

Announcing
Mexico Immersion Opportunity
For Extension Community Partnerships

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

This professional development opportunity offers

- Experiential learning that will build the capacity of community partnerships to interact effectively with Mexicans in Wisconsin communities
- Information that will help you guide others in understanding the culture and issues of immigrants.
- 4 days of Spanish language training
- 4 nights homestay in a Mexican home
- Meetings with Mexican professionals to learn about topics relevant to Cooperative Extension

Who should apply?

- Cooperative Extension colleagues from all program areas who do educational programming with Mexicans or other Latinos
- Community residents who partner with Extension colleagues in working with Latinos
- Colleagues must apply **with** a community partner who engages with Extension in programming for Latino audiences
- A single application should be submitted for the two individuals—the Cooperative Extension colleague and the community partner.
- Two partnerships (of 2 people each) will be funded

Application requirements

- A description of programming currently being conducted with the colleague and the community partner. See detail in the Application Process below.
- A plan for how you will evaluate your progress after the trip.
- A plan for sharing and applying what you learn to Extension programming
- Letters of support from your supervisor and your County Extension Committee.

What are the personal costs involved?

- A \$300, non-refundable Commitment Fee from each traveler (the Extension colleague and the community partner) as soon as they are selected. Nonrefundable airline tickets will be ordered immediately after selection of the travelers. The fee can come from personal funds, funds contributed by the county, Cooperation Extension professional development funds, community partners, or other sources.
- Participants will need to pay out-of-pocket for transportation to and from the airport, airport parking and approximately 12 meals during the trip. These costs will be reimbursed within state rates after the trip through the Travel Expense Report form process. Travelers will need to keep records of their expenses.
- Passport costs are the responsibility of the travelers. Those selected for this trip who do not have valid passports should begin the **EXPEDITED** application process for a passport **IMMEDIATELY**.
- Travelers should plan to spend between up to \$500 while in Mexico (food and bottled water costs to be reimbursed by UW-Extension), depending on the extent of personal purchases.
- Cooperative Extension will pay in advance the costs for airline tickets, ground transportation, and lodging.

Program Description

Puenes/Bridges
<http://www.puentesbridges.org>
Mexico Immersion

November 28 –December 7, 2008

Spaces Available: 4 (2 Extension Professionals, 2 Community Partners)

Application Deadline: August 15, 2008

This 10-day program will be led by Puentes Director Shaun Duvall of Alma, WI, who has led many similar trips with residents of Wisconsin and Minnesota. Puentes is a nonprofit organization and a long-time partner of Cooperative Extension. In the past, this immersion seminar was designed for agricultural producers, and has now expanded to include other community residents interested in learning about the issues of Mexican immigrants in rural Wisconsin.

Participants will develop an understanding 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 the challenges they face in their new jobs and communities. The experience will build the participants' capacity to interact effectively with Mexicans and their Wisconsin communities by expanding their understanding of the culture and issues of immigrants.

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

The itinerary will include: Cuernavaca, Buenavista de Cuellar in Guerrero, Veracruz, and small communities near these cities.

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

Application Process

Deadline, Aug. 15, 2008

Submit the following information in no more than one page:

1. Name, title, location of Extension colleague
2. Name of community partner, professional or volunteer title or brief description of the work of this individual, agency/business/organization, location
3. Description of:
 - Why you want to participate in the program.
 - Duration of the partnership.
 - The educational programming being carried through the partnership. The impact of the work.
 - The experience or knowledge that both individuals would bring to this experience.
 - The evaluation plan you will use for your progress after the trip. Include the impact indicators you will use.
 - How you will apply what you learn to improve the effectiveness of Extension education.
 - How you will share your learning with colleagues when you return.

Also submit:

Letters of support from your Extension supervisor and from your County Extension Committee.

Expectations after the trip:

You will be expected to submit a success story at the end of 2008 describing your experience with your partner what you learned that can be applied to your programming together. You also will be expected to submit a success story in 2009 describing the progress you made with your partner and how you built on what you learned during the trip.

Send your application to:

Yvonne Horton, Associate Dean/ Director of Cooperative Extension,
yvonne.horton@ces.uwex.edu Yvonne will work with a small selection committee.

Deadline: Aug. 15, 2008.

Selections will be made no later than Aug. 18, 2008.

Commitment Fee of \$300:

Travellers will submit the “commitment fee” of \$300 within one week of being selected for the program.

If you have questions

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