Inclusive Environments - Developing Outreach for Latino Communities

Internship Project:

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Latino community may face. Not every community will experience all or any of communities throughout the country. Though, there are large Latino communities in their area. Recommendations for NEON outreach to Latino communities at this site are centered around:

- Awareness – translated pamphlets, signage, and exhibits
- K-12 Education – citizen science programs in Latino-serving schools
- STEM Career Experience – opportunities for Latino high school, undergraduate and graduate students

The history of outreach to Latino communities was determined for both sites, and future recommendations for NEON outreach at this site are centered chiefly around collaborating with these existing programs. Opportunities include incorporating NEON data into Jornada citizen and schoolyard science programs, such as the Desert Data Jam.

These best practices framed situational analyses that were conducted at:

- Site 1: Disney Wilderness Preserve (Florida)
- Site 2: Jornada LTER (New Mexico)
- Other NEON Sites

The history of outreach to Latino communities was determined for both sites, and future opportunities for outreach were identified. Demographic research was conducted for all other current NEON sites to determine if large Latino communities existed in the area.

**Essential Best Practices**

- Develop Relationships to Identify Interests and Barriers
- Listen
- Communicate
- Commit
- Collaborate
- Be Relevant and Build Trust

**Common Barriers**

Latino communities are geographically distributed throughout the United States and originate from many different countries, making them all unique. Though, there are some common social issues that create barriers to participation in outreach that were found to exist in Latino communities throughout the country.

- Language – Language barriers prevent public participation and parental involvement
- Immigration – Immigration issues create limited access to higher education for undocumented students, among other social barriers
- Socioeconomic – Includes limited access to technology, recreational time, and educational materials

It is important to note that Latino communities are all unique. Not every community will experience all or any of these barriers, nor are these the only possible barriers a Latino community may face.

**Source:** Best practices were derived from studies conducted by the Nature Conservancy, Environment for the Americas, and the Center for Diversity and the Environment.

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