

## **Minutes Latino (a) Focus Group**

### **NCFR Conference**

November 9<sup>th</sup> 2023

Chair: Jordan Arellanes

Co-chair: Diana Cedeño

#### **1) Introduction and Welcome**

The meeting commenced with a warm welcome, during which participants introduced themselves, revealing a rich tapestry of diversity emanating from various universities and organizations, including University of Denver & Child Trends. Attendees expressed a collective interest in diverse research areas, ranging from examining the experiences of Latin couples to engaging in prevention research.

#### **2) Discussion on Group Membership**

The second agenda item addressed the decline in group membership. Participants emphasized the imperative to bolster our ranks by implementing initiatives to increase visibility and share the group's endeavors with a broader audience. Strategies such as spreading awareness were identified as key priorities to attract new members.

#### **3) Symposium Planning for Next Year**

The third agenda item centered on planning a symposium for the upcoming year. Participants proposed the submission of a proposal for a symposium focusing on ethnic identity.

The consensus was that four or five presentations would effectively address this theme.

Topics to be explored included sibling relationships, considerations of familismo and immigration articulated by Ruben, and the community capital model.

Resilience emerged as a primary focus for the next year, with discussions spanning colorism and various intervention strategies. Both students and faculty expressed unanimous agreement on the significance of resilience as a central theme, and plans were set in motion to solicit submissions for presentations.

#### **4) Leadership Transition**

The fourth agenda item addressed changes in leadership. The current chair is stepping down, and Dr. Diana Cedeño has assumed the role as the new chair. Avelina Rivero Rodriguez is appointed as the new co-chair for the upcoming year, with an eventual transition to the position of chair.

#### **5) Division Building and Mentorship**

The fifth agenda item delved into discussions about division building, featuring insights from Christina Lopez. The conversation extended to the exploration of mentorship opportunities for

students. Acknowledging existing mentorship programs, participants brainstormed alternative avenues to provide guidance and support to students.

### **Conclusion and Future Commitments**

The meeting concluded with a collective commitment to enhancing the group's success in the coming year. Participants expressed a shared determination to actualize the proposed symposium and to continue building momentum in their academic journey. The exploration of diverse mentorship avenues underscored the group's dedication to fostering a supportive and enriching environment for its members.