and Latina presence in today's media. At the close of the 2016 Latino Statewide Summit on Media and Latinos, participants were encouraged by Dr. Rubén Martinez, Director of Julian Samora Research Institute to view the current status of Latinos in the media industry as changing and improving in the face of historical structural barriers, and that it will take advocacy on the part of Latino leaders to facilitate desired changes. The event was co-sponsored by the College of Communication Arts and Sciences and the Michigan Alliance for Latinos Moving toward Advancement.

Quality Milk Alliance Receives the MSU Phi Kappa Phi Chapter 2016 Excellence Award in Interdisciplinary Scholarship

The Quality Milk Alliance (QMA) was the 2016 recipient of MSU Phi Kappa Phi Chapter's "Excellence Award in Interdisciplinary Scholarship," which recognizes excellence in teaching, research, service, or a combination of these activities. The project includes veterinarians from the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences at the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine and researchers from the Julian Samora Research Institute.

The QMA is a five-year, multi-institutional project funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture with the goal of reducing the incidence of mastitis and antibiotic use on dairy farms. Mastitis is one of the most costly diseases of dairy cattle and impacts farm productivity, food safety, and the health and welfare of dairy cattle.

This pioneering project blends the research and applied cultures of both veterinary medicine and social science to assess practices for preventing and controlling mastitis on dairy farms in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Florida. In doing so, the QMA team has identified the dairy industry's limited experience with labor management in general, and with Latino immigrant workers in particular.

These limitations require systematic attention as the size of dairy herds and reliance on non-family labor continue to increase, especially as the number of Latino dairy workers also increases. Employees perform critical tasks related to mastitis control, such as milking cows and keeping the barns clean. However, communication and training barriers between managers and employees limit the proper execution of tasks,

leading to problems of "protocol drift," which occurs when milkers do not follow proper milking procedures and can increase the incidence of mastitis. To address this problem, project leaders are promoting understanding among producers of different approaches to the effective management of employees.

The overall goal of the QMA team is not only to help dairy producers reduce mastitis through traditional veterinary medical practices, but also to engage employees as effective team members. In addition, the project team has promoted a novel role for veterinarians that goes from herd health advisor to educator of workers, or "on-farm science teacher." Combining animal health and social science expertise, this project is addressing an animal health problem that limits the sustainability of the dairy industry and jeopardizes dairy food quality and global food security.

Tim Wise Speaks on White Racism

On Friday, March 18, 2016 the Julian Samora Research Institute hosted the acclaimed, anti-racism activist and scholar Tim Wise, who spoke before 150 students and staff members. Wise is the author of six books, including his celebrated memoir, *White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son*, as well as *Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority*, and *Colorblind: The Rise of Post-Racial Politics and the Retreat from Racial Equity*. In his latest book, *Under the Affluence: Shaming the Poor, Praising the Rich and Sacrificing the Future of America*, released in 2015, he explores the ways by which racism has been central to the development and perpetuation of the nation's class system. Further, he demonstrates the importance of challenging the dominant White racial narrative not only to fight racism itself, but also economic and social injustice in society.

Wise's presentation, titled "Challenging the Culture of Cruelty: Understanding and Defeating Race and Class Inequity in America," was timely and well received by the audience members. The topic was especially relevant given the conflictive police-community relations that burst on the national scene in recent years. A gifted orator, Wise spoke on several dimensions of racism in American, clearly articulating white privilege and providing shocking figures that profiled the social and economic disparities among African Americans, Latinos, and Whites. For example, he referenced W. E. B. Du Bois' concept of "psychological wages of whiteness" to highlight the sense of superiority that White Americans feel in relation to Blacks (and other racial minorities), no matter how low their own wages or how poor their own lives are, and how they are complicit in the perpetuation of racism. Further, according to Wise, African Americans who hold a college degree earn roughly the same income as Whites with a high school diploma, and African American women with a college education tend to have access to healthcare that is inferior to that accessed by White women with a high school diploma.

Other noteworthy topics discussed by Wise were income inequality, persistent poverty, and color-blind racism. He argued that to understand current existing inequalities and racism in America one has to wear historical and social context lenses. The present is rooted in the past, he argued, as are the configurations of today's social contexts. For example, Wise highlighted the history of housing discrimination in the United States and the segregation that characterized the nation's cities. More specifically, he spoke about the practice of *redlining*, which refers to the "method" used by lending institutions to deny African Americans and other residents in selected neighborhoods mortgage loans regardless of their credit history. The practice involved the use of maps and "clearly marking with red lines neighborhoods where they would not grant mortgage loans." He pointed out that the practice of redlining involved the Federal Housing Authority (FHA), which played a significant role in institutionalizing racism in the housing industry, and contributed to today's residential segregation and economic marginalization patterns which limit where minorities can live and exclude them from opportunities for upward social mobility.

Wise also spoke about the role of big corporations in perpetuating poverty. He provided the example of Wal-Mart, one of the nation's most profitable corporations, which generates its profits by paying the large majority of its employees wages that place them below the poverty line and assuming that they will receive government benefits such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to make ends meet. Wal-Mart employees then turn around and spend their food stamps at Wal-Mart, thereby contributing to the revenues of the corporate giant, which is indirectly "subsidized" by the American taxpayer. Hence, the poor continue living in poverty while the rich reap benefits from government assistance programs and increase their fortunes.

Asked to speak on the protests and riots that occurred in Ferguson, Missouri following the killing of Michael Brown, an unarmed African American teenager, on August 9, 2014 by a White police officer, Wise pointed to the need for community self-determination of policing. The practice would involve a process by which police officers assigned to neighborhoods would be vetted by community members to determine whether or not a particular officer was a fit for the community. This would help eliminate the "pernicious extrajudicial behaviors" among police officers, especially in relation to young African American males, and would provide many marginalized communities voice and influence in improving policing in their neighborhoods.

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JSRI presents at Dia De La Mujer Conference

Michigan State University held its 23rd annual Dia de la Mujer Conference at the Kellogg Conference Center in East Lansing on Saturday, April 9, 2016. The theme for this year's conference was "Solidarity for Change: Using our Voice to Inspire Action," and the keynote speaker was Christine Chavez, the granddaughter of late, labor activist César Chávez. The goals for the conference, which first began in 1994, are to "empower, motivate, inspire, connect and support Latinas and all women in their quest for advancement in society." The conference included guest speakers, workshops, exhibitors, and vendors.

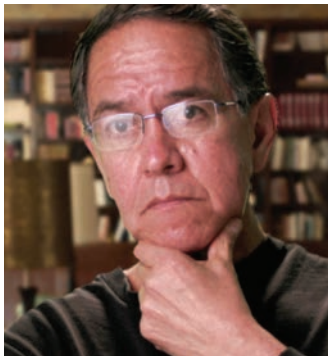
The Julian Samora Research Institute led two workshops during the day. The first workshop titled "Beyond Hate and Fear: Immigration and the Refugee Crisis in America" was led by Director Rubén Martinez, who argued that the U.S. has some responsibility for the migration of Central Americans to this country through its trade agreements.

Dr. Pilar Horner and student Claudia Zavala screened the movie "No Más Bebés," a documentary film which exposed the forced sterilization of Mexican immigrant women in Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center during the late 1960s and early 1970s. The film used interviews, court documents, newspapers, and medical records to uncover the shocking practices of tubal ligation among women who often were recent immigrants and did not speak fluent English. Often the women were coerced into signing permission forms for sterilization during labor without full informed consent of the implications of the surgery. After the screening Dr. Horner opened the discussion up to viewers. The heated interactive discussion addressed current issues of the contentious immigration debate, women's reproductive rights, race and gender discourses, and racist aspects that still permeate much of our social structures including laws, policies, and medical practices.

