

**Department of Education presents**

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**12 NOON—1:15 P.M.**

**CONFERENCE ROOM 2024, EDUCATION BUILDING**

***LEARNING IN MEXICAN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES:  
CULTURAL PATTERNS FROM SENDING AND  
RECEIVING COMMUNITIES***

IN THIS TALK I LINK CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR IN LEARNING SITUATIONS TO THEIR PARTICIPATION IN FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TRADITIONS AND INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING SCHOOL. IN MANY COMMUNITIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE THAT HAVE HISTORICAL ROOTS IN THE AMERICAS, CHILDREN ARE INCLUDED IN A WIDE RANGE OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND ARE EXPECTED TO BE PARTICIPANTS IN ONGOING EVENTS AS ACTIVE OBSERVERS OR CONTRIBUTORS. COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF SCHOOLING, IN CONTRAST, MAY SEGREGATE CHILDREN INTO "CHILD FOCUSED" ACTIVITIES WHERE THEY ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES THAT ARE OFTEN SEPARATED FROM THE PRODUCTIVE WORK OF ADULTS. AS CHILDREN ENGAGE IN THESE DIFFERENT WAYS OF ORGANIZING LIFE THEY MAY BECOME ADEPT AT USING DIFFERENT TOOLS IN LEARNING. IN THIS TALK I WILL REPORT RESULTS FROM SOME STUDIES SHOWING THAT CHILDREN FROM MEXICAN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES WHOSE FAMILIES ARE MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE RURAL WAYS AND TRADITIONS OF MEXICO MAY BE ESPECIALLY SKILLED AT LEARNING FROM OBSERVING OTHERS, AND AT ORGANIZING INTERACTIONS IN A COLLABORATIVE FASHION. I CONTRAST THESE FINDINGS WITH EUROPEAN AMERICAN CHILDREN AND WITH CHILDREN WHO ARE ALSO OF MEXICAN HERITAGE BUT WHOSE FAMILIES HAVE MORE FAMILIARITY WITH EUROPEAN AMERICAN WAYS THROUGH EXTENSIVE SCHOOLING AND MORE GENERATIONS SINCE IMMIGRATION. I ALSO SHOW HOW SOME OF THE SKILLS AT OBSERVATION AND COLLABORATION CAN LEAD TO SUCCESSFUL LEARNING AND SUGGEST THAT SCHOOLS MIGHT WANT TO BUILD AND STRENGTHEN THESE SKILLS ALONG WITH OTHER SKILLS FOR LEARNING EMPHASIZED BY SCHOOLS.

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