

Meeting the Challenge: The Rationale for a Latino Research Center in the Midwest

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ABSTRACT

This paper argues for the establishment of a Latino research center at Michigan State University. The rationale for such a center rests on the changing nature of the Midwestern economy and the challenges it poses for the future of Latinos in this region. More specifically, given the relatively low educational attainment of Latinos and the high drop out rates among our young people, a future economy requiring greater skill and capabilities is likely to result in serious social and economic problems for this population. Thus, a Latino center dedicated to policy oriented research and outreach is urgently needed in order to lay the foundation of information and knowledge required to promote the new policies and programs that will be required to make this population full and equal partners in the future society of Michigan.