Chicano Community Development Institute: Collaboration of the EWU Department of Urban Planning, Public and Health Administration Curriculum with Chicano Education to identify, assess, and address Hispanic Issues in North Central Washington and assess the potential for an on-going institute and curricular transformation.

Primary Project Leads
Dr. Dick Winchell, FAICP, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, and Dr. Martin Garcia, Assistant Professor of Chicano Education

Project Partners/Co-Participants:
Graduate Research Assistant Cricelia Calderon, MPA/MURP Dual Degree

Funded for $7,000

This diversity initiative would address Curriculum Transformation through a linkage of programs—Urban Planning and Chicano Education through collaborative field research, training, technical assistance, and support for community development. This initiative would be the first step in consideration for establishing an EWU “institute” around the needs of the Hispanic communities across central Washington. Initially five rural counties in North Central Washington—Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan, with high percentages of Hispanic population will be selected. Four classes would incorporate community service-learning applied research related to this project, with additional student and faculty applied research, speakers from the region coming to EWU campus, and field research/exercises linked to the classes. The class projects would complete the following projects (PLAN-502 Advanced Community Development (Winchell) and PLAN-596 Census in Planning (Winchell) (Fall, 2011) will create a community profile and assessment, including field research; PLAN-503 Research Methods (Winchell, Winter), will develop an assessment of policy issues and needs, and assess values and issues as understood by elected leaders and staff in local governments and in Hispanic organizations and community groups. Finally, CHST-320 Chicano-Latino Politics in America (Garcia, Spring), would conduct field research in one community development case study charrette assessment of issues, needs and to propose strategies for action to resolve those issues. Funding for this project will support travel to the field for preliminary research and contacts; expenses for 3 field-based class trips to the area; and travel and stipend for speakers from the area to come on campus.

Central Washington is one the fastest regions of growth of the Hispanic population in the over the last five decades. While Hispanics comprise 8.9 % of the state population in 2010, they represent from 17.6 % of the Okanogan County population to 59.3 % of Adams County’s population (See Appendix A). The Hispanic population increased more than 40 % in all but one county, while the total population increased less that 20 % in each County. There are a total of 82,215 Hispanic residents in these five counties identified in the 2010 census, an increase of 31.6 % from 2000. These new immigrants to the region were historically tied to seasonal farm labor, but over time they have settled across the region in rural areas, small towns, and cities filling a wide range of occupations. Through this process, traditionally rural and conservative city and county governments have struggled to incorporate Hispanic peoples into local governmental processes and public decision-making. The project would establish a Chicano Community Development Institute to link university resources and faculty/student directed research to identify critical issues and problems for the Hispanic population across Central Washington through community service-learning, coordinated grants and field-based activities.
The purpose of this project is to explore opportunities to link students in EWU’s Department of Urban Planning, Public and Health Administration with those in Chicano education and explore opportunities for curriculum transformation around collaborative applied research, analysis, and community development planning for Hispanic populations in rural Washington.

**Project Objectives** The project objectives are to use four classes scheduled for 2010 and 2011 to address critical issues of the Hispanic population within five Counties in Central Washington—Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Okanogan. The objectives are: 1) To create a community profile of the demographics and socio-economic conditions within the five counties and key towns within each county, along with an overview of Hispanic issues. The product will be a written report that will be distributed for review and comment in the four counties, and published as a resource regarding the Hispanic community and the rural region. 2) To identify and assess critical policy issues and values of the Hispanic population through discussions with Hispanic community organizations and associations, and also the perspectives elected leaders and staffs from government agencies through discussions and interviews. Two Hispanic leaders each quarter will be invited to EWU Cheney and Riverpoint campuses to make presentations to classes, and to present a lecture at the Chicano Education Center open to the EWU community. 3) To demonstrate the application of the community development model, one town, community, or Hispanic neighborhood will be selected to conduct a community development charrette exercise in collaboration with local governments and local Hispanic community organizations to identify specific community needs and issues, and to develop opportunities for funding or actions to address those issues. 4) Finally, the faculty will assess the potential for curriculum transformation using the Community Development Model and community service-learning classes and applied research from this project to identify and address critical needs and issues within the Hispanic community in rural North Central Washington. This assessment will make recommendations for further interdisciplinary collaboration and to produce findings for “next steps” in curricula transformation and applied research.

**Research Methodology or Project Design** This project will commit the faculty and students enrolled in at least four classes (listed above) to conduct applied research through community-service learning to address the existing population and socio-economic conditions of Hispanic population in Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Okanogan Counties and towns within those counties. A “community profile” of each county and major towns with high percentage Hispanic population will be completed based on US census demographic and socio-economic data. A policy research class will examine the policy-making environment within local governments and the issues identified by the Hispanic population. A charrette project will demonstrate the community development model for direct support of a specific community to create a strategic plan for community development.

**Role and Expertise** The two Principal Investigators, Dr. Winchell and Dr. Garcia, along with graduate research assistant Cricilia Calderon will collaborate throughout the year to develop community service-learning research in at least four courses offered in 2011-2012, including coordinating speakers from the four-county region to address students in classes and in a lecture at the Chicano Education Center. Three classes will incorporate a two-day field trip to selected communities to conduct field-based research, meet with community members, officials, and others; and to present preliminary research back to the community.

**Dissemination Plan** The dissemination of information from this class will be continuous, beginning with contacting the four counties, Hispanic organizations, and students to announce the collaborative effort. There will be an initial press release describing the project disseminated to local newspapers and media, and regular news releases about the project including 2 speakers each quarter on campus, as well as information about student field research and research findings. A website will be developed in English and Spanish to disseminate information and seek
continuous participation with anyone interested in the project. All final reports will be available in both English and Spanish.

Report products for this class linked to community service-learning class research include: A Regional County and Communities Profile of Hispanic Population and Socio-Economic Conditions; An Assessment of Critical Issues and Perspectives in County and Local Government and the Hispanic Community; and a case study “Community Development Charrette Plan” for one selected community or neighborhood.

A final report will access the impact of this curriculum transformation project, and the potential for institutionalizing on-going relations between the Department of Urban Planning, Public and Health Administration and Chicano Education for long-term community development across Central Washington.

**Timetable**

Fall Quarter: Dr. Winchell’s PLAN-502 Advanced Community Development apply the Community Development Model and PLAN-596 Census in Planning. Products: “Community Profile and CD Assessment Report.”

Winter Quarter: Dr. Winchell’s PLAN-503 Research Methods to produce a report on critical issues as perceived by both county and local government officials, planners and administrators; and leaders of Hispanic organizations and community associations.

Spring Quarter: Dr. Garcia will guide his class, CHST-320 Chicano-Latino Politics in America, to conduct a community-based charrette. Products: A community presentation and report.

Two speakers each quarter at EWU in class and formal presentation on campus.

Final Report by faculty.