José Ángel Gutiérrez and Ernesto B. Vigil at JSRI

The Julian Samora Research Institute hosted two scholars in residence during the month of June. Longtime and well-known Chicano leaders José Ángel Gutiérrez and Ernesto B. Vigil joined JSRI and collaborated on an emergent project focusing on "American Democracy and Surveillance: A Focus on Chicano Movement Leaders." Gutiérrez has devoted most of his life to making improvements in the Chicano community through political empowerment. He co-founded the Mexican American Youth Organization (MAYO) and La Raza Unida Party (RUP) with the aspirations of attaining more political representation among Chicanos in elected offices in Texas, the Southwest, and across the country. Likewise, Vigil, a former member of The Crusade for Justice has dedicated his life to the attainment of social justice for Chicanos. He served on the Crusade's executive board for many years.

Gutiérrez and Vigil, in conjunction with JSRI, worked on the development of a project to collect, digitize, and preserve FBI surveillance files on Chicano/a civil rights leaders and organizations. The collection is one-of-a-kind and will have tremendous appeal among national and international scholars. Both scholars also worked on book-length manuscripts under review for publication by the Michigan State University Press.



Each scholar shared his current research project with the Michigan State University and Lansing communities. Vigil's presentation titled "Sra. Juanita Montoya de Martinez/Story to her Grandson: The rebellion of 1847" provided insights on the Mexican and native resistance movement against the American occupation of New Mexico during the U.S.-Mexican War. Gutiérrez' lecture, "The Massacre at Porvenir, Texas: Justice be Done Now!" highlighted the brutal massacre of Mexican and Mexican Americans by Texas Rangers in the late 1910s. Both lectures raised important questions and concerns over past perceptions and treatment of Mexican Americans and Latinos, topics that remain relevant today.

In working and conversing with Gutiérrez and Vigil one is exposed to a distant past that goes beyond what has been included in the typical historical narrative. It is almost as if one revisits past events as both men are replete with knowledge pertinent to the Civil Rights Movement, the Chicano Movement and the American Indian Movement. Not only did the two men experience the Chicano Movement first hand—Gutiérrez and Vigil were major leaders on the frontlines of the struggles of the period.

Dr. Jorge Chapa Memorial Fund

Dr. Jorge Chapa was one of the preeminent Latino demographers in the United States. He died on October 19, 2015. His scholarship covered a wide range of issues relating to Latinos in the U.S., including health disparities, border colonias, poverty, immigration, education gaps, redistricting, geographic information systems, census data, disenfranchisement of legal residents, labor force participation, and voter rights. He co-wrote the ground breaking book, *The Burden of Support*, the first book to examine the potential growth and issues related to Latinos in the U.S. He also coauthored *Apple Pie and Enchiladas: Latino Newcomers to the Rural Midwest*. It has become the standard treatment of one of the important political and demographic changes in the Midwest in the past generation.

Dr. Chapa mentored many young faculty members and students throughout his 27 year career, during which he served at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, founded the Latina/o Studies department at Indiana University, served as Interim Director of the Julian Samora Research Institute at Michigan State University, and served as faculty member for Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research Summer Program. At the time of his death he was a full professor in the Latina/o Studies department and a scholar in the Institute of Government & Public Affairs at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

A scholarship for Latina/o Studies majors or minors has been established in his memory. Donations can be mailed to the University of Illinois Foundation—Jorge Chapa Memorial Fund, 1305 W. Green Street, MC-386, Urbana, IL, 61820 or accessed online: https://give.illinois.edu/give/; for Campus Priority select "Other," for fund enter "Jorge Chapa Memorial Fund in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences."

JSRI Scholarship Recipients 2016-2017

Adriana Flores is a second year student in the Advanced Standing Social Work program at MSU with a concentration in Organizational Community Leadership.
She is a US-born Latina who lived in and taught English to the Guatemalan community for a year. In the social work program she considers it important to raise public awareness of issues facing the Latino population. She served as the President of the Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society and reorganized the Student Organization of Latino Social Workers (SOLASW). In these positions, she organized several service projects in the community to give members applied experiences in helping others. Currently, she is working on a research project with Dr. Pilar Horner focused on the retention of Master of Social Work Latino students, mentoring, and collaboratively linking Lansing Latino high school students with university social work students. After obtaining her degree she would like to open a nonprofit organization that would educate young women on leadership and community activism, which would be instrumental in meeting the growing needs of Latinas.

Gabriella Sanford is a junior in the James Madison College at MSU where she is majoring in Comparative Cultures and Politics with a minor in Spanish. She grew up with her Honduran mother and two siblings, and has witnessed many of her extended family members immigrate to the United States for family unification or work opportunities. Having seen their struggles, she is interested in helping immigrant women and children in the United States gain access to education, housing, and other opportunities that many of her family members lack. During her time at MSU, she has worked with underprivileged high school students through MSU Upward Bound, many of them Latino/as, and hopes to continue doing this after graduation. Additionally, she is a strong advocate for reforming U.S. policies toward Central America and wants refugee status to be granted to minor children fleeing widespread violence from countries such as Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. Also, she condemns the Obama Administration for using ICE raids to detain and deport families back to countries where they may become victims of violence.

New Faces at JSRI

Devin Mazur is the secretary at the Julian Samora Research Institute. She joined JSRI in March of this year. Her office responsibilities include providing office support to the director and faculty, maintaining accurate records, processing travel reimbursements, and providing general leadership and supervision to student and on-call employees. She communicates routinely with faculty, staff, prospective students, and external constituents to provide requested information. She is pleased to join the team and to be at MSU.

Barry Lewis is a Master's of Social Work student focusing on Organizational and Community Leadership. Originally from Denver, Colorado, he moved to Michigan in 2009 to pursue dual bachelors degrees at Wayne State University, where he graduated with degrees in Journalism and Urban Studies. Upon graduating with his MSW degree he intends to pursue a doctorate in Social Work with a special focus on juvenile and criminal justice systems and reform. When not working or studying, Barry enjoys exercising, binge watching Netflix and eating at various restaurants.

