

Julian Samora Research Institute Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Conference Looks to the Future, Addresses New and Continuing Challenges Facing Latino Communities in the Midwest and Across the U.S.

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October 21, 2014

For Immediate Release

EAST LANSING, Mich. – The Julian Samora Research Institute (JSRI), one of academia’s most respected voices for interdisciplinary research on Latinos in the Midwest and the U.S., is marking its 25th anniversary with a conference designed to celebrate, reflect, and look ahead.

“Latinos in 2050: Restoring the Public Good” will take place October 30—November 1 in East Lansing, with a schedule featuring distinguished speakers, music, art, and sessions addressing issues critical to Latinos and communities across the United States.



University Outreach and Engagement

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When JSRI was established in 1989 by the MSU Board of Trustees, the purpose was to address the absence of systematic information and knowledge on Latino issues in the Midwest. Today JSRI remains committed to the original mandate, and has expanded efforts through research, community outreach initiatives, and student mentorship.

Under the leadership of Dr. Rubén O. Martínez since 2007, JSRI’s series of statewide summits on Latino issues have identified and prioritized challenges such as education, immigration rights, health and health care, civic engagement, media portrayal of Latinos, economic development, jobs and employment, statewide advocacy, civic rights, and discrimination issues.

“The accomplishments have been remarkable during the past 25 years. Even more significant is the pace that is bringing Latino issues to the forefront. The Latino population is increasing across the Midwest and the United States, and is projected to reach 30 percent of the total U.S. population by 2050,” said Martínez. “The JSRI team and our collaborative partners are prepared to focus on issues that affect the growing Latino population, such as health disparities, entrepreneurship, economic challenges, and gaps in services to Latino communities.”

The namesake of JSRI was Professor Julian Samora, a pioneer Mexican-American sociologist and research scholar who taught at MSU from 1957 to 1959. He worked tirelessly on Latino issues in the Midwest, and was committed to the ideal that research makes a contribution to the improvement of the well-being of Latinos, their families, and communities. Dr. Samora, Ernesto Galarza, and Herman Gallegos founded the Southwest Council of La Raza, the precursor to the National Council of La Raza, a leading national Latino advocacy organization.

During its 25-year history, JSRI has sustained Dr. Samora’s vision while working at the forefront of several initiatives to increase awareness of the histories, cultures, and issues of concern for Latinos and immigrants.

JSRI was central to the development of the Midwest Consortium for Latino Research in the late 1980s, and worked with the Mexico-U.S. Consortium for Academic Cooperation, the Council on Western Hemispheric Studies, the Michigan Educational Opportunity Fund, and the Michigan Nutrition Network.

In recent years, JSRI has been instrumental in the establishment and work of the North Central Education/Extension and Research Activity, an interstate initiative across the 12 Midwestern states that encourages and fosters multidisciplinary research, education, and outreach efforts on Latinos and immigrants in the Midwest.

The 25th anniversary conference features two prominent speakers with timely topics:

Thursday, October 30, 2014

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

“The Undocumented and the DACA-mented: State and Federal Immigration-related Litigation and Legislation Concerning Higher Education”

by **Michael A. Olivas**, William B. Bates Distinguished Chair of Law, University of Houston Law Center, and Director, Institute for Higher Education Law and Governance

Saturday, November 1, 2014

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

“The Chicano Rearview Mirror: Looking Back Fifty Years to See the Next Fifty”

by **José Ángel Gutiérrez**, Professor of Political Science, University of Texas at Arlington, and founder of the Center for Mexican American Studies

Other notable events include:

Thursday, October 30, 2014

7:30 p.m.

Concert with Sones de México and the MSU Graduate Brass Quintet

Cook Recital Hall, MSU Music Building, MSU Campus

Latino Auto Workers Exhibit: “From the Margins to the Core”

Daily Hours: 9 a.m.—5 p.m. and Saturday: 10 a.m.—5 p.m.

MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, MSU Campus

More information is available at the [JSRI website](#).

Media Advisory attached.

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Media Advisory

Event: **Latinos in 2050: Restoring the Public Good**
25th anniversary celebration of the Julian Samora Research Institute

Hosted By: Julian Samora Research Institute at Michigan State University

Date: Thursday, October 30-Saturday, November 1, 2014

Where: East Lansing Marriott at University Place
300 M.A.C. Avenue
East Lansing, Michigan

Keynote Speakers:

Thursday, October 30, 2014

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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***NOTE:** Dr. Martinez will be available for comment and interviews at alternative times if media contacts are unable to attend the event.