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An Emerging Majority: The Changing Face and Language of Education in Nebraska

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An Emerging Majority: The Changing Face and Language of Education in Nebraska

Jose J. Soto, JD

Vice President for AA/Equity/Diversity, Southeast Community College Area

Abstract

Decision-makers and educators at all levels of our public education system need to assume roles that will serve as strong and unwavering voice for the students and families that our education system consistently fails. It is critically important that we recognize there are things that are terribly wrong with our education system and which obviously need fixing.

Jose J. Soto has worked in the areas of mental health and education for the past 25 years. He has served as a consultant, educator, practitioner, and administrator at the local and state levels in the public education and mental health sectors. His professional activities have ranged from policy and program development, to pre-service and in-service training, to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of community and institution-based programs.

Since 1988, Mr. Soto has served as a consultant to and founding member of the National Cultural Competency Initiative Resource Committee to the National Policy Center for Children's Mental Health Services, at the Georgetown University Child Development Center (Washington D.C.). In this capacity he has planned and served on the faculty of various state and national training institutes on cultural competence issues in the delivery of health, mental health and other human services. During his tenure with the Resource Committee he has also assisted in developing technical assistance/educational resource materials on *"Developing Culturally Competent Systems of Care for Children and Families."*

Since 1992, Soto has served as Vice President for Affirmative Action/Equity/Diversity at Southeast Community College in Lincoln, Nebraska. In this capacity he has planned, developed, and implemented a comprehensive AA/EEO/Diversity program for the college. He has successfully coordinated and implemented efforts in the area of policy development, training, recruitment/retention of employees, investigating complaints of discrimination and unfair treatment, and ongoing management training and organizational development activities. Soto is a Certified Affirmative Action Professional (American Association for Affirmative Action), a trained mediator, and an administrative hearing officer.