



Center for Latino/a and  
Latin American Studies  
University of Oregon

## CLLAS Impact Report October 2012

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Officially launched in the spring of 2009 at the University of Oregon, the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies (CLLAS) puts the study of Latino/a and Latin American communities in conversation with one another and with the state of Oregon. CLLAS is a knowledge center dedicated to public access and excellence through the integration of teaching, research, community engagement and dissemination. CLLAS is an integral part of the University of Oregon's strategy to recruit, retain, and build alumnae relations with a diverse and energized group of students, faculty, staff, parents, and families and to connect the university locally, nationally, and globally.

Over the past five years of its life (including AY 2012-2013), CLLAS has played a crucial role in faculty recruitment and retention, student recruitment and retention, undergraduate research and learning experiences, community engagement and outreach in schools and other public institutions, signature projects, ongoing events, public forums, and conferences, serving as a hub for inquiries about a wide range of topics related to things Latino and Latin American at UO, involvement in securing scholarships for Latino students, providing seed funding for innovative collaborative research projects between faculty and Oregon organizations, providing seed funding for graduate student research, and helping the university to network with the Latino and Latin American community in Oregon and beyond. In addition CLLAS has been very successful in helping to seed faculty and graduate student research as well as receiving a federal grant for enhancing Latin American Studies. CLLAS seed funding for faculty and graduate student pilot research projects has generated more than \$399,300 in additional research, fellowship, and other funding. An NIH grant for \$750,000 is pending linked to a CLLAS pilot project funded in 2011. We have also secured \$186,000 in a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to enhance Latin American Studies at UO and \$10,000 from the SELCO Community Credit Union for the Latino Roots Project. Our preliminary data reveal that we have raised at least \$595,300 since our inception to support research, teaching, and community engagement at UO. We are proud of our many accomplishments and look forward to continuing our success.

### Faculty Recruitment and Retention

Over the past five years, the CLLAS director, staff, and affiliated faculty have been strongly involved in the recruitment and

retention of more than 14 new faculty members in Latin American and Latino Studies. UO now has 42 faculty members in five different schools who conduct research and teach in the areas of Latino and Latin American Studies. Outside of UCLA and UC Berkeley this is the greatest concentration of faculty with this expertise in the western United States. Through meeting with job candidates and sharing opportunities and activities at CLLAS, having dinner with them, attending their talks, providing feedback to hiring committees, and, most crucially, offering new faculty an additional intellectual home outside of their department, CLLAS has played a pivotal role in the expansion of diversity among our faculty and engaging those faculty in ways that matter to them. Our research projects have been strongly linked to curriculum and in one recent case provided the data to justify the launching of the Spanish Language Heritage program and the creation of a new tenured faculty position now held by Claudia Holguin. This project was titled "Being Latino at the UO: A Survey," which provided the first systematic data about the experiences, challenges, and processes of language use and ethnic identification among UO's Latino Students (awarded to Robert Davis and Pedro García Caro of Romance Languages, and Edward Olivos [Education Studies]).

### Student Recruitment and Retention

Through its public outreach and education projects described below as well as through courses such as Latino Roots, Sustaining Latino Businesses, and others, CLLAS-sponsored courses connect all kinds of students to significant research experiences and also to the community around them. CLLAS faculty and staff worked with LAS and the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber in Portland to get UO to match their scholarship funds for Latino students. CLLAS has also participated in many events on campus targeting Latino high school students such as Oportunidades, La Raza Unida Conference, and others. In addition, the travelling Latino Roots exhibit also provides a major means of informing middle school, high school, community college and other students about Latino and Latin American Studies at UO. Finally, CLLAS has worked in partnership with the VP for International Affairs over the past three years to sign an exchange agreement with the National Autonomous University

of Mexico, Latin America's largest and most highly ranked university, which permits UO undergraduates to study there and UNAM students to come to UO. The first two UO students are there during this academic year.

