

## **Proposed Cluster Hire in Latinx Studies: Purpose Statement**

The Latinx community is currently underrepresented in the student body, faculty, staff, and curriculum of WSU, and the members of this community we do have on campus are underserved. By demonstrating Wichita State University's commitment to reflecting the diversity of our region, a cluster hire in Latinx studies will help us better serve our current Latinx students, recruit more such students to WSU in the future, and provide much-needed educational opportunities to the growing Latinx population of the region. The increase in faculty teaching in Latinx studies will also raise awareness of the needs of these communities among those who live and work with them. Finally, as research has shown, increasing faculty diversity improves the learning environment for all students. The faculty brought to WSU by this cluster hire will help us accomplish these goals by increasing online education and Spanish-language instruction (particularly for various service providers working in the Latinx community) and by infusing into the curriculum and co-curricular programming the cultures and concerns of this community.

Proposed hiring departments include: Counseling, Leadership, Educational and School Psychology; Curriculum and Instruction; English; Instructional Design and Technology (staff position); Modern and Classical Languages; Psychology; and Social Work.

Desired fields of teaching and research include: clinical mental health and school psychology; community psychology; heritage Spanish; Latinx literature and culture; Spanish for the Professions (health professions, law enforcