Displacement and Latino Populations: Cultural Markers and Gentrification in Chicago Latino Communities

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Abstract

The term gentrification has been utilized to describe economic innovation as well as displacement. Currently cities across the United States are facing issues of gentrification. Various populations have historically settled, moved, been displaced and relocated throughout the city. For this research I will be focusing on two specific historically Latino neighborhoods in the city of Chicago: Humboldt Park and Pilsen. Latinos are one of the populations that have come to suffer from serial displacement in the city. Presently, gentrification has become a threat to these communities. Initiatives and coalitions have been created to defend the communities from being torn apart and displacing community members while simultaneously maintaining their identities as Latino communities.

Message from the Associate Dean of Students and University TRiO Director

Dear Reader:

I am delighted to share with you this inaugural issue of the TRiO McNair Scholars Undergraduate Research Journal at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The young scholars have worked with a faculty or research mentor to learn how to develop and implement quality and relevant research in their respective fields. The research they have produced represents the result of applying creative ideas to research questions using systematic and rigorous methods of established research protocols in the STEM fields, the social sciences, and the humanities.

The TRiO McNair Scholars Program is a federally-funded program geared to provide research opportunities for first-generation college, low-income, and underrepresented undergraduates as a means of preparing them for graduate school. By combining undergraduate research with faculty mentoring and academic support services, the program paves the way to graduate school for students who are underrepresented in higher education. For the past 22 years, the program has been an important asset and contribution to the research culture on this campus and in the University of Illinois system. Since 1990, more than 400 students have benefited from the program’s services, opportunities, and research mentoring. More than 60 percent of our TRiO McNair Scholars have been accepted into graduate schools, and over 50 scholars have attained their Ph.D. or other doctoral degree.

We are very proud of the success of our TRiO McNair Scholars Program and the students who have completed it. We anticipate that they will ultimately be leaders in their respective fields. I congratulate the McNair scholars, applaud the faculty mentors, and extend my appreciation to the staff for their dedication and for helping the next generation of scholars, scientists, faculty, and leaders achieve success.

With warm regards,

Wallace Southerland III, Ph.D.