

We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, Some are dull, some have weird names. All are different colors, but they all have to learn to live in the same box."

(author unknown)



Parents attending the volunteerism workshop during the "Academia para Padres."

Photo: S. Paredes

Program Goals:

To provide 4-H volunteers, schools, and communities with culture and diversity information necessary to maximize their potential and increase awareness in cultural competency.

Increase volunteerism trainings for diverse audiences especially Latinos, which can increase knowledge and participation in the community they live.

cultural diversity: a positive education with a focus on the future

Overview

The diversity in the United States has been changing dramatically in the last 25 years and will continue to change. In recent years, the issue of cultural diversity has gained increasing attention for a number of reasons. First, the means of cultural and diversity extend beyond ethnicity/race, language, and skin color. Second, the influx of immigrants into many major metropolitan areas has generated multiple concerns and is demanding unprecedented understanding of culture and diversity. However it will not happen until we understand that cultural diversity enriches our lives in countless ways every day. Greater acceptance will occur with learners if diverse community leaders are involved in the planning, delivery, and evaluation of these educational efforts.

As educators, WSU has the responsibility to ensure that our communities get involved in culture and diversity education. It is also essential to involve youth and, through their actions, help preserve their native culture for generations to come.

Washington State University through Extension set clear objectives in order to effectively serve the diversity of communities and families across the state. The mission of Extension is to provide university-based educational services to communities. The cultural diversity program is an effort undertaken to engage audiences in learning opportunities such as cultural awareness, understanding, cultural differences, and volunteerism for diverse audiences, and so forth.

What's been done

Over 80 adults/teachers and 75 students attended the following 4 cultural workshops: (1) How to engage Latino youth in community services through cultural activities; (2) cultural competency; (3) cultural differences; and (4) cultural competency and the implication in a global society. These workshops were presented in the Service Learning Symposium, 4-H Super Saturday in Seattle, Nelsen Middle School in Renton, and in the 5th Globalization, Diversity and Culture Conference in Spokane.

KING COUNTY EXTENSION ~ ~ MID-YEAR REPORT ~ ~ JUNE 2009



Presenting cultural workshop during the 4-H Super Saturday.

Photo: S. Paredes

75 parents, students, and teachers attended the panel presentation at the Latino Career Fair at Denis Middle School, Seattle sponsored by Campaña Quetzal which is committed to unleashing the academic and personal potential of each Latino student.

Twenty Eight Latino parents attended the volunteerism workshop during the in-service training "Academia Para Padres" held in Highline School District, Burien on May 2009.

Additional activities

Programming will be offered in the summer and fall at Maple Valley Community, Lutheran Community Center, and at school in Des Moines.

Youth will be trained in skill development and volunteerism to provide cultural activities in the summer at Maple Valley Community.

Selected Accomplishment

70% of Latino parents felt positively impacted about volunteerism and showed an interest in volunteering in their community and at school.

4-H volunteers expressed how much they learned about cultural differences through multicultural activities. They suggested creating opportunities where 4-H members can learn about cultural competency. They also expressed interest in supporting new volunteers from diverse audiences.

Over 90% of Nelsen Middle School was highly interested in participating in the cultural differences workshop. Two teachers stated that the school is very diverse and pointed out the need to train school staff.



Nelson Middle School students were highly motivated to learn about cultural differences.

Photos: S. Morales

Contact

Sonia G. Morales O., Ph.D.
Diversity Faculty
Agriculture/4-H Youth
Development.
WSU King County Extension
200 Mill Ave. South, Suite 100
Renton WA 98057-2175
Voice: 206-205-3133
Fax: 206-296-0952
sonia.morales@kingcounty.gov
<http://king.wsu.edu>

Comments:

Thank you for coming. We learned about differences between our classmates. It is a great knowledge that we need to accomplish in our life.

~ ~ Student-Nelsen Middle School.

Great presentation Sonia! Students and teacher made positive comments about it. I know you encouraged our students to appreciate different cultures. We are glad for your involvement in this special day.

~ ~ Scott Jones, Nelsen Middle School Counselor.

I didn't know about volunteerism. I want to commit myself to learn more and to be able help my kids at school and other in my community.

~ ~ Martha-Participant