Latino Initiative
Awareness | Understanding | Action

CIU 2012-2013
CIU’s Latino Initiative: Positively Addressing Demographic Change

Health leaders traveled to Mexico in October 2012 with the Center for International Understanding to explore ways of improving services and outcomes in North Carolina. They got a first-hand look at health and education services in rural and urban settings – hospitals, clinics, dental and medical schools, public schools, and non-profit agencies – and the chance to meet with doctors, nurses, midwives, faculty and students. The 2012 delegates join more than 700 Latino Initiative alumni – North Carolina leaders working to integrate Latino immigrants into the fabric of North Carolina communities.

North Carolina has one of the nation’s fastest growing Latino immigrant populations

19% of babies born in Mecklenburg County are Latino/Hispanic

The Latino population more than doubled in Durham and Orange counties between 2000 and 2010

Wake County’s Latino population grew 159% in the last decade

2012 Latino Initiative Health Delegation:

Teams from Durham, Orange, Mecklenburg and Wake counties, representing public and private health organizations, county government, and non-profit health agencies are shaping solutions to health challenges in North Carolina.
Learning from the world

- Sharing **best practices in disaster assessment**, response and mitigation through an exchange of ideas and personnel between N.C. and Mexico
- Exploring more **successful models** for delivering indigent care
- Hearing families’ stories **bring to life** the impact of the **immigration experience** on both sides of the border

Serving North Carolina

- **Revamping communication** outreach efforts during natural disasters like hurricanes and tornadoes
- **Making changes** in clinic appointment scheduling to accommodate walk-ins
- **Tapping resources** from the Latino community to improve decision-making
- **Implementing policies** that encourage cultural respect and diversity at all levels

“Our time in Mexico has spurred so many ideas and so much conversation; next steps have already begun and I know things will be better as a result.”

**Sue Lynn Ledford**
Wake County Health Department

“North Carolina is leading the rest of the country on Latino initiatives in policy, education and health. I feel that we can also make an impact in the area of emergency management.”

**David Marsee**
Durham County Emergency Management