

Spanish Language Topics Course with an Emphasis

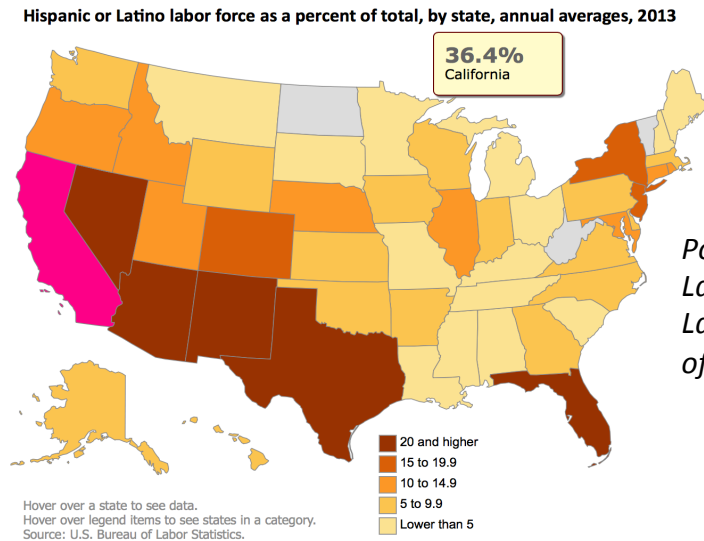
on Construction Safety

Abstract

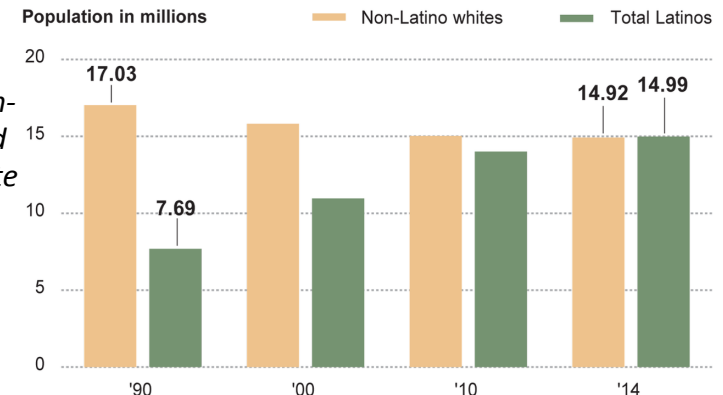
The end goal of this research-based project is to evaluate whether a Spanish course with an emphasis on construction site safety would be beneficial to Cal Poly's Construction Management (CM) program and how it might also benefit the industry. The research orchestrated will be to decipher whether or not there is even a need for this type of class to be introduced into the curriculum. In doing this, two separate surveys have been conducted, one administered to the Construction Management student population and the other to industry professionals. Furthermore, George Healy, a fellow CM student, is working on the deliverables such as a course syllabus and assessments of the proposed class. I believe that with these factors playing into this project there is sufficient data and new knowledge to where implementing a Spanish topics course with an emphasis on construction safety will be worthwhile. The purpose of this course would be not only for students to learn Spanish as it relates to construction, but to also realize real world situations where a language barrier can impact a jobsite and more importantly, the integrity and safety of a project.

Keywords: Spanish, Construction, Safety, Language, Communication

Percentage of Latinos in each state's workforce



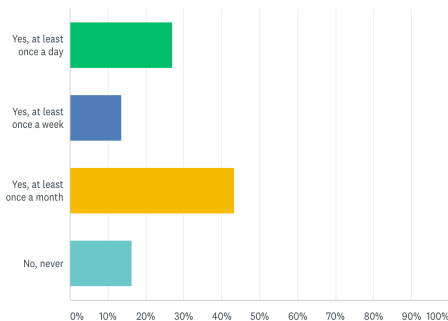
Population of Non-Latino Whites and Latinos in the state of California



Have you ever experienced or witnessed language barriers while at school or the workplace?

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0

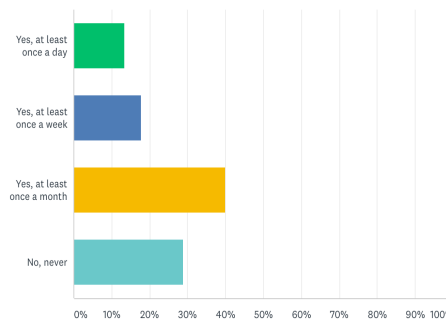
Student Survey



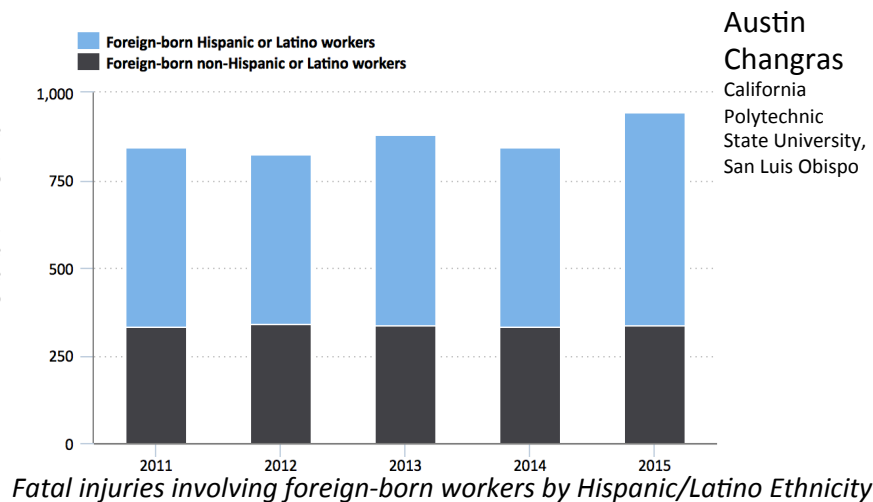
Do you ever experience issues with Spanish language barriers in the workplace?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 0

Industry Survey



Survey Responses to Frequency of Language Barriers



Survey Free Responses

- Safety communication is the most important thing done every day. Being able to understand key words and phrases to bridge that gap would be a huge help to companies and individuals. – Project Director
- A large portion of our workforce is made up of Spanish speaking individuals. Many are scared to say they cant speak English and therefore do not get the proper training. – Sr. Vice President
- Proper communication is most important element of safety and if there is a language barrier, full understanding of safety requirements is incomplete. – Project Executive
- The construction team always benefits from a deeper appreciation of the people performing the work. This includes language, culture, economic demographic, etc. We manage risk. Labor may be the most risky part of the equation. – Project Manager
- To be employed in America, English should be the most important tool. If I wanted to be employed in Mexico, they wouldn't accommodate my lack of Spanish. They simply wouldn't hire me. - Principal