

Mary J. Lucas
Multimedia & Web Design Specialist
Cooperative Extension

Why did I participate?

Participation in the Puentes/Bridges program was a natural extension of my current professional development. I am in the process of completing my first Spanish language class at the University of Wisconsin and I intend to complete additional advanced classes. However, knowing a language is only one part of learning. To really derive the most benefit from this knowledge it must be paired with a more in depth study of the culture and people who need to be served. Our Extension programs are going to expand to serve our growing Wisconsin Latino communities. I participated in this trip to be able to assist our educators by providing technical service with a more comprehensive understanding of both the language and culture.

What did I learn?

I met both of my goals to learn about the language and culture of Mexican immigrants working in Wisconsin. The visits to rural areas and meetings with the families of immigrants enhanced my appreciation of the difficulties, benefits and other worker issues related to immigration. I also vastly improved my knowledge of the great history of this population.

What will I do with my new knowledge?

I have prepared a presentation to be given to my colleagues on Monday, December 11, 2006. I will discuss the purpose and learning goals of my trip and how they were met. I will also show them some of the 300 images that I took and add them to our in-house library to be used on future projects. Finally, I will continue my studies and make it known that I am a technical resource to be contacted for web site or multi-media Extension projects that may be aimed at Wisconsin Latino communities.