### Linking Research, Public Engagement, and Undergraduate and Graduate Courses

#### *Latino Roots: Exhibit, Videos, Books, and Classes*

Begun with the Lane County Historical Museum in 2009 as a collaborative research project and celebration of Oregon's 150th anniversary as a state, the Latino Roots project involved UO graduate students, faculty, and community consultants from leading Latino organizations who worked together to produce a 15-panel museum exhibit of Latino history in Oregon told through timelines, individual oral histories, and with a supporting video. The original exhibit was viewed by more than 1500 school children, university students, and other visitors and is now housed by CLLAS. Updated with two exhibit copies now available, this history project has travelled throughout the state to libraries, public schools, universities, and other public spaces. Now supported by a grant from the SELCO Community Credit Union, and accompanied by an updated video and a bilingual book (both available through the CLLAS website as PDFs), this project has a high demand. We are currently seeking funding to expand its circulation and to be able to send out the video and bilingual book to a wide range of public school libraries.

In 2011, the Latino Roots project launched two team-taught courses that permit 18 undergraduates and six graduate students per year to conduct original research on Latino History and to produce short documentaries that are available to the public. The courses will be taught again in 2013 and have proven remarkably successful and life changing for students. The courses culminate with a public presentation of student work in the Browsing Room of Knight Library. Each student film profiles one Latino individual or family's story of migration and settlement in Oregon. At the final celebration and showing, these individuals and families along with members of the larger Latino community come to the university to celebrate student work.

### *Oregon Latino Heritage Collaborative (OLHC)*

OLHC began in 2011 with the accomplishment of securing the historical papers of Pineros y Campesinos Unidos (PCUN)—Oregon's largest

Latino organization with over 5,000 members statewide (and affiliated with the newly opened CAPACES Leadership Institute in Woodburn, Oregon). OLHC provides a central location for other Latino organizations to archive their papers, for collaborations with other archives and libraries, and for video, audio, photographs, and other objects and items connected to the Latino Roots films that students produce. OLHC is a major source of oral history material on Latino and Latin American history in the state of Oregon. This year a curriculum tool kit is being funded by a CLLAS grant to provide curriculum ideas for teachers on how to work with the archive. The project is housed and carried out in collaboration with the UO Libraries Special Collections and University Archives in Knight Library.

### ***Intercultural Competency Program***

The Intercultural Competency Program is a two-year pilot program beginning in fall 2012 that combines bold curricular innovations focused on career building and professional development, mentoring, training, and field research to produce graduates who are well positioned to serve Latino populations in state and municipal governments, NGOs, community-service organizations, and Latino businesses. The program consists of two linked prerequisite courses, an internship, and a one-credit internship-mentoring course (to be taken concurrently with the internship).

### ***Enhancing Latin American Studies at the University of Oregon***

In autumn 2012, the U.S. Department of Education awarded an Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program (UISFL) grant to the University of Oregon's Latin American Studies (LAS) program and the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies (CLLAS). The grant is part of a \$1.5 million fund that was awarded to only 17 institutions across the country.

The \$186,000 grant is for activities spread over two years, which include development of new courses such as a study abroad seminar on "Human Rights in Guatemala," a course on Brazil, and a post-study abroad seminar as well as enhancements for existing LAS and language courses. The grant will also provide support to strengthen and regularize Portuguese instruction, funds to support student participation in the creation of an online dictionary for Zapotec (one of the indigenous languages of Mexico with 500,000 speakers), a summer institute for Oregon middle and high school teachers on "Understanding the Many Faces of Latin America through Art and History," and a number of lectures, film series and symposia that will connect the University of Oregon with the wider Eugene and Oregon communities.

### ***CLLAS Seed Grants for Graduate Students and Faculty: Major Success in Generating Additional Grant Dollars, Research Products, and Helping Students Get Jobs***

Through a small grants fund of approximately \$8,000 per year, CLLAS has funded an average of three graduate student summer grants of \$1,000 each and two faculty collaborative grants for between \$2,500 and \$3,000. We are still collecting and finalizing data for our graduate student grants and our faculty collaboration grants.

