

## “Coming Together: Race In Wisconsin”

### Bringing people together to discuss diversity

Communities across Wisconsin face unprecedented demographic change. Over the last decade, the Asian population of Wisconsin has grown 68 percent and the number of Hispanics in the state has more than doubled.

#### Extension’s Response

University of Wisconsin-Extension’s 4-H Youth Development programs and Wisconsin Public Television (WPT), worked with the Wisconsin Communications Board and the Urban League of Greater Madison to develop “Coming Together: Race In Wisconsin.” This curriculum uses WPT broadcasts to spark discussion among teens on the subjects of race and diversity. “Coming Together” has three activity modules dedicated to “Understanding Cultural Identity”, “Identifying and Dispelling Stereotypes” and “Adapting to a New Home” (immigration). In 2004, the curriculum was distributed to every county UW-Extension office in Wisconsin.

#### Outcomes

- UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development faculty and staff have trained more than 300 youth and adult leaders across the state both within the 4-H program and in partnership with other community programs.
- The State 4-H Youth Leader Council identified the curriculum as a priority and trained all 60 teen and adult delegates attending their annual leadership conference.
- Junior leaders of the Madison School District Community Recreation program said the curriculum training helped their summer youth counselors accept racial differences. 21 out of 23 counselors volunteered to co-teach the curriculum to new counselors for the 2005 training program.
- Youth in Upward Bound programs in Sheboygan and Manitowoc Counties experienced the curriculum as part of their team-building curriculum.

**Contact:** Tim Talen, 4-H Arts and Communications Specialist  
920 459-4429  
[timothy.talen@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:timothy.talen@ces.uwex.edu)

*“I can relate to the experience that occurred. I believe that we need to inform other so they know what Hmong people are going through so we can stop the racist acts and start all over again.”*

