

Announcing
Two Professional Development Opportunities
For Cooperative Extension Colleagues

Expanding Our Knowledge of Mexican Culture
Deepening Our Capacity to Work with Mexican Immigrants

Both Opportunities:

- Offer experiential learning that will build your capacity to more effectively work with Mexicans in Wisconsin communities and help you guide others in understanding the culture and issues of immigrants.
- Will connect you with Mexican professionals on topics relevant to Cooperative Extension
- Are open to and applicable to Extension colleagues from all program areas
- Involve an application and selection process
- Require a plan for sharing and applying what you learn to your Extension work
- Require support from your supervisor and your County Extension Committee, if you plan to use university time for the program
- Offer Cooperative Extension support for most of the cost . Each colleague traveling with the program will be responsible for \$500 of the cost. This can be personal funds, funds contributed by your county, community partners, or other sources.
- Require a \$100 “commitment fee” within one week of being selected.

**Puentes/Bridges
Mexico Immersion Trip**

November 24-December 3, 2006

Spaces Available: 6

Application Deadline: August 25, 2006

This 10-day program will be led by Alma, WI Spanish teacher Shaun Duvall, who has led a number of similar trips for Western Wisconsin groups. Puentes is a long-time partner of Cooperative Extension. In the past, this immersion seminar was intended for agricultural producers, and has now expanded to include other Wisconsin residents interested in learning about the issues of Mexican immigrants in rural Wisconsin.

Participants will develop an appreciation of why Mexican immigrants living in Wisconsin undertook the difficult and dangerous journey to the U.S. to find work, how they experience American culture, and what challenges they face in their new jobs and communities.

The program includes 20 hours of intensive Spanish language training, a three-day home stay, visits to rural areas and meetings with the families of immigrants living in Wisconsin, discussions with experts about immigrant worker issues, and visits to cultural and archeological sites.

Language training, cultural education and accommodations will be provided by the Cemanahuac Educational Community in Cuernavaca and Buena Vista, Mexico. <http://www.cemanahuac.com>

Mexico and Its Culture
A Program of Michigan State University Extension

February 3-11, 2007

Spaces: 4

Application Deadline: September 15, 2006

Wisconsin colleagues will travel with Extension educators from Michigan State University Extension.

The program will include visits to Mexico City, Oaxaca and Chapingo. You will learn about the sources of pressure for Mexican immigration to the U.S.; the economic challenges for families left behind; issues of street children in Mexico; social, health and nutritional issues; and the struggle to retain youth in school. You will visit the Center for World Corn Research and learn about research at the Chapingo College of Agriculture. You also will visit historic, archeological and cultural sites and public markets. Lodging will be in hotels.

Application Process for Both Programs

Submit the same information for both programs

1. Your name, title, location and job responsibilities
2. Name of the program you want to participate in
3. Up to one page description of:
 - Why you want to participate in the program
 - The experience or knowledge you have that prepares you for this program
 - How you will share your learning with colleagues when you return
 - How you will apply what you learn to improve the effectiveness of Extension education
4. If you are a county-based colleague and you plan to use work time for your program, include a letter of support from your Extension supervisor and a letter from your County Extension Committee. If you are from a statewide or campus unit and plan to use work time for your program, include a letter of support from your Extension supervisor.
5. Send your application to: Yvonne Horton, Associate Dean/ Director of Cooperative Extension, yvonne.horton@ces.uwex.edu by the deadline date (Aug. 25 for Puentes and Sept. 15 for the Michigan program) Yvonne will work with a small selection committee.

Additional Requirements

- A passport, obtained by you at your cost, is necessary for both programs. Allow 6-8 weeks if you are applying for the first time.
- Submit a “commitment deposit” of \$100 within one week of being selected for your program. The remaining \$400 of your contribution should be submitted two weeks before the trip. You will not be expected to make payments to the program sponsors. Cooperative Extension will make all payments for your participation.

If You Have Questions

- Contact JoAnn Hinz, joann.hinz@ces.uwex.edu