

# Need

- Cal Poly CM students enter a very dangerous workplace upon graduation:
  - In 2013, the construction industry saw 828 fatal work injuries.

# A Recommendation to Implement *Spanish in Construction Topics Course*

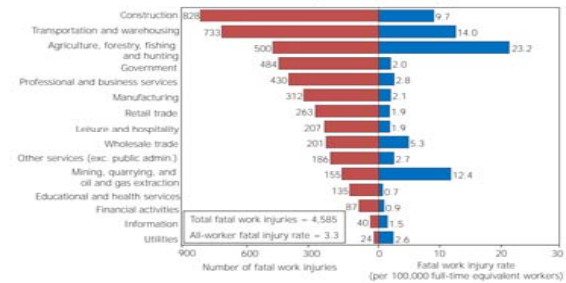
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## Key Words:

OSHA, Safety, Spanish, Construction, Language, Communication, Bilingualism

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.

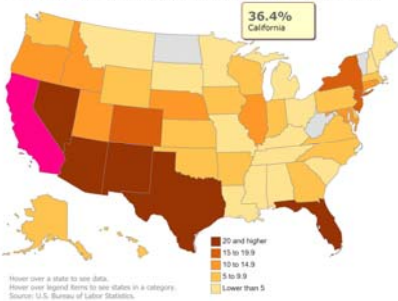
Number and rate of fatal occupational injuries, by industry sector, 2013



# Background

- Cal Poly CM students enter a very Hispanic workforce upon graduation:

Hispanic or Latino labor force as a percent of total, by state, annual averages, 2013

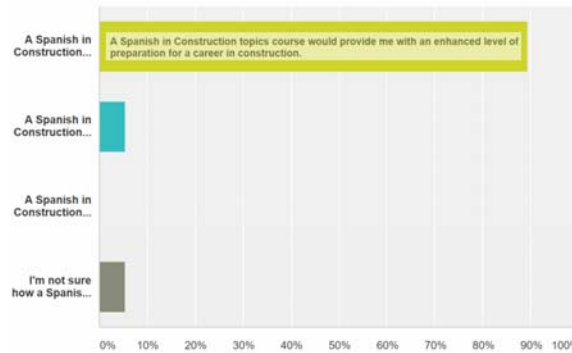


Percentage of industry employment that is of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2014 annual averages



Please describe how you feel a Spanish in Construction topics course would benefit Cal Poly CM students.\*This course could teach the Spanish language as it relates to construction safety, instructions, and general communication.

Answered: 75 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses
A Spanish in Construction topics course would provide me with an enhanced level of preparation for a career in construction.	89.33% 67
A Spanish in Construction topics course would not impact the level of preparation for a career in construction.	5.33% 4
A Spanish in Construction topics course would provide me a decreased level of preparation for a career in construction	0.00% 0
I'm not sure how a Spanish in Construction topics course would impact my preparation for a career in construction.	5.33% 4
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>

# Solution

# Data Collection