From 2008-2012 we provided a total of 12 grants to graduate students of \$1000 each for a total of \$12,000. This generated an additional \$78,800 in funding in what we can document, from 14 subsequent grants for these students. It also resulted in five published articles and two videos, and two of the students we funded recently got their PhD and have tenure track jobs, one at Georgetown University and the other at Marquette University. CLLAS graduate students present the results of their work in a public presentation, which draws graduate students and faculty from across the university. We work closely with their home department to promote the event.

From 2008-2012, we funded 16 different faculty members in collaborative grants, many with other community organizations, for a total of \$20,398 in nine pilot research projects. These projects helped to provide data, connections, and frameworks for 14 subsequent grants that were funded in the amount of \$320,500. They have also been associated with the production of one book, 17 research articles, four videos and two websites. CLLAS faculty grantees present the results of their work in a public forum, which draws students and faculty from across the university.

In addition, several of our faculty collaborative grants provided research experiences for undergraduates at the University of Oregon. Courses such as Latino Roots I and Latino Roots II (Anthropology; SOJC) and Sustaining Latino Businesses (PPPM; AAA) provided undergraduates with research experience, with up to 50 students total in these courses.

Apart from this we have also secured \$10,000 in funding for community outreach in schools, libraries, and universities from the SELCO Community Credit Union for the Latino Roots project and a recent \$186,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education in conjunction with the Latin American Studies Program to enhance Latin American Studies at the University of Oregon. Our preliminary data indicate our support and grant-writing activity has raised at least \$595,300 for research, curriculum development, outreach, and community engagement at the UO. An NIH grant for \$750,000 is pending linked to a CLLAS pilot project funded in 2011.

### **CLLAS Research Products**

- Latino Roots in Lane County, Oregon [http://cillas.uoregon.edu/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Latino\\_Roots\\_booklet.pdf](http://cillas.uoregon.edu/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Latino_Roots_booklet.pdf)
- The Story of PCUN and the Farmworker Movement in Oregon [http://cillas.uoregon.edu/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/PCUN\\_story\\_WEB.pdf](http://cillas.uoregon.edu/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/PCUN_story_WEB.pdf)
- Latino Roots in Lane County: Contemporary Stories of Settlement in Lane County, Oregon 33-minute DVD <http://media.uoregon.edu/channel/2010/11/29/latino-roots-in-lane-county-contemporary-stories-of-settlement-in-lane-county-oregon/>
- Being Latino at UO: Survey Results. <http://cillas.uoregon.edu/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/being-a-latino-at-the-university-of-oregon-survey-results.pdf>

### **CLLAS Community Partners**

Current CLLAS partnerships include: SELCO Community Credit Union (northwest regional), UNAM National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City [locations all over world], PCUN [Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste; Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United] (Woodburn), Centro Latino Americano (Eugene), Farmworker Housing Development Corporation, FHDC (Woodburn), CAPACES Leadership Institute (Woodburn), Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber (Portland), Latino Business Network (Eugene), Adelante Latino Newsletter (Eugene), Mexican Consulate (Portland), Amigos Multicultural Services Center (Eugene), Latin American Solidarity Committee, LASC (Eugene), Lane Community College (Eugene), Downtown Languages (Eugene), Oregon's Immigrant Rights Coalition (CAUSA, statewide, based in Salem), Oregon Law Center (Woodburn, Hillsboro, Portland), FIOB (Binational Front of Indigenous Organizations, eight locations in Mexico, western United States).

### **Total CLLAS Impact**

The total budget invested in CLLAS over the past five years including this year is \$540,000. With those funds and a staff of a .25 FTE director, .50 assistant director, a .4 GTF, .10 FTE accountant and .10 FTE dissemination specialist we have helped to produce at least \$595,300 in additional funds and provided an outstanding range of other services for the university as documented above. ■