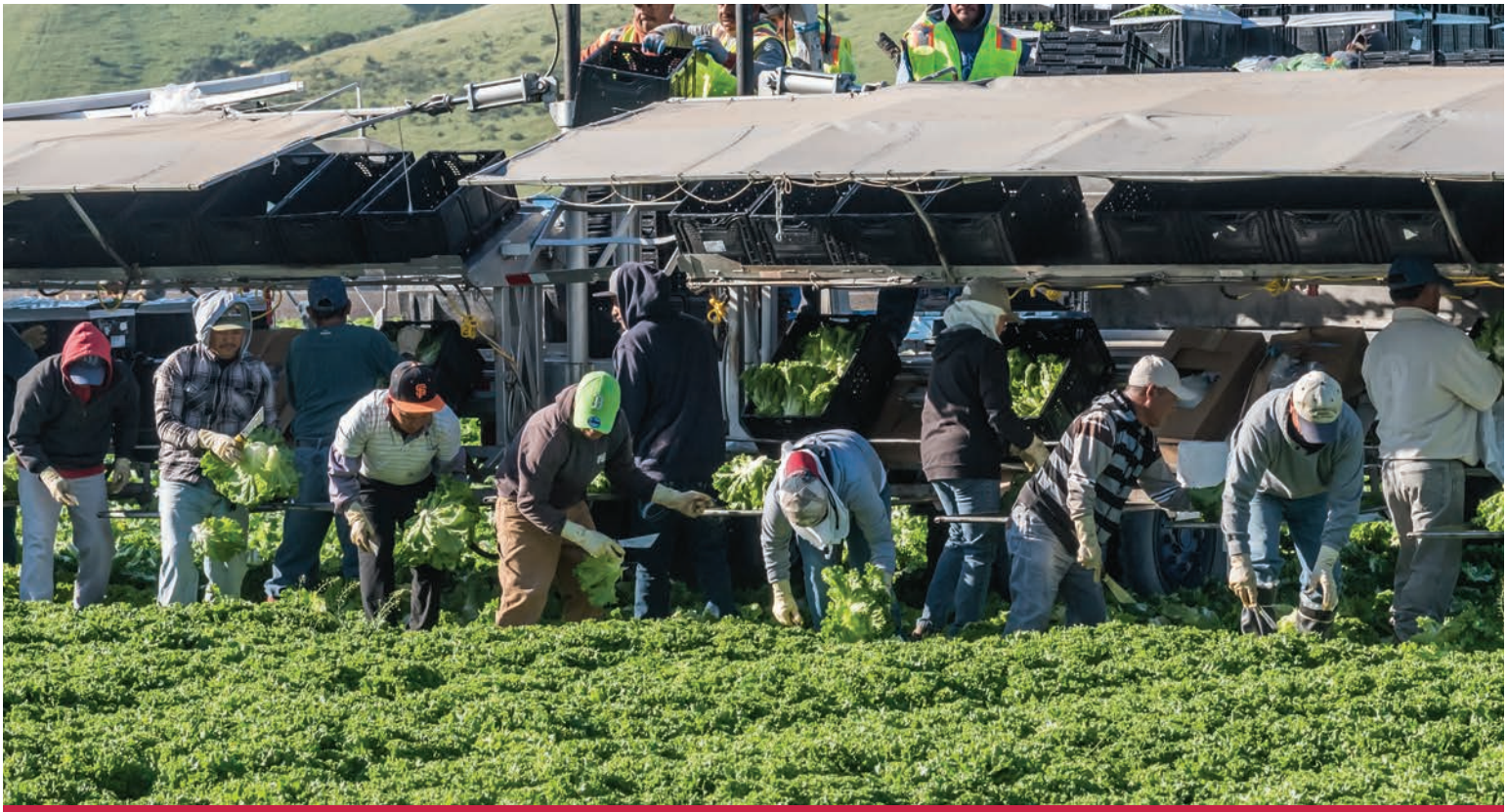
Nabih Haddad is a fourth year doctoral student in the Higher, Adult, and Life-long Education (HALE) program in the College of Education at Michigan State University. Nabih's research interests include higher education policy, educational philanthropy, and student success and college completion. His current research focuses on and empirically examines the intersections of organized philanthropy and higher education, with an emphasis on college completion across different race and ethnic groups. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Wayne State University and a Master's degree in International Affairs from Penn State University.

JSRI Faculty Achieve Promotion and Tenure

Drs. Pilar Horner and Daniel Vélez Ortiz, both of whom have joint faculty appointments with the School of Social Work and the Julian Samora Research Institute, were recently awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor status. Drs. Horner and Vélez Ortiz were hired as entry level assistant professors in 2009. Their research interests include HIV/AIDS in the Latino population and mental health among Latino seniors, respectively. Their teaching, research and service levels were viewed by colleagues and administrators as meriting promotion and tenure. Congratulations to each of them!

Coronado Wins 1st Annual UOE Chili Cook-off

Juan Coronado, Post-doctoral Scholar at JSRI, was the winner at the lst Annual UOE Chili Cook-off held in February. Contestants used their favorite chili recipe for their entries. Colleagues sampled the different entries then voted for their favorite entry. The 2016 winners are as follows: 1st Place: Juan David Coronado; 2nd Place: Rob Halgren; and 3rd Place: Debbie Stoddard.



Unequal Treatment:

Geopolitical Factors and the Impact on Healthcare Access for the Vulnerable

Jasmine Blaine[1]

Introduction

Farmworkers are essential to the U.S.'s ability to supply the country with a constant food supply. These individuals work in physically demanding environments, which may result in cases of heat stroke, pesticide exposure, chemical exposure, dermatitis, respiratory conditions, traumatic injuries, dental concerns, cancers, poor child health and other poverty related health problems. The need for healthcare access is high; approximately 93% of crop farmworkers needed healthcare services between 2009 and 2012. Moreover, 33% of those who needed services were unable to access services, representing a major service gap for farmworker populations (NAWS, 2012).

Legal status is one of the many barriers that affect farmworker access to healthcare. Moreover, it illustrates an important link between access and politics. Access is heavily dependent on the legal status of farmworkers, and approximately 50% of farmworkers are undocumented (NAWS 2012). Historic policies such as the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, a welfare reform policy that aimed to reduce dependency on welfare included a provision that excluded all immigrants from receiving benefits for five years after arriving in the United States. This and other restrictive policy attempts have a direct effect on immigrant populations' access to healthcare. The aforementioned policies stem from conservative ideologies, while liberal ideologies tend towards redistributive policies (Navarro et al. 2006; Campante 2011). This is illustrated by the states that have expanded Medicaid coverage through the 2010 Affordable Care Act, where more liberal states expanded coverage than conservative states and provided increased access to healthcare services for underserved populations. Due to the differences in political ideologies across states there exists concern about the ability of individuals to access healthcare in non-expanded states. Moreover, as the Affordable Care Act does nothing to assist the undocumented population, approximately 50% of the farmworker population, access to healthcare for farmworkers will continue to remain low.

As mentioned previously, there are numerous barriers that affect the ability of farmworkers to access care. These factors include, but are not limited to: legal status, language, education, cost, cultural barriers, lack of insurance, generational barriers, migratory nature of work, lack of understanding of healthcare system, and personal transportation. However, these factors may

vary by geographic location. This paper may serve to provide additional support for findings from previous scholars.

Going forward, I first discuss the characteristics of farmworkers; second, I provide a theoretical link between political ideology and healthcare access; I then explore how ideology impacts access to care for farmworker populations, and finally, I discuss the findings and implications of the barriers that affect healthcare access. My results indicate that both regional political ideology and regional percent Hispanic are significant indicators of predicted healthcare access.

The Contemporary Gatherers

The historic "gatherer" was a member of a group of people who subsisted through foraging in the wild. As humans have evolved over time, our foraging has become increasingly organized and routine. Today's contemporary gatherers are farmworkers. Farmworkers consist of individuals who dedicate their lives to general farming practices in the form of field crop workers, nursery workers, livestock workers, farmworker supervisors, and hired farm managers (USDA, 2014). However, this study utilizes the NAWS dataset, which does not include non-crop farmworkers; excluding livestock workers.[2] According to the 2012 Current Population Survey, the vast majority of farm laborers and supervisors are of Hispanic origin, however, the majority of farm managers are non-Hispanic Whites (USDA, 2014). The largest group of workers are undocumented workers from Mexico, while the second largest group of workers are U.S. citizens, followed by legal permanent residents (NAWS, 2013).

An analysis of the NAWS data was performed to examine farmworkers. It is important to note that NAWS sampling methods provide results that are representative of the entire U.S. farmworker population. The data suggest 74% of U.S. crop farmworkers are male; 77% are non-migrant; 49% are citizens or green card holders; 50% are undocumented; 50% have elementary or middle school education; 75% speak Spanish as their dominant language; 59% have personal transportation; 69% do not have health insurance; and 95% earn between $10,705 and $14,356 annually. Moreover, it is essential to understand the need for healthcare services in conjunction with ability to access services. There exists a disparity between the need for services by farmworker populations and the ability of farmworkers to access the needed services. Approximately, 32.9% of farmworkers have need of healthcare services, but have been unable to access such services; compared to 60.3% of farmworkers who have needed services and had the ability to access them. Notably, less than 7% of the farmworker populations have not needed healthcare services.

The NAWS farmworker population is comprised of both migrant and seasonal farmworkers (MSFW) and year-round, non-migrant farmworkers. There are significantly more non-migrant year-round farmworkers than MSFW's in the sample; 5,220 versus 1,521, respectively. It is important to understand the difference between the two populations as circumstances may be exacerbated for migrant farmworkers due to the nature of their mobility compared to their non-migrant counterparts. The Department of Labor (DOL, 2013) defines a seasonal farmworker as, "a person who during the preceding 12 months worked at least an aggregate of 25 or more days or parts of days in which some work was performed in farm work, earned at least half of his/her earned income from farm work, and was not employed in farm work year round by the same employer." An individual who qualifies as a migrant farmworker must meet all the requirements of a seasonal worker and the distance that the worker travels to work must be far enough away from their permanent residence that the worker cannot return home on the same day. The migration may be between farms, counties, or states, depending on the situation of each individual worker. Migrant farmworker populations face barriers that are exacerbated due to their mobility.

