



INTER-UNIVERSITY PROGRAM  
for LATINO RESEARCH

## Call for Proposals for IUPLR Members

### **Latinos in the Age of COVID-19: An IUPLR COVID-19 Working Collaborative**

A few days ago Latino Decisions presented some of its findings from the country's first national poll of the impact of COVID-19 on Latinos. The nationally representative survey of 1200 was given in Spanish and English and offers a rather bleak picture of communities whose members are at high risk of contracting the virus (<https://latinodecisions.com/polls-and-research/somos-covid-19-crisis-national-latino-survey-april-2020/>).

Just a few of the findings from respondents include:

- 66% have had difficulty finding basic necessities such as medicine, food and household supplies
- 22% know someone who has contracted the virus
- 35% report having lost a job
- 20% have lost employer provided healthcare
- The largest number of corona-related deaths in NYC occurred among the Latino population

One of the central features of the survey is how our Latino communities consist of workers who remain in harm's way while providing necessary labor to keep the country running. Workers who have been vilified as criminals, drug dealers, job stealers, and treated as expendable, are now essential to the survival of the U.S. economy, a reality that appears to be lost on those passing laws, creating policy, and presenting information to the public (the media).

Now is a time when researchers must provide social and scientific information, evidence and policy suggestions to address the pandemic's impact on Latinos but all groups who serve on the front lines against COVID-19. The IUPLR can provide insights, particularly on the nexus between higher education and its impact on Latino communities. With this in mind, I want to propose two activities: (1) a quick composite documenting the pandemic's effects on our Centers, their students and universities and local communities; and (2) a special working collaborative, *Latinos in the Age of COVID-19*. Ideally, every center would contribute to a document that addresses the following:

I am asking you to consider submitting a brief paper (1-3 pages per Center) for the "rapid response" e-report describing how COVID-19 has impacted your Center and your community, as well as its potential impact. The brief should consist of:

- Identify the particular issue or issues your Center/University/Community must address in relation to the pandemic (define the problem and the extent of the problem)
- How you know this information (sources of data)
- Recommendations for policy and/or social action to address the problem

This report will identify the contexts within which our centers and communities work and attend college/university, the challenges to our students and universities. It will also offer suggestions to meet these challenges.

The second suggestion: a special working collaborative would develop a research project to study the impact of COVID-19 as it impacts Latinos in our different regions of the country. This collaborative should consist of a minimum of two centers and should propose research that would address a swathe of our Latino communities as represented by the consortium.

For those interested in participating on the working collaborative please submit your 1-2 page proposal via **email to [iuplr@central.uh.edu](mailto:iuplr@central.uh.edu)** by **May 8, 2020**.