

2008 JCEP Team Award Nomination

Team Members:

Arlen Albrecht, Taylor County Community Resource Development Educator, CNRED, WEECDA

Carl Duley, Buffalo County Agriculture Educator, ANRE, WACAA

JoAnn Hinz, Assistant to the Dean and Director

Amy Schanhofer, Monroe County Community Resource Development Educator, CNRED, WEECDA

Jon Zander, Trempealeau County Dairy and Livestock Educator, ANRE, WACAA

Educational Program Name:

Western Wisconsin Rural Immigration Summit

Nominator's Name:

Bob Cropp

Nominator's Phone:

715-672-5214

Who will accept the award on April 2nd:

Arlen Albrecht, Carl Duley, JoAnn Hinz, Amy Schanhofer, Jon Zander

News Release Information:

Buffalo County Journal, PO Box 40, Cochrane, WI 54622

Monroe County Publishers, 1302 River Road, Sparta, WI 54656

Tomah Journal, 903 Superior Avenue, Tomah, WI 54660

Medford Star News, P.O. Box 180, Medford, WI 54451

Whitehall Times, 36435 Main Street, Whitehall, WI 54773

Supporting Statement:

The Western Wisconsin Rural Immigration Summit was a regional educational program designed in response to increasingly negative community discourse in Trempealeau County surrounding the growing Hispanic immigrant population. Local Agriculture Educators Carl Duley and Jon Zander have witnessed and discussed with clients the employment challenges that have driven the need to attract immigrant labor and the community challenges that emerge from change. As the need for community education became apparent, they approached Amy Schanhofer, as Monroe County has been experiencing these changes for a longer period of time, and Arlen Albrecht who is bilingual and has a long history of working with immigrants in Taylor County. With the help of JoAnn Hinz, this group identified the strong role for education to create a foundation for constructive community dialog.

Hinz identified the Wisconsin Humanities Council as a granting source and communicated with them about the application. She also managed the grant funds once they were received. Both Zander and Duley had heard a Mexican speaker from the Department of Public Health in Mexico that they attracted as a speaker for this summit. They also had a relationship with representatives from UMOS and invited them onto the planning committee and secured a monetary sponsorship. Duley secured a second speaker. Schanhofer drafted the grant application to the Wisconsin Humanities Council,

drafted the marketing brochure and secured a speaker. Zander handled the local arrangements for location and meals, secured a speaker and attracted a local business sponsorship. Albrecht brought ideas about an effective agenda for the event as well as ways to encourage civil discussion. He also managed the registrations at the event. Albrecht, Zander, Duley and Schanhofer worked together to ensure attendance from other UW-Extension educators and to distribute marketing materials in the area.

Attendance at the event was about 220. The following are a few answers to the evaluation question, “What was the most valuable thing you learned from today’s program?”

- *Reasons behind immigration trends;*
- *Maps & graphs showing history of immigration in WI; benefits of immigration for WI’s economy; History of immigration law;*
- *Making connections with other participants; the effort of getting this many concerned people together;*
- *Greater sensitivity to reasons for immigration and impacts on family systems and communities;*
- *A better understanding of fears and concerns of those Western WI communities in dealing with migrant workers and those of the migrant workers in coming to this region;*
- *I did gain a better understanding of why Mexicans come here. I appreciated Nelly’s presentation and learning about the values and make up of all different families in Mexico.*

Since the event, the three western district educators have been approached with requests for further focus on this subject. The educators, along with UMOS, are planning to host an intern that will facilitate more focused dialogs within targeted communities. These dialogs will be designed with local input and will further the conversation beyond the “classroom” style of the summit. The intentions of these dialogs are to transition the outcomes of the summit from direct learning to engaging and empowering local constituents in discussing the impacts of immigration and identifying challenges that their communities face. After the intern finishes these dialogs, the local educators will assess the progress, compare the impacts on the different communities and use this to determine next steps for the communities.

Currently, the presentations from the event are posted on UW-Extension’s Latino Task Force website. All material was shared with a Sauk County UW-Extension educator at her request and she has designed a similar event to be held this spring in Baraboo. Also, the event was video taped and DVDs are available.

Supplementary Material Attached:

Western Wisconsin Rural Immigration Summit Brochure/Registration Form

October 4, 2007 newspaper article in AgriView

September 25, 2007 WEAU-TV transcript of video coverage