



MALRC On The Move

Welcome

Volume 1, Issue 2, November 2005

In this issue, I am pleased to inform you that Professor Edward Telles, University of California, Los Angeles, will be presenting a major address on Latinos in the United States on December 6th, 2005. I was very pleased that the Mexican American and U.S. Latino Research Center was able to play a part in making this lecture by Professor Telles a reality. Telles is a recognized scholar; in August of 2006, he will receive the most prestigious award for research given by the American Sociological Association, namely, the ASA Distinguished Publication in Sociology Award for 2006. We are very much looking forward to Professor Telles' thoughtful and empirically supported observations on Latinos in the U.S. Telles in his talk will directly address some of the statements made by Professor Samuel P. Huntington concerning what Huntington believes is the "erosion of the core culture of the United States by Mexican Americans".

Secondly, MALRC helped establish and is now a member of a consortium of Mexican American/Latino Research Centers in Texas, the Tejas Mexican American/Latino Centers Consortium (TMALCC). Some Information about the newly established TMALCC is below.

I hope that as many as possible attend the Telles lecture. It promises to be informative and insightful concerning Latinos in the United States

Edward Murguia

Founding Director, MALRC



Edward E. Telles, Ph.D.

Latinos: Building America and Becoming American

Latinos: Building America and Becoming American is the title of a lecture scheduled for December 6th at 7:30 p.m. at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center Auditorium here in College Station. This is a long awaited talk about the study of Mexican and Latino immigrant assimilation in the United States given by Dr. Edward E. Telles.

Dr. Telles is Professor of Sociology at the University of California in Los Angeles since 1990. He will be the 2006 recipient of the Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award from the American Sociological Association for his book *Race in Another America: The Significance of Skin Color in Brazil*. In 2005 he received the Otis Dudley Duncan Award from the Population Section for the same association.

MALRC will also host a small meeting with Dr. Telles to be held on that same day at the Academic Building Rotunda from 2-4 p.m. We would appreciate your presence.

Lecture Abstract Follows



Texas A&M University

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Lecture Abstract

Latinos: Building America, Becoming American

Samuel P. Huntington claims that Latinos (Hispanics), particularly Mexicans, are overwhelming American borders and labor markets and their descendants are failing to assimilate, unlike the European immigrants before them. According to Huntington, this is leading to the potential creation of a separate Latino society with a distinct culture and set of values from the rest of U.S. society. However, these conclusions are based on flawed assumptions and anecdotal evidence that run counter to contemporary social science data and notions of labor markets, culture and assimilation.

For example, a major review and analysis by the National Academy of Sciences reveals that immigration is beneficial to the U.S. economy and native workers, although there may be a small negative impact on the least educated. Moreover, social science evidence shows that Mexican Americans are highly patriotic and lose Spanish skills over generations since immigration but there is a persistent lag compared to whites in their education and socioeconomic status. Thus, the problem is not the unwillingness of Latinos to adopt American values and culture but the failure of societal institutions, particularly public schools, to successfully incorporate these individuals, as they did for the descendants of European immigrants.



Edward E. Telles, Ph.D.

Tickets are available free of charge from the MSC Box Office (979-845-1234).

Contact our office for further assistance.

Mexican American/Latino Centers Unite

On November 18-19, 2005, Associate Director Manuel Pina, Jr. and I traveled to Austin to attend the organizational meeting of the newly established Tejas Mexican American/Latino Centers Consortium (TMALCC). In attendance were Directors from the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Houston, the University of Texas at Arlington, the University of Texas at El Paso, and Texas A&M, Corpus Christi. This consortium hold great promise for advancing the mission of MALRC as well as the missions of the other Centers who are members of the Consortium. Topics discussed included research collaboration models, possible faculty exchanges, and an annual conference.