Farmworker needs and access is further categorized into non-migrant versus migrant farmworker to examine whether or not there exists a difference in ability to access healthcare. There is a pronounced difference in ability to access services by migrant farmworkers in comparison to their non-migrant counterparts. Results suggest that 28.4% of non-migrant farmworkers compared to 48.5% of migrants have needed healthcare access, but have been unable to obtain services. This illustrates the disparity in healthcare access due to the migratory status of a worker.

Farmworkers are core components of the nation's agricultural industry, yet these workers have become marginalized and forgotten rather than shown gratitude. Farmworkers are subject to various physical and mental dangers associated with their work, extreme poverty, and living and working arrangements that hinder their access to health coverage and care. In terms of physical health, farmworkers and their children are exposed to toxic chemicals, such as organophosphate pesticides which have been linked to neurodevelopment complications, chemical exposure, infectious diseases, dermatitis, heat stress, respiratory conditions, traumatic injuries, reproductive health concerns, poor dental hygiene, cancers, overall poor child health, and other poverty related illnesses. Mental health, cultural assimilation, job uncertainty, geographic isolation, substandard housing conditions, distance from family, boredom, and health and safety concerns

contribute to poor mental health among farmworkers.

NAWS (2013) data illustrate that between the years 2009 and 2012, 68.7% of the general farmworker population and 31.3% of migrant farmworker populations were uninsured. Based on findings from previous scholars, a variety of traditional socio-economic factors, such as gender, migratory and legal status, education, transportation, insurance coverage, cost, and communication with hospital staff are barriers to healthcare access for farmworker populations. However, previous literature does not account for the effect of geopolitical factors on healthcare access. To further our understanding of when and how vulnerable populations access healthcare, I account for the effect of geopolitical factors on access.

Group Dominance and the Suppression of Subordinate Groups

Group threat theory holds that, "Attitudes of dominant group members towards a subordinate group are influenced by fears among dominants that they will be put at systematic disadvantage to subordinates" (Wilson, 2001). Thus, dominant groups who fear losing their position in the hierarchy will intentionally seek to prevent subordinate groups from gaining power. The level of threat tends to increase with growing numbers of members in the subordinate group. Previous scholars have used group threat theory to explore American perceptions of "threatening" groups relative to the policy preferences of dominant groups. Wilson (2001) finds that "American perceptions of threats to their economic and cultural interests may exert appreciable influences on their policy preferences." There exist natural tendencies for one's own group to exhibit favoritism towards members within the group, however, groups will not show aggression, bias, or retaliatory behavior towards outside groups unless the outside group poses a threat to some degree.

Other scholars have combined group threat theory with conflict theory to show how groups generate conflict through clashes over scarce resources, values, and power. Not only is the struggle to gain resources, values, and power, but also there exists a desire to prevent the opposing group from making menial gains (Bobo 1988). Similarly, Branton et al. (2011) used group threat theory to analyze the effects of perceived threats and views of nationalism among Whites in relation to Hispanic-targeted immigration policy, which resulted in increased anti-Hispanic immigration policy after periods of heightened perceived threat.

While group threat theory has its supporters, there are opponents to the theory. Group threat theory is heavily criticized for its inability to take into account the effects of subordinate group size and the level of perceived threat by the dominant group.

Healthcare Access for Farmworker Populations: Traditional SES Factors and Non-Traditional Ideological Linkages

As this paper examines the effects of ideology on healthcare access, it is important to first identify barriers that inhibit access to healthcare for both general farmworker populations and MSFW populations; and then to explore the potential relationship between ideology and healthcare access.

Healthcare Barriers for the Vulnerable Populations

Research surrounding the barriers that limit farmworkers' ability to access healthcare services is extremely limited. Most research is related to immigrant families, Hispanic populations, Medicaid users, and rural access issues; populations sharing similar characteristics and circumstances to farmworker populations. These similarities allow previous studies related to healthcare access of vulnerable populations to inform this analysis.

Previous studies have found that there exist a multitude of factors that influence the ability of an individual to access healthcare services. One common cause of reduced healthcare access is lack of insurance. Hispanic populations have the highest uninsured rates of all ethnic groups in the U.S., where an even larger disparity exists between Hispanic populations who are citizens and undocumented workers. NAWS (2013) data illustrate the overwhelming majority of respondents were Hispanic and undocumented, which exacerbates the low levels of farmworker insurance rates. Closely tied to the ability of an individual to purchase health insurance is household income, the U.S. Census Bureau (2014) reported that Hispanic populations have consistently lower household incomes compared to White and Asian ethnic groups.

Barriers to healthcare access can overlap making it increasingly difficult to gain access to healthcare services. It has been

found that Medicaid clients are faced with a range of barriers, including lack of knowledge of the application process and eligibility questions, language barriers, legal status concerns, income, general inconvenience, pending decisions, mobility, technological difficulties, and misinformation from Medicaid staff. Moreover, rural Hispanic immigrants in the Midwest place additional emphasis on the impact of language barriers, specifically the lack of available translation services limits their ability to access healthcare services.

Closely tied to the issue of language barriers is the legal immigration status of an individual. Barriers to healthcare access are increased for individuals who have resided in the U.S. for shorter periods of time, meaning first-generation immigrants would have a significantly harder time than fourth-generation immigrants. These findings are associated with the ability of an individual to assimilate to the U.S. culture, which for many MSFW's can be particularly challenging due to seasonal employment and isolated living conditions.

Healthcare Access for MSFW Populations

Literature related to healthcare access for farmworker populations is limited. There exists vastly more literature related to health care access of MSFW populations than general farmworker populations, which may stem from the tendency to characterize non-migrant farmworker populations as part of the general Hispanic population. Therefore, this paper seeks to make a contribution to the study of farmworker healthcare access.

Lack of insurance coverage is a known barrier to healthcare access, specifically Medicaid, that is complicated by the legal status of a farmworker family. Most MSFW's are not eligible for Medicaid due to their undocumented status; however, U.S. born children are indeed eligible for services. Due to enrollment issues such as language barriers, difficulties understanding the application process, financial eligibility issues, and frequent movement between states, many eligible MSFW's and their families are unable to receive coverage through Medicaid. Additional problems arise because the quantity and physical location of federally funded health centers are insufficient to serve the MSFW population.

In addition to legal status, there are factors that affect the delivery of healthcare services to MSFW's . These factors include differences in both language and culture from the dominant population, low levels of education, financial strain, frequent migration, poor transportation, lack of insurance and documentation, and the accessibility of local healthcare centers. Cultural differences are another factor that influences access, as these differences are associated with embarrassment and shame to ask for more information related to their healthcare or how to access services. Further, MSFW's tend to have low levels of education and language comprehension, which have large negative effects on one's ability to find, enroll, and participate in healthcare programs.

Linking Ideology and Healthcare Access

In this study I propose that the threat perceived by a region's dominant ideological group will affect farmworker access to healthcare. This supposition was derived from group threat theory, which states that dominant groups attempt to keep subordinate groups at systematic disadvantages to ensure their own personal success, specifically towards subordinate groups that pose a threat to the dominant group. Maslow's hierarchy of needs posits the basic needs that must be met before an individual can reach self-esteem and self-actualization, the stages where individuals have self-confidence and are able to critically assess situations. Healthcare is a basic need for individuals without which their abilities to reach higher levels of Maslow's pyramid are limited. Dominant groups that prevent access to healthcare for subordinate groups are preventing them from meeting their basic needs, and preventing them from gaining power.

