

Santos Garcia Avelar
Honors program presentation assignment
Abstract
Professor Montano

Title: The Efficacy of Cultural-based Approaches to Latinx Youth Development: Case Studies in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Culture-based approaches along, with culturally-competent services, have been shown to have positive impacts on Latinx youth in the United States. This research project focuses on the efficacy of these two strategies on Latinx youth on Long Island. Specifically, this project analyzes the challenges faced by Latinx youth in the areas of educational achievement, identity, and contact within the criminal justice system in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, Long Island, New York. The research focuses on Latinx youth on these two Long Island counties because of their sizable vulnerable Latinx youth population. Central to this research is an examination of what culture-based approaches and culturally competent services are and how they are being applied by local organizations in Suffolk and Nassau to determine the impact that culture-based approaches and culturally competent services have on Latinx youth. By incorporating a qualitative research method that utilizes a survey instrument, the heads of several community-based organizations have provided key data that indicate that embracing culture-based and culturally-competent approaches are efficient to produce positive outcomes for Latinx youth in the areas of educational attainment, self-esteem, and identity pride. Furthermore, the organizations provided interviews that support the argument that the key to their success is the integration of a culture-based approach to their services. The organizations that participated in this research project include the Long Island Immigrants Student Advocates (LIISA), Teatro Yerbabruja, and Circulo de la Hispanidad.

Keywords: Culture-based approaches, Culturally-competent services, Latinx youth.