

**“Traditional” Approaches
to Educating Latino Students
Wesley Montoya, PhD
NYAR 2017**

Cultural Norms

- ◆ Family values
 - ◆ Family members are very close
 - ◆ Father is head of household
 - ◆ Mother maintains the household
- ◆ Work ethic
 - ◆ You can overcome poverty through hard work
- ◆ Strong religious beliefs
- ◆ Spanish language is important
- ◆ Elderly members insist that young members-
 - ◆ Be respectful, understand honor, and have good manners
- ◆ A greeting may include hugging, a kiss on the cheek, or a pat on the back with not only family members, but with other members of society.
- ◆ Hesitant to discuss problems until trust is established
- ◆ English is a means to engrain the values and norms of the American culture into Latino people
 - ◆ Latinos maintain their heritage, language, and family values
- ◆ All Latinos are taught to never betray or embarrass the family

Relationships

- ◆ Be the teacher that cares
- ◆ Talk to your students
- ◆ Be a support/find out how the family supports the student
- ◆ Go to where your students live
- ◆ Go to Latino restaurants, bakeries, and other shops
- ◆ Read Latino newspapers
- ◆ Visit a Spanish Church service
- ◆ Invite parents to celebrate a Latino holiday with students
- ◆ Without **authentic** caring relationships with educators, students may feel disillusioned with their schooling experience

Respect

- ◆ You respect me and I will respect you
- ◆ Teach staff and faculty how to pronounce the most common names and provide at least a minimal amount of Spanish language training.
- ◆ Lopez, Allende, Jimenez, Villarreal, Villanueva, Quintanilla
- ◆ School systems may need upgrades to accommodate Latino last names i.e., Villanueva-Quintanilla
- ◆ Differences in male-female roles
 - ◆ Women are taught to respect their male mates no matter how much education they have

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Educator responsibilities

- ◆ Gain knowledge about households and social networks of students
- Share knowledge of the Mexican culture, all children in the class may benefit from opportunities to learn about language and cultural differences and similarities
- ◆ Regular routine for communication in Spanish and English
 - ◆ Select a day that communication goes home
 - ◆ Use email and websites
 - ◆ May need to be written if parents do not have access to a computer or phone
 - ◆ Parental collaboration
 - ◆ Dialog rather than one-way communication

Programs

- ◆ AP classes
- ◆ AVID
 - ◆ Advancement Via Individual Determination
- ◆ Gear-Up
 - ◆ Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs
- ◆ Project Grad
- ◆ Work/School Programs
- ◆ Bilingual Tutoring
- ◆ Career classes
- ◆ GED
- ◆ Vocational programs

Movie

Stand and Deliver (1988)