Navarro et al. (2006) found "an empirical link between politics and policy by showing that political parties with egalitarian ideologies tend to implement redistributive policies." Today, the Republican Party is relatively anti-redistribution and Democrats relatively pro-distribution (Campante, 2011). Redistributive politics aimed at reducing inequality have tangible effects on the health of impoverished populations (Szreter & Woolcock, 2004). Thus, areas that are predominantly liberal, and Democratic, that favor distributive policies may have increased healthcare access compared to areas that are predominantly conservative, Republican, that do not favor redistributive politics.

In terms of the link between party dominance and perceived threat, Hawley (2011) finds that lifelong Republicans are more likely than Democrats to support immigration restrictions when the concentration of Hispanics in their community is high, resulting from the perceived threat of the immigrant population. Immigration restrictions are not confined to the number of permitted immigrant entries in a year. They include policies related to public assistance and healthcare access. Thus, illustrating the link between dominant-group-determined policy decisions and the size of the subordinate group.

Group threat theory has advantages as it acknowledges that threats to dominant groups such as fear of job loss, competition, loss of power due the relative size of the subordinate group, and/or lower economic growth may lead dominant groups to take

action to prevent subordinate groups from rising in status.Thus illustrating the potential for dominant groups to prevent subordinate groups from accessing basic necessities, such as healthcare services, which ultimately can prevent a subordinate group from rising in power. To further explore how group threat theory explains variations in healthcare access, I use a series of political indicators, regional unemployment rate, and regional percent Hispanic to quantitatively analyze the effects of regional ideology, unemployment rate, and percent Hispanic on healthcare access while using the previously established barriers as control variables.

Explaining Farmworker Healthcare Access

My expectations related to healthcare access by geopolitical factors are based on group threat theory. The theory suggests that perceived feelings of intergroup threat may lead to actions from the dominant group that may negatively affect the subordinate group or simply prevent the group from prospering. It is suggested that since farmworker populations in the U.S. are predominantly of Hispanic origin, these individuals are treated similarly to the general Hispanic population, which is negatively perceived by the dominant American group. There exists extreme discontent between Hispanic immigrant populations and the dominant American population, where the dominant group fears economic losses due to increased competition for jobs, consistent with Wilson's (2001) findings. However, there exists a slight difference in the level of perceived threat by the dominant group, which calls for the separation of the dominant American group into two dominant subgroups, conservatives and liberals. While both perceive a threat by the farmworker population there are differences in the level of perceived threat and, thus, level of effort placed to help or hinder the population. In this case, the dominant party may affect the basic needs of individuals, and their ability to access healthcare. As mentioned previously, Maslow's hierarchy of needs illustrates the hierarchy of needs where basic needs must be met before an individual can self-actualize or gain power. The action of a dominant group affecting the ability of a subordinate group to access healthcare would be a way of preventing the subordinate group from rising in power. Therefore, I expect to observe the following:

H1: *Benefits to disadvantaged populations are increased in regions comprised of majority liberal leadership and lower in regions of majority conservative leadership.*

As mentioned previously, economic competition is a key factor in the perception of threat by a dominant group (Wilson, 2001). Part of economic competition refers to job competition

where dominant groups may perceive subordinate groups "taking" jobs away from the dominant group as a threat. Therefore, we would expect to see differences in the perceived level of threat based upon the unemployment level of the region; where regions with higher unemployment would perceive the subordinate groups as greater threats than areas with low unemployment. Based on this logic, I expect to observe the following:

H2: *Benefits to disadvantaged populations are reduced in regions of higher unemployment compared to regions with low unemployment.*

Group threat theory relies on the assumption that the relative size of the subordinate group affects the level of perceived threat by the dominant group. In the case of farmworkers, the majority is of Hispanic origin. The Pew Research Center (Passel el al. 2011) found that between 2000 and 2010 the Hispanic population in the U.S. grew by 43% and accounted for 56% of the nation's population growth over that same time period. The Hispanic population growth was significantly larger than the population growth of White Americans. Thus, I would expect to see differences in the level of perceived threat based on the relative size of the Hispanic population in various geographic regions. I expect to observe the following:

H3: *Benefits to disadvantaged populations are reduced in areas with higher concentrations of Hispanic populations.*

Data and Methodology

To evaluate factors affecting farmworker healthcare access, I estimated a model that utilized access to healthcare services within the last year as my dependent variable. Given the binary nature of the dependent variable, a logistic specification is used to evaluate geopolitical effects on farmworker healthcare access. In order to assess the effect of political ideology on healthcare access the Shor and McCarty (2015) dataset was used. I aggregated the variable party median by legislative chamber and

region using Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) codes to align regions with the predetermined NAWS regions. This process formed the ideology variable, which represents the average majority party median by chamber. This process was repeated for both unemployment rate and Hispanic population percentages to create regional variables that illustrated the effects of each variable on a regional scale. Consistent with the data section of this report, access is coded as zero for no healthcare access and one for healthcare access. The period of analysis ranged from 2009 to 2012, which is consistent with NAWS recommendations for using weighted data in regional longitudinal studies.

Results

The three key independent variables of interest in the study include: regional ideology, regional unemployment, and regional percent Hispanic. I find support for hypotheses 1 and 3, while hypothesis 2 is unsupported; suggesting that regional ideology and regional percentage of the population that is Hispanic affect farmworker healthcare access. More specifically, the probability of a farmworker accessing healthcare is reduced by 0.629 when comparing access in least conservative regions to most conservative regions, which suggests that conservative regions have less healthcare access than their liberal counterparts. Similarly, healthcare access is reduced by 0.579 in regions with higher concentrations of Hispanic populations compared to regions with lower Hispanic concentrations, suggesting that regions with higher concentrations of Hispanic populations have lower predicted rates of healthcare access. These results are illustrated by figure 1 and figure 2.

Figure 1: Probability of Accessing Care by Regional Ideology

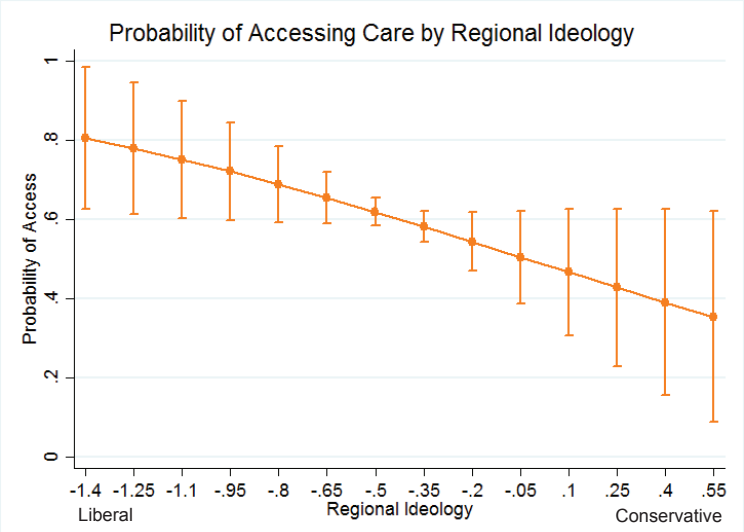
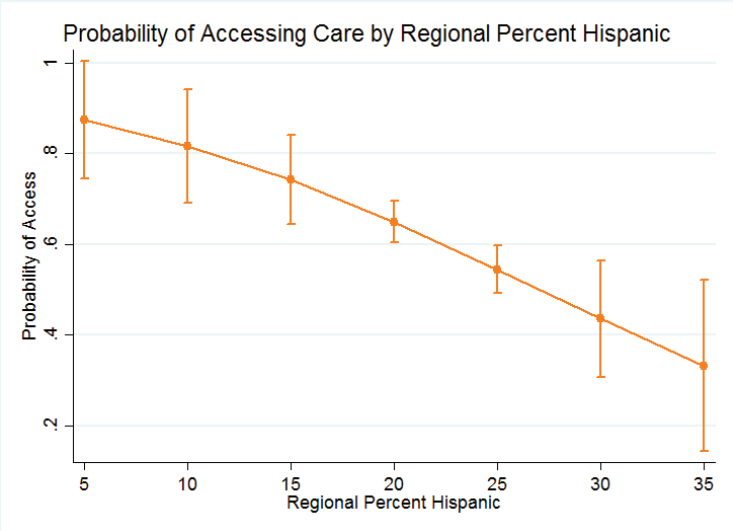
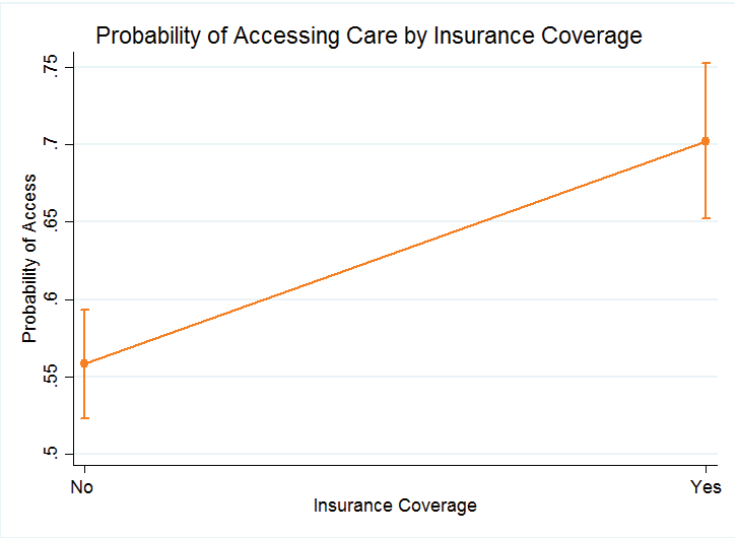


Figure 2: Probability of Accessing Care by Regional Percent Hispanic



In addition to regional ideology and regional percent Hispanic, the model illustrates the significance of eight independent variables on farmworker healthcare access. The results indicate that the *need for healthcare services* is a significant factor in determining an individual's access to healthcare services, where access is reduced by 0.646 between farmworkers who have needed healthcare services compared to those who have not needed services.

Figure 3: Probability of Accessing Care by Insurance Type



With regard to *insurance coverage*, the probability of access for farmworkers who have insurance coverage is increased by 0.646 compared to those who are uninsured, as illustrated in figure 3. *Gender* is indicative of an individual's likelihood to access care. Female farmworkers are 0.538 times more likely to seek care than their male counterparts, as illustrated in figure 4. The

probability of access for farmworkers who *migrate* for work is reduced by 0.198 compared to their non-migrant counterparts, as illustrated by figure 5.

Figure 4: Probability of Accessing Care by Gender

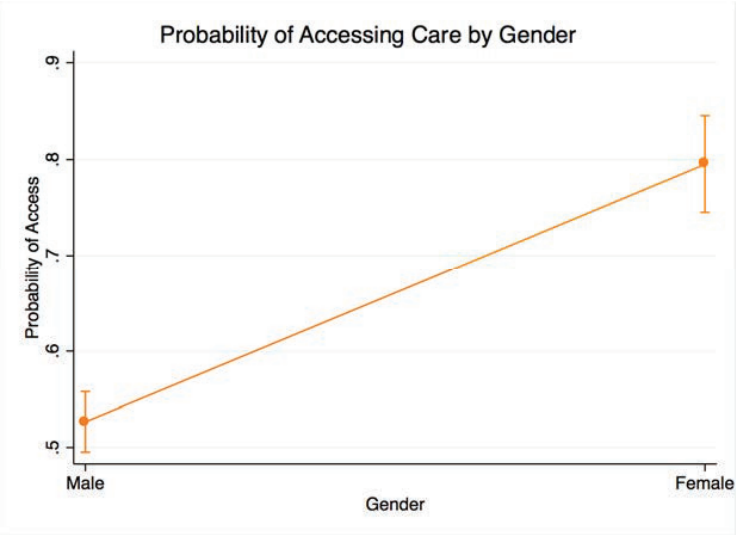
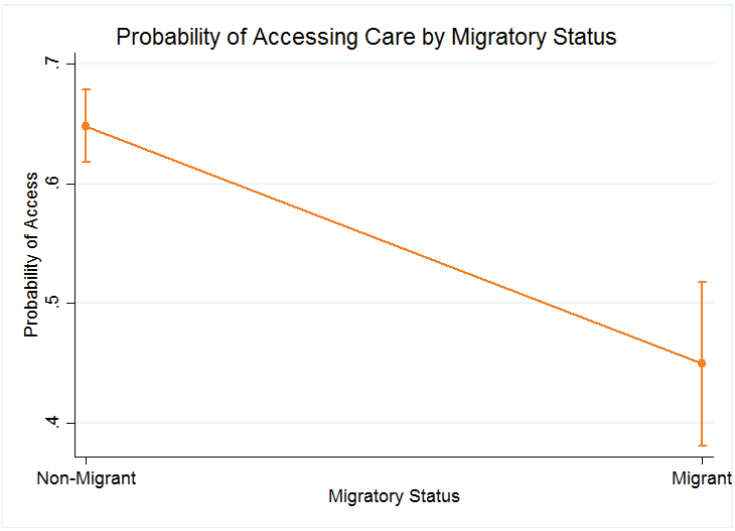
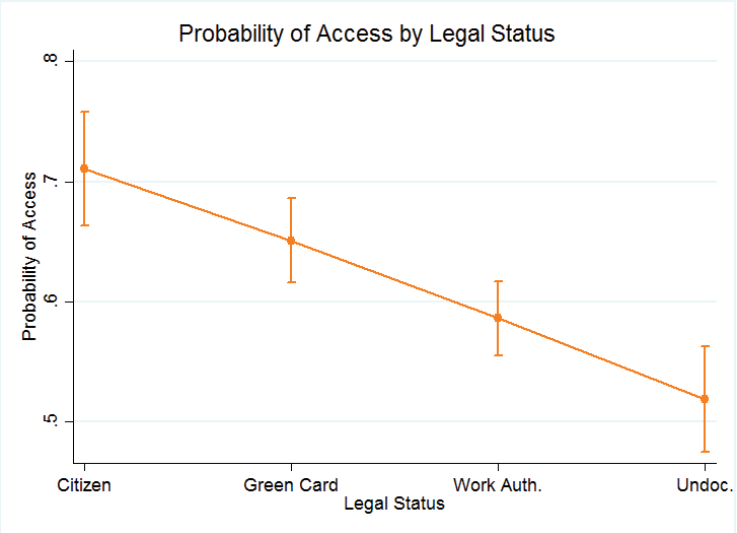


Figure 5: Probability of Accessing Care by Migratory



A shift in healthcare access can be viewed in the transition between varying *legal statuses* of farmworkers, where the individuals with lowest levels of permanence/temporary status have reduced access by 0.383 compared to farmworkers with high levels of status, as illustrated by figure 6. Hence, farmworkers who are undocumented will have reduced access compared to their citizen counterparts. *Education level* is also indicative of access where individuals with lower levels of education have reduced probabilities of access (value of 0.168) compared to farmworkers with the higher levels of education. *Cost of services* is also a barrier to healthcare access and individuals who perceive the cost to be too high are 0.059 times less likely to access services compared to individuals who do not feel that the prices are too high. Therefore, as the price of services increases the probability of access is reduced among those for whom the costs are too high. Lastly, *barriers of understanding* are indicative of increased access where doctors who are able to understand patient concerns increase access levels by 0.332 compared to doctors who are unable to understand patient concerns. Hence, as the ability of medical and hospital staff to understand farmworker health concerns increases, the probability of access increases as well.

