

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**For the establishment of "The Latinx Action Research Collaborative (LARC)"**

**Between**

**Casa Latinos Unidos and the School of Language, Culture, and Society**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is between Casa Latinos Unidos and the School of Language, Culture, and Society (SLCS) at Oregon State University. The undersigned representatives of the below-described entities confirm their commitment to work together on matters of critical importance to the Latinx community of Benton and surrounding counties, through a partnership to be named *The Latinx Action Research Collaborative (LARC)*.

The partners have entered into this MoU because they:

RECOGNIZE the mutual interest in the well-being of the Latinx communities of Benton and surrounding counties.

RECOGNIZE the mutual interest in research, learning, and action activities, at the local and systemic levels, that produce and disseminate knowledge, as well as create positive changes in the quality of life of the Latinx community.

RECOGNIZE the importance of Casa Latinos Unidos as a vital organization in the southern Willamette Valley with the mission of strengthening the Latinx community through programmatic activities around culture and community, civic engagement and advocacy, and meeting the community's basic needs in a variety of areas.

RECOGNIZE the importance of research and learning taking place collaboratively with organizations and individuals of the Latinx community.

RECOGNIZE that engagement and collaboration imply sharing power in the identification of needs, project design, and implementation of solutions.

RECOGNIZE the importance of research and learning activities having a direct positive impact on the Latinx community.

RECOGNIZE the importance of working with the Latinx community through approaches that incorporate a focus on social justice.

The MoU will enable the parties to:

FOSTER collaborative research, learning, and action activities that respond to the needs of the Latinx community and that involve SLCS students and faculty, Casa Latinos Unidos, and members of the Latinx community.

FOSTER the development of a scholarship of engagement tradition at the SLCS centered around the Latinx community of Benton and surrounding counties.

PROVIDE Casa Latinos Unidos access to SLCS students and faculty to support the organization's different programs, as well as grant writing, applied research, and evaluation needs.

PROVIDE SLCS students and faculty access to Latinx community environments for applied research and learning activities that will be conducted collaboratively and respecting the principles of shared power.

The parties hereby agree to establish collaboration according to the terms and conditions set out in the following articles:

#### **ARTICLE I: BACKGROUND**

Casa Latinos Unidos was formed in 2008 to meet the needs of Mexicano and other Latinx families in Benton and Linn Counties. It achieved its 501 (c) 3 status in 2009 when it opened its doors to become the main avenue for the social and civic integration of Latinx families in our area. It has the mission of strengthening the Latinx community of Benton and surrounding counties through programs that emphasize the celebration of Latinx cultures and identities, promote civic engagement and leadership building, advocate for Latinx families and individuals, and meet immediate needs in a variety of areas such as translation and interpretation, legal aide, housing, food, and health. The organization works in partnership with nonprofits, service agencies, educational institutions, and city and county organizations.

The School of Language, Culture, and Society offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in applied anthropology, ethnic studies, world languages, and women, gender and sexuality studies. The School also offers certificate programs in food and social justice, language in culture, Latin American affairs, and women, gender, and sexuality studies. The School has a particular interest in engaging with communities and promoting social justice through its different programs.

The activities conducted through *The Latinx Action Research Collaborative (LARC)* will allow both parties to sustain their shared vision for a strong Latinx community that is part of a just, equitable, and vibrant Oregon. This will be possible following the terms stated in this MoU.

#### **ARTICLE II: SCOPE OF THE COLLABORATION**

The purpose of this MoU is to facilitate cooperation in research, learning, and action activities between Casa Latinos Unidos and the SLCS. This includes the following areas:

2.1. Implementation of collaborative research projects.

2.2. Implementation of collaborative learning activities. This may include internships, theses and dissertations.

2.3. Implementation of action projects that include an applied research and evaluation component.

2.3. Implementation of dissemination activities, such as public forums, addressing topics and issues of relevance to the Latinx community.

#### **ARTICLE III: THE AGREEMENT**

3.1. At Casa Latinos Unidos, this MoU will be administered by organization's executive director. At the SLCS, this MoU will be administered by the School's Director (or the person she designates).

3.2. The parties shall enter into specific written agreements to clarify and define the nature, extent and terms of cooperation for the proposed collaborations, including intellectual property ownership and funding issues.

#### **ARTICLE IV: GENERAL TERMS**

4.1. This is a non-binding MoU, and is not intended to, and does not create any right, benefit, or responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law.

4.2. Nothing in this MoU obligates either party to commit or transfer any funds, assets, or other resources in support of projects or activities between the parties.

4.3. The activities of this MoU must be carried out in accordance with appropriate laws and regulations existing in the state of Oregon.

#### **ARTICLE V: RENEWAL, TERMINATION, AND AMENDMENT**

5.1. This MoU shall be in effect from the date of last signature through March 15, 2020. If the parties mutually agree, the terms of this MoU may be extended for three (3) additional two (2) year periods. Such extension of term shall be effective when made by written amendment and signed by both parties.

5.2. Either party may terminate this MoU without cause by providing 30 days advance written notice of its intent to withdraw.

5.3. The terms of this MoU may be amended only by written mutual agreement effective when signed by the authorized representatives of the parties.

Casa Latinos Unidos



Claudia Torres  
CEO

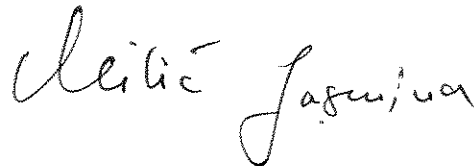
3/12/19  
Date

School of Language, Culture, and Society



Dr. Susan Bernardin  
Director

3/14/19  
Date



Jasmina Milic, JD  
Contract Officer

Date: 4/17/2019