

2014 CCE Summer Internships

Hosted by [Campus Press](#): IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION IN NEW DESTINATIONS: HOW TO ENGAGE LATINO CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH 4-H

My last workshop, Learning to cater to their needs.

Posted on **August 4, 2014** by [stj32](#)

Hi all, it's stj32. I have finished my third and final workshop for the summer.

The participants were much fewer this time around. I don't know how I would have remedied this in another workshop. Only 3 arrived as opposed to the 6 which were present before. One of the participants also brought her husband, who became an active participant. It was a good addition – but I think may have changed the demographic and the original intended audience. This may be a result of the material promised by the workshop and my background. I feel they may have been looking for more emphasis on the parenting and stress control portions of the workshops. There seems to be a pattern of observing that parents “lost control” of traditions and their children. Youth rebellion and turning to gangs and delinquency, or junk food and vices seems to be a recurring concern. I haven't heard this necessarily from the participants, but from the hostesses (Dr. Parra, Maria, Sister Lucy) and may very well be a valid concern, but not one that I can address.

All things considered however, I was continually surprised by how active the participants were. Conversation and discussion was fluid and comfortable. And they did seem interested. The depth of the workshop seemed appropriate – prompting questions as well as recalling themes and topics from other workshops they had had.

They responded well to the new tips about energy conservation (dusting refrigerator coils). Taking into account priorities of marginal populations is important when gaining attendance and when building up interests in certain topic. Passions about food science put aside, there needs to be very practical and concrete reasons for the topics chosen.

Posted in [Immigrant Integration in New Destinations: How to engage Latino children and youth with 4-H](#)

Your Audience at CCE

Posted on **July 23, 2014** by **stj32**

What I learned while writing this week is, CCE is a lot about adjusting for your audience. You need to take into consideration who you are writing for, what their level of education is, [in my case] what language they speak, and who they are going to be talking to.

For example, I've had to write similar agendas for mothers without a highschool education or English background, children fluent in English with some highschool, my superiors with PhD level educations, administration of the places I work, likely high education and not in my field – and I've found that there's a lot of translating that has nothing to do with language.

You need to be skilled in synonyms. And I'm okay with that. Because once one of those audiences knows what's going on – they'll be able to tell someone else. So by taking a little extra time to explain it just right, you reach a much wider audience.

Signing off!

Stj32

P.S. another thing I learned this week is to always carry an umbrella in Ithaca.

Posted in **Immigrant Integration in New Destinations: How to engage Latino children and youth with 4-H**

Accountability

Posted on **July 23, 2014** by **stj32**

Something I've learned in the last few weeks (I'll share more later, I know I'm behind), is to remain accountable for what you are responsible for.

If you haven't done something that was due, owning up to it is much simpler than trying to buy yourself time. And being sure to report in writing where you are in a process not only keeps you on track, but it also keeps others on task. It will free you from the bonds of blame, and makes for a good report at the end of the week.

Granted, this is supposed to serve as a weekly report – what can I say, remembering to blog is not a forte of mine.

So, what I learned this week is to be accountable and honest for the work you have done. Report regularly to superiors, and there won't be questions as to what you have, have not, and will be doing.

Makes life easier.

Signing off,

Stj32

Posted in **Immigrant Integration in New Destinations: How to engage Latino children and youth with 4-H, Uncategorized**

Consistency

Posted on **June 29, 2014** by **stj32**

I've learned that along with being flexible, at this internship at least, it helps to be consistent. I've found that the times I'm feeling best about my work is when I arrive at the same time in the morning and give myself a routine.

Granted, this may not work best for everyone, but it does for me. And it has proved a challenge when trying to adapt to different schedules and walks of life. Not everyone fits into your routine. But I needed to find a way to make that work.

So while someone might be out at a conference, or someone may be two hours away and have to break up your work schedule, I've found that the most important thing is to create a "work" frame of mind. This way I don't lose momentum.

