A Recommendation to Implement Spanish in Construction Topics Course

Benjamin W. Dimer – Cal Poly SLO

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The purpose of this report is to recommend the addition of a Spanish in Construction class to the Construction Management curriculum. Many of Cal Poly’s graduates enter a construction workforce which is composed heavily of Hispanic and Latino members. Historically, Hispanics and Latinos account for not only the most rapidly growing populations of construction, but also the most proportionally at-risk. In an industry as dangerous as construction, it is important that students are well-rounded and well-prepared to contribute as safely, efficiently, and flawlessly as possible. Thorough literature review and an interview of part-time Cal Poly lecturer and industry veteran, Eric Brinkman, this project reveals the need for an increased understanding of the Spanish language amongst construction professionals. This need is complemented by a department-wide survey of Construction Management students and faculty, which gives this recommendation a discovery component, including the newfound knowledge of high levels of student interest in learning Spanish. Down the road, this research and discovery should translate into the implementation of a technical elective course that Cal Poly students can opt to participate in.