

## CCEI HONORS NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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Sponsored in part by FAU's Diversity Platform, the Department of Curriculum, Culture and Educational Inquiry (CCEI) was proud to present, *Beyond Cultural Erasure: Expanding Latinx Opportunities for Educación* in collaboration with the Palm Beach School District Office of African, African American, Latino and Gender Studies. On October 5th, 2019, local teachers and administrators, FAU faculty and students, and community members gathered to explore the opportunities and challenges to culturally and linguistically relevant pedagogy among Latinx student populations. Attendees engaged in discussions surrounding how to successfully integrate meaningful curriculum, develop inclusive institutional cultures, and support policy building to empower students of all backgrounds towards successful leadership in a diverse community.

José González, the keynote speaker, opened the program by presenting on his experiences as an educator in the Tucson Unified School District. The event also included a panel of students from surrounding schools. This was followed by breakout sessions led by presenters from Palm Beach County District personnel and FAU students and/or faculty. Their presentations discussed the following topics:

- *Linguistically Responsive Pedagogy* presented by Hanizah Zainuddin, Ph.D. & Allyson Berrios de Gacharna, M.A.
- *Precious Knowledge: Discussion of Ideology and Practice in Latinx Education* presented by Dilys Schoorman, Ph.D. & Carlos Diaz, Ed.D.
- *Recent Research on Culturally Responsive Pedagogy for Latinx Students* presented by Jameson Stell, M.A.
- *Enseñando Latin America to the Future Generation* presented by Brian Crouch, M.S.

On Monday, October 7th, FAU's Diversity Platform hosted the *Hispanic/Latinx Heritage event*. During this event, José González led a presentation that created the space for faculty to discuss shifting demographics, the growing number of Hispanic/Latinx students entering post-secondary education, and challenges they may face with traditional teaching methodologies.

Jameson Stell, a CCEI doctoral student who led the presentation titled *Recent Research on Culturally Responsive Pedagogy for Latinx Students*, expressed the following regarding Saturday's event.

"This collaboration between FAU and PBCSD provided attendees with the opportunity to hear from university professors and experienced K-12 educators about how to expand educational opportunities for Latinx students. Of equal importance to me, the workshop afforded attendees a chance to hear Latinx students voice their perspectives and share their experiences. I'm grateful I was able to take part in this event and I eagerly await more meaningful collaboration between FAU and PBCSD in the near future on this important issue of expanding educational opportunities for Latinx students."

Dr. Andrés Ramírez, a CCEI professor, captured the positive impact of the events.

"Many of us in the audience who attended the event and who were familiar with the success and reach of the Mexican American Ethnic Studies program were already well informed of its effectiveness. The seminar in fact was so enlightening that we not only felt reinvigorated by the event, but we left convinced that when history is written about how public education "worked" for students of minoritized backgrounds, the Mexican American Studies program will stand out as one of our great national exemplars. In my case, this energy was in fact translated into immediate and possible transformative action. After attending a breakout session on Latin American History presented by Brian Crouch, a teacher from Lake Worth High, we managed to collaboratively write and apply for a community engagement grant to study the reach, mission, and services provided by Latin American Resource Centers around the country. In addition to a collaborative endeavor, this research will lay the ground to what we hope could be the basis for the creation of a Latin American Center at FAU, one that, among other things, is able to catalyze and support course offerings in Latin American matters in High Schools within our community."

**Both events successfully highlighted the issues impacting the Hispanic/Latinx community and offered ways for educators to become involved, culturally responsive advocates.**