

## **ESPERANZA (HOPE): COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP TO REDUCE MENTAL HEALTH DISPARITIES IN LATINX COMMUNITIES**

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### Background:

We are in the first year (of 5) of a funded (\$1M) partnership grant between UW Madison's graduate psychology programs (UWΨ) and Centro Hispano (CH) Community Agency of Dane County to develop bilingual/bicultural graduate training. This complementary--mutual benefit, mutual respect—partnership with UWΨ and CH bringing together expertise in mental health and local Latinx community, respectively.

### Aims/Objectives:

1. Form an authentic partnership between CH and UWΨ,
2. Bring together UWΨ and local bilingual providers to form a comunidad de práctica y esperanza (CPE, community of practice and hope), increasing workforce capacity for culturally- and linguistically-responsive mental health services,
3. Develop bilingual/bicultural training firmly grounded in local Latinx communities, liberatory practices and anti-racist and decolonization frameworks.

### Methods:

1. Authentic partnership: Create partnership MOU, build relationships among lead university and community partners, and work cooperatively to create wellness programming to Latinx communities.
2. Comunidad de práctica y esperanza: Cultivate community among bilingual (Spanish/English) mental health providers who have been marginalized across local agencies, and organize Latinx-specific training in Spanish bringing together CPE with UWΨ students.
3. Bilingual/bicultural certificate training/curriculum: Consult with extant bilingual training programs, examine multilingual mental health services, develop training based in Latinx-specific, antiracist and decolonization frameworks, and foster collaborations with Latin American psychology organizations.

### Potential Outcome:

1. A partnership that could be a national model for other universities and with other BIPOC communities,
2. Develop community-based training program that is responsive to the needs of local Latinx communities, many of whom are marginalized in predominantly White and English-speaking communities,
3. Develop innovations in serving multilingual communities by conducting community-based participatory research to examine the role of language, culture, and context in mental health services.

## Full List of Authors

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## Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. At conclusion, participants will be able to Identify key components necessary to form an authentic and equitable community-university partnership.
2. Participants will recognize the value of forming communities of practice among marginalized mental health providers attempting to reduce ethnic disparities.

Participants will be able to recognize training models grounded in multilingual, multicultural, antiracist and decolonization frameworks and practice.

## References

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