

Making a New Home in a New Country: Strategies for Integration

Friday May 11th



Summary of Panel Discussion and Workshop:

- Ways in which community organizations can collaborate and be influential in state governments in the U.S., particularly in the case of Illinois. It is very important for migrants to have their own leaders in positions of power.
- The role that the Mexican government at the federal, state, and municipal levels, can play in promoting the leadership of migrants. These types of collaborations can be helpful in the future development of Mexico as well as being a social and cultural contribution.
- There should be general services available to migrants that can facilitate their integration
- There are some concerns about incorporating migrants into citizenship drives when they do not have the ability to read and write
- Concerns about maintaining the culture of the home country in the second generation

Points of Disagreement:

- There was a debate on whether organizations are creating programs that prevent migration or are they actually creating projects that facilitate it

Measures Proposed:

- Tutorial services to help migrants learn how to read and write.
- Connect the traveling consulate services with integration programs that teach migrants about their rights
- Create teams of migrants that have returned to their communities of origin so that they can work with local authorities in preventing violence at the border.