



THE CENTER *for*
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UNDERSTANDING
The University of North Carolina

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Randolph County Leaders to Address Needs of Latino Citizens Through Mexican Immersion Program

Three Selected As Part of the Center for International Understanding's Latino Initiative

Raleigh, N.C. (May 5, 2015) – Three Randolph County community leaders have been selected to participate in the Center for International Understanding (CIU)'s Latino Initiative program for 2015. Next week, the group will travel to Mexico to meet with local leaders and gain a better understanding of Mexican culture, and integrate and engage the region's growing Latino population.

Randolph County has seen a 70 percent increase in its Latino population since 2000. Through CIU's Latino Initiative program, the group will seek to understand and address their community's challenges to better serve Latino youth. Once they return, they'll collaborate and develop solutions for professional development and mentorship programs.

Byron Hill, Sergeant, Asheboro Police Department; James Johnson, assistant principal, Randleman Elementary School; and Roxanne Taylor, Co-Chair, Latino Coalition of Randolph County were chosen to participate in the 2015 program.

"I am participating in this great opportunity to get a firsthand look at the culture which a large portion of our students share," said James Johnson, Assistant Principal of Randleman Elementary School. "I hope to gain a better understanding of the attitudes toward schooling and education from the Latino population."

By having the opportunity to immerse themselves in the culture of the citizens they serve, CIU's Latino Initiative participants are better equipped to understand the challenges and support the needs of North Carolina's Latino and Hispanic citizens.

"I look forward to being totally immersed in the Mexican community," said Roxanne Taylor, Latino Coalition of Randolph County Co-Chair. "I hope to bring back a better understanding of how to involve the community I work with, so there can be change in the community by the people for the people."



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Each year CIU brings together representatives from multiple sectors -- law enforcement, education, business, healthcare, and more -- to collaborate and explore solutions that meet the needs of North Carolina's changing demographics.

"The Latino Initiative is a testament to North Carolina's commitment to global engagement and welcoming international communities here at home," said Rick Van Sant, CIU Executive Director. "I commend the Latino Initiative team members for being true leaders in helping build stronger North Carolina communities that work for everyone."

The 2015 Latino Initiative program is generously funded by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and the Oak Foundation.

The Latino Initiative was developed by CIU more than 15 years ago to better integrate our Latinos into communities across North Carolina.

For more information on the Latino Initiative visit ciu.northcarolina.edu. To learn more about the Latino Initiative program participants [click here](#).

ABOUT CIU: The Center for International Understanding optimizes North Carolina's global opportunities by leading travel programs, convening thought leaders, fostering selected initiatives, and disseminating data with the aim of enhancing economic well-being and quality of life for all North Carolinians. Founded in 1979, CIU is a public service program of the University of North Carolina system. More: ciu.northcarolina.edu

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