

Latino Young Professionals Task Force Meeting Notes

May 16, 2006, 12:00 at the International Center

Attendees: Sarah Purcer, Karen Arimany, Ana Parra, Gloria Gain, Russell Stall

Don't let the immigration issue have an effect on this group. We should move forward and do our work regardless.

ACTION ITEM: Do we need some sort of international festival?

Hispanic Young Professionals. Is that exclusive?

- 70% are from Mexico.
- Many Mexicans need help with education; it does not carry the same importance in their culture.
- Do we need a Leadership Mexico program?
- There is not much Hispanic representation on the International Task Force. **ACTION ITEM:** Get more Hispanic representation on the International Committee.
- Hispanic men are getting robbed because they are carrying around large sums of cash. They do not put money in the bank.

There are no leaders in the Hispanic community. **ACTION ITEM:** Could Greenville Forward develop a Leadership Training Program for Mexicans.

One of the key deliverables from this group is to create greater awareness of Latino issues throughout the community, such as 73% of young Latino are professionals. We are educators.

Another function of this group is EDUCATION.

- Of the Hispanic population
 - Educate the Hispanic population about the importance of putting money into a bank account, and how to make money by putting it in the bank. Education.
- Of the business community (e.g., Bank of America)
 - The Mexican Consulate has an agreement with the Bank of America about what is a legitimate ID. It is the only bank that does this.
 - Every other bank requires two ID's. This is very difficult for Hispanics.
 - Chris Riley at Wachovia was on a DLA team which focused on international drivers' licenses.
- Of the populace

How do you get people to come to educational programs?

- Radio is a great outlet.
- Newspapers (any literature must be simple, lots of pictures, colorful)
- United Way
- Internet isn't the best way. Most do not have computers/Internet unless we are talking about the more educated.

ACTION ITEM: Develop a brochure helping Latino's understand how to do various things.

- How to get a driver's license.
- What you need to get a bank account.
- When to call 911.
- Where to go for ESL.

ACTION ITEM: Contact churches to get congregations involved. Churches are a primary focus of the Latino population and a key way to get into the culture. Consider doing a forum with the churches on the Vision. Churches, however, are very competitive with each other.

Prince of Peace – Oscar. He is a respected leader.

Baptist church on Poinsett Highway

St. Mary's

ACTION ITEMS:

- We need a Hispanic one-stop information center. Could be at one location or to go in the churches.
- Speak at churches
- Need a Hispanic "one stop"
- Invite priests to be in a focus group.

We are trying to make this a great community for all people. It is too easy to stay in our comfort zone and be apathetic.

Hispanics are very willing to share their culture. Just inviting them and showing an interest will open a huge door. Seek them out and put yourself in uncomfortable, outsider positions... like they often have to do.

Put people into situations that will build connections. People rarely argue when in "bread-breaking" situations.

Solving the immigration problem is not the function of this group. We want to make the community a better place to live for all Greenvillians. We would like to be more tolerant and understanding. We are a salad bowl. We don't want to break down or change anyone's culture.

Racism is a learned response.

ACTION ITEM: Create a Cultural Diversity Program for Educators.

ACTION ITEM: Create a way to educate the community about diversity and what each culture has to offer. Inspire action. Educate the community about what "Hispanic" really means. It isn't just one singular culture.

ACTION ITEM: Find a way to promote ESL classes and educate about the availability. Some of the avenues could be through churches, banks, and construction companies.

Most people aren't willing to learn Spanish. Americans are still in shock over Hispanic growth, and are not ready to accommodate changes yet.

ACTION ITEM: Change the name of the group from "Hispanic" to "Latino Young Professionals."

ACTION ITEM: Russell will bring in PowerPoint slides demonstrating the growth of the Hispanic population.

Submitted by Russell Stall