This proved especially true when walking into someone else's home, if you will. I walked into the Catholic Charities office with which we would be working, and found that they have a very different schedule than I do. Their days went later, their clients spoke another language (I was fluent, but I wasn't used to being professional in Spanish), and their office had many other tasks where mine was not necessarily the priority. So I knew that I had to keep a work frame of mind in order to overcome the challenges. Not to lose momentum, and while being flexible – keep my goals in mind. Remain my same person, while adapting.

Posted in **Immigrant Integration in New Destinations: How to engage Latino children and youth with 4-H**

Community

Posted on **June 9, 2014** by **stj32**

This week, we returned to the site of our workshop and I was able to meet the community that participated. That is to say, I had already met the children who participated – I was now meeting their parents and other community members.

The children who participated were all part of a church organized activity. It was the reason we had such high participation. So, I attended a service with the community and brought a poster to summarize the work we had done. You can check it out here: [Presentation 6.5.2014](#) .

Unfortunately, the students were not too enthused about being able to recap their experiences. But the parents seemed intrigued – even those who did not have any connection to the workshop. I was able to talk to them and convince them the students had learned something valuable. When speaking to a mother who had a child participant, she revealed that he had come home wondering more about the topics we covered.

And what I learned at work today it, it is more important to know a community that to give to one. I learned far more from talking to the children before the workshop, and I was able to gain much more insight into our success after talking to their parents. I think overall, it was the best shot at an honest evaluation of the workshop.

Posted in [Immigrant Integration in New Destinations: How to engage Latino children and youth with 4-H](#)

Over planning

Posted on [June 4, 2014](#) by [stj32](#)

Hi all! It's me, stj32.

I had my first workshop! All the planning and I reached a first major goal in my work this summer. I was ready to teach some students about food science, nutrition, and safety. But of course, as I was warned, there were some major road bumps.

We were working with a group of kids aged 12-14 who were gathering at a local church for their confirmation classes. Naturally – not everyone was thrilled to be inside taking a workshop on a sunny Saturday afternoon. There were a fair share of trouble makers, and a generous amount of apathy. It made moving through the schedule difficult.

So what I learned at work today is: Always over plan.

Because my professor and I had been working on having schedules, and handouts, and activities, and supplies – all prepared and in abundance – we were able to cut out activities that didn't seem to engage the students as much. This way we were able to smoothly transition from one activity to the next without feeling rushed or forced. If I had not been ambitious in the amount of exercises I had planned, I likely would

have felt disappointed in the participation and satisfaction from students.

I'm also glad I learned last weeks lesson and remained flexible.

I'll write back in a week! Thanks for reading!

Stj32

Posted in **Immigrant Integration in New Destinations: How to engage Latino children and youth with 4-H**

Flexibility

Posted on **May 28, 2014** by **stj32**

I'm stj32, and this summer – my plan is to work with children of immigrant families, introducing them to food science and safety.... At least that's how this started.

I will still be doing that...At least once. My first workshop (and only scheduled one thus far) will be this Saturday. It's been a lot of planning, but it should be worth it in the long run. But lesson for part one of my internship: Be flexible.

I was warned from the beginning that this would be a challenge I would run into. The communities we're working with don't see this as a priority. So we must be flexible to what it is they need and want. Even if that's not going through with a summer full of workshops.

But I certainly wasn't expecting to have so much flexibility demanded of me in the work space. The description of my project has changed often and dramatically. I'll now not only be hosting a workshop, but also transcribing interviews, and possibly teaching dance lessons, who knows what else.

Side note: When you're working with a colleague or superior in a different field who is very busy... you learn just how flexible you will be.

I wish I could give a definitive vision of what I will be doing this summer, but All I've got is up to this Saturday. So join me... We're both in for a lot of surprises.

But along the way – maybe I can impart some 21 year old wisdom on you...What I learned at work today is...

stj32

Posted in **Immigrant Integration in New Destinations: How to engage Latino children and youth with 4-H**