Figure 6: Probability of Accessing Care by Legal Status



In sum, these findings suggest that the ability of farmworkers to access healthcare services is a function of various factors, including regional ideology and regional percent Hispanic, where the more liberal region tends to provide improved access, and the higher the percentage of Hispanic persons in a region the less access they are able to obtain. Additional external variables that affect access to healthcare include insurance coverage, cost of services, and communication barriers between staff and clients. Moreover, the study illustrates the negative effects of background characteristics specific to individual farmworkers, such as gender, migratory and legal status, and education relative to their ability to access care. These results suggest that to improve healthcare access among farmworkers regional ideological differences and perceptions of Hispanic populations must be further assessed in addition to addressing issues associated with traditional socioeconomic factors that affect access.

Discussion and Conclusion: Improving Farmworker Healthcare Access

Returning to the fundamental question of this study, do

geopolitical factors affect the ability of farmworkers to access healthcare? Yes, geopolitical factors do affect healthcare access. The results of this study suggest that at the regional level political ideology and regional percent Hispanic are significant factors in determining healthcare access. Regions that are predominantly liberal are associated with increased access compared to their conservative counterparts, while regions with high percentages of Hispanic populations are associated with lower levels of healthcare access. This study is the first of its kind to evaluate the impact of regional ideology and Hispanic presence on the farmworker population's ability to access healthcare and contributes to the growing literature that links healthcare access to political ideology. This study finds that the size of the subordinate group does have a significant impact on the perceived threat by the dominant group.

I find that as the regional percentage of Hispanic increases the ability of farmworkers to access healthcare is reduced. These results illustrate the need for further study of regional ideology and the perceptions of Hispanic populations by dominant group members, specifically the differences in politics between liberal and conservative areas and their relation to Hispanic populations.

In addition, the findings of this research are a significant addition to the existing research on farmworker healthcare access. As mentioned previously, research into farmworker healthcare is extremely limited, which points to the need for additional studies in this area of research. These results suggest that there are numerous ways to improve farmworkers' ability to access healthcare through addressing socioeconomic factors such as insurance coverage, gender barriers, migratory and legal status, education, cost of services, and intercultural communication. Therefore, governments and key stakeholders seeking to improve farmworkers healthcare access should use these findings to support policy and program development.

The analysis of farmworker access presented in this study has two main limitations primarily stemming from the original data collection. The most important limitation in the data is the lack of availability of data at smaller geographic levels, such as state or local levels, as NAWS data are only available at the regional level. Due to these limitations, I urge other researchers to evaluate the effects of political ideology at both state and local levels on healthcare access for farmworker populations. Secondly, questions related specifically to issues regarding healthcare access were used only in the survey in 2009, while the majority of questions had been in place since 1993. If more data had been available, the study timespan could have been increased. I encourage other researchers to delve further into the link between healthcare access and political ideology at various geographic levels and to evaluate which policies have the greatest impact on farmworker healthcare access.

To conclude, this study is a valuable resource for both policymakers and scholars interested in the linkages between healthcare access and political ideology. The results suggest that politically liberal regions have greater access to healthcare services than conservative regions, which presents an opportunity for collaboration between liberal politicians and conservative politicians who may be interested in improving healthcare access for vulnerable populations.

Endnotes:

[1]Jasmine Blaine is a recent graduate from Bowling Green State University's MPA program.

[2] Crop farmworkers will be referred to as farmworkers for the remainder of this paper.

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Survey of Cooperative Extension Educators: On Serving Latino Populations in Michigan

Continued from page 9

To confirm the validity and internal consistency of the scales, eigenvalues, factor loadings, and Cronbach's alpha were examined. All factor scales were computed as an average score of corresponding composite items.

The first factor scale represents respondents' perceptions about Latino community inclusion. Five items strongly loaded on that factor and describe the extent to which Latinos are; 1) trusted; 2) join or create local civic or social organizations, 3) are actively involved in organizations; 4) are welcomed, and 5) receive needed services in their community.

The second factor scale represents Extension's capacity to serve Latinos. Five items loaded high on this factor: 1) Extension educators should learn Spanish; 2) Extension services should hire bilingual employees; 3) Extension should devote funds and resources to better serve the Latino community, 4) Extension educators should learn more about the Latino culture, and 5) Extension agents should develop programs aimed at helping the Latino community.

The third factor scale represents respondents' personal receptiveness toward Latinos. Three items loaded high on that factor: 1) Extension educators enjoy interacting with persons of different backgrounds than their own; 2) they are interested in working with the Latino community; and 3) they are comfortable attending cultural celebrations organized by the Latino community in their county (or state).

The fourth factor is about welcoming the Latino community. The following four items loaded high on this factor: 1) Overall most civic groups, churches, schools, and businesses in my county (or state) welcome the Latino community; 2) Most churches in my county (or state) welcome the Latino community, 3) Most schools in my county (or state) welcome the Latino community; and 4) Most businesses in my county (or state) welcome the Latino community.

The fifth factor scale is about Extension educator outreach to the Latino community. Four items loaded high on this factor: 1) I regularly interact with the Latino community; 2) I am actively involved in reaching out to the Latino community; 3) When I develop a program, I usually have it translated into Spanish to facilitate use by the local Latino population; and 4) When I develop a program, I work with members of the community, including the Latino community, to make sure it meets their needs and interests.

The sixth factor scale describes Extension-unit-support for Latinos. Four items loaded high on this factor: 1) My Extension unit helps me to stay informed of new policies and procedures and changing state and federal laws that affect Latinos in my region; 2) My Extension unit reaches out to and establishes connections with Latino communities as well as coalitions, councils, and other collaborative boards to examine issues facing Latino communities and seeks ways to reduce problems; and 3) My Extension unit provides ongoing and well-crafted training opportunities for all levels of staff to learn and work with Latino communities.

The seventh factor scale describes awareness of resources and services that are available to Latinos. Three items loaded high on this factor: 1) Key members of the Latino community in my region are aware of the resources offered by Cooperative Extension; 2) I am familiar with other organizations that offer services to the Latino community in my region, and 3) I don't know how to find or approach key partners that could help me work with the Latino community (reverse coded).

The eighth factor scale describes respondents' attitudes toward Latinos. Three items loaded high on this factor: 1) New immigrants should understand "what it takes to survive in the U.S.," before deciding to move here, 2) There is very little I can learn from members of the Latino community, and 3) I am reluctant to develop programs for the Latino community because immigration is controversial.

Bivariate Analysis

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) of the differences between means across categories of race/ethnicity was performed and significance levels were assessed using F-tests. The results show that the means for Latinos (although their number is small) are significantly higher than those for White Americans for the following factor scales: Extension should Develop Capacity to serve Latinos, Personal Receptiveness toward Latinos, Welcoming the Latino community, and Extension Outreach to the Latino community. With regard to Awareness of Resources/ Services for Latinos, White respondents had a higher mean than Latino respondents, indicating that Latinos may perceive a gap in the availability of resources and the delivery of services to Latino communities by Extension programs.

CONCLUSION

The objective of this study was to assess the needs of Cooperative Extension Outreach Educators in Michigan as they seek to enhance their skills to work with Latino communities.

A majority of Extension educators in Michigan are not fluent in Spanish and indicate experiencing a language barrier in attempting to meet the needs of their Spanish-speaking clients. However, most are interested in developing their skills and knowledge to better serve Latinos. Further, many respondents reported being familiar with organizations that offer services to Latino communities and are interested in working with those organizations in order to reach out to their Latino clients. Finally, the overwhelming majority of respondents do not see Extension staff as adequately trained to serve Latino communities, and most perceive the need for Extension units to allocate more resources to serving Latino communities.

Most respondents believe that community institutions, especially schools, welcome the Latino community and that the majority of residents trusts Latinos and believes that they contribute to the economic health of their county (or state). Many believe that community leaders and residents work to make Latinos feel welcome and believe their county (or state) offers needed services to members of the Latino community.

In terms of actually serving the Latino community, four out of ten Extension educators in Michigan agreed or strongly agreed that they regularly interact with the Latino community, are actively involved in reaching out to the Latino community, involve members of the community, including Latinos, in developing their programs, and work with other agencies to address the range of services needed for Latinos.

About one in five Extension educators in Michigan agreed or strongly agreed that they have translated program materials into Spanish in order to facilitate outreach to the Latino community. While direct translation of materials is certainly helpful and is a major step in the right direction, an understanding of culture is also very important, and many see the need to learn more about Latino cultures.

About 22 percent of Extension respondents indicated that their units inform them about new policies, procedures and laws that may affect Latinos; about 19 percent indicated that they provide well-crafted training opportunities to learn and work effectively with Latino communities; and about 36 percent responded that they reach out to and establish connections with Latino communities, coalitions, councils, and other collaborative boards to address issues facing Latinos and find ways to reduce their problems.

Limitations

The main limitation of this study is that it relies on a convenience sample that may not be representative of all Extension educators and units in Michigan. Despite this limitation, the results from this study shed light on the perceived needs and perspectives of Extension educators relative to Latino communities in Michigan. The data are also helpful in determining what Extension units could do to meet the perceived learning needs of Extension educators in the Michigan in order to be able to serve Latino communities.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The population of Latinos continues to grow in Michigan; however, programs and policies are not keeping pace with the needs of the community. There is a high interest among Extension educators in partnering and developing programs that meet the needs of Latino populations. Barriers that were identified include: a perceived lack of organizational support, language barriers, and limited awareness by Extension staff of Latino communities and their needs.

1) There is a strong interest among Extension educators to work with Latino communities.

   a. Long-term programs should be developed to build diversity competent cadres of Extension educators in Michigan.

   b. Extension employees should be provided long-term diversity competence training on how to effectively and constructively engage and serve Latino communities.

      i. Existing diversity training programs should be evaluated to see what impact they have had in providing services to Latino communities and actions taken accordingly.

   c. Incentives should be provided to Extension employees to build coalitions and partnerships with local Latino and Latino-focused community organizations.

2) Extension educators and employees believe that there is a lack of organizational support for working with Latino populations.

   a. Extension leaders should develop diversity competence skills, stay informed of policies and directives that affect the Latino population in the state, and allocate resources to a level that better serves Latino communities.

   b. Unit directors should take stronger leadership roles in developing and implementing programmatic approaches to enhance the capabilities of Extension educators and employees to meet the needs of the growing Latino population.

3) Extension educators believe that language barriers inhibit program development and implementation.

   a. Extension leaders should increase the number of bilingual/bicultural staff and educators to more effectively meet the needs of Latino communities.

   b. Extension leaders should promote multicultural work environments to ensure that Latino and bilingual employees feel included in the workplace, even when they speak Spanish in the workplace.

4) Many Extension educators feel unprepared to work with Latino populations.

   a. Extension units should provide training for their staff members that will enhance their knowledge of Latino communities in the state.

   b. Extension units should host and support community forums focusing on Latino community issues as a way of increasing employee understanding and to expand opportunities to better assess and meet community needs through partnerships and collaborative initiatives.

5) Most Extension educators believe they can reach out to Latino community leaders and organizations, but may not have the social capital needed to do so or may not be engaged in doing so at a meaningful level.

   a. Project-based partnerships should promote alignment of Extension units' and educators' priorities and practices with the actual needs of Latino communities.

   b. A compilation of best practices should be shared by Extension leaders across the state to help Extension educators establish meaningful connections and sustainable relationships with Latino communities.

6) Most Extension educators and employees want and perceive the need to serve Latino populations.

   a. Communities of practice focused on serving Latino populations should be developed within and across the state to engage and support Extension educators in learning about and implementing best practices.

   b. A Latino news section should be added to newsletters and internal Extension communications materials to inform educators and employees about relevant issues relating to services and needs.

Endnotes:

[1] This is excerpted from the full report which is available online: http://www.jsri.msu.edu/publications/research-reports.

[2] There were not any respondents from the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

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Hispanic Heritage Month

Annually, from September 15 to October 15, the United States recognizes National Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrates the influences that Latinos have had on the nation. Indeed, the oldest permanently established settlement in the country by Europeans is St. Augustine, Florida. It was founded by the Spanish in 1565. In the Southwest the first settlement by the Spanish was founded in 1598 as San Juan de los Caballeros under the leadership of Juan de Oñate, who constructed a major irrigation canal, called an *acequia*, as part of his planned capital city in La Provincia del Nuevo México. This occurred nearly nine years before the founding of Jamestown, the first English settlement in the Americas.

Key features of the Hispano *acequias* in northern New Mexico are their Islamic roots and related local control principles. The Moors left an indelible mark on Spain's irrigation systems. Of importance, according to José Rivera, an *acequia* scholar, are the principles of sharing and local control. Unlike the American system of prior-appropriation water rights, Hispanos share water even in periods of drought, and they do so through a system of local control involving a *mayordomo*, who oversees the allocation of water by the community of irrigators, as well as the maintenance of the irrigation canals. The *mayordomo* position is rotated among the members of the community of irrigators and the person in the position is elected by the irrigators. The *mayordomo* resolves disputes and can levy fines on those who commit infractions, such as using water without permission. The sharing principles and local democratic practices preceded the establishment of the United States.

Tim Wise Speaks on White Racism

Continued from page 12

This is necessary, Wise argued, because White Americans tend to blame marginalized communities for their victimization, believing that those persons killed by police must have done something to provoke them.

Wise concluded his presentation by commenting on the dysfunctions of white privilege and how it keeps society from progressing to higher levels of civilization. Moreover, he argued that the prescription that everyone should adopt a colorblind approach to eradicate racism is silly because we need to become more, not less, conscious of the relationship between race and inequality. Moreover, because of the structural dimensions of racism, colorblind policies actually worsen the problem of racial injustice in society.

Wise's visit was co-sponsored by the Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives, The Comparative Black History Program, the College of Human Medicine, the College of Veterinary Medicine, International Studies & Programs, and Lyman Briggs College. Further, it was featured as part of MSU's 60/50 series which celebrated the 50th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* in Topeka, Kansas, which ended legal segregation in public schools in 1954, and the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which transformed race relations in the public arena.

Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right

Continued from page 5

Once these and other wealthy ultraconservatives became politically active, their efforts began to coalesce, especially as the Koch brothers sought to strengthen and expand their political network among those willing to use their wealth and resources to promote an anarchist agenda, one framed by the very wealthy and which has been imposed on American citizens.

What then is the aim of the Kochtopus and how does it carry out its work? According to Mayer, it is to promote the political views of conservative billionaires who seek to minimize the influence of government in the economy so that they can pursue their commercial interests. They are opposed to social programs, corporate taxes, labor unions, and government regulation. Operating in stealth mode, the Kochtopus has greatly impacted elections to state and national political offices. It has also gained a significant beachhead into institutions of higher education, where it promotes the indoctrination of students by funding selected research centers, academic programs, and faculty members. At the same time it has sought to undermine Mayer's work by accusing her of plagiarism in her article titled "Covert Operations," published in 2010 by *The New Yorker*, in which she exposed the political activities of the Koch brothers. If only for that reason her book should be of interest, much like a banned book draws one's interest. But for those individuals interested in the members of America's plutocracy and how they carry out their anarchist political agenda, the book is a must read.

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219 S. Harrison Rd, Room 93
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PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A GIFT TO THE JULIAN SAMORA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Through your support you can enhance JSRI's research, symposia, and cultural and scholarship activities.

Each gift enhances JSRI's capacity to promote research on Latino communities in Michigan, the Midwest and across the nation and to disseminate and contribute to the application of the findings.

YOUR GIFT CAN BE DESIGNATED FOR:

- The **JSRI Enrichment Fund**, which supports research projects, student research assistantships,and public forums on critical Latino issues;
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- The **P. Lea Martinez Endowed Scholarship Fund**, which supports students studying health issues among Latinos;
- The **JSRI Scholarship Fund**, which supports students with short-term financial needs;
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If you need additional information on giving to JSRI, including planned giving, please contact:

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Email: jsamorai@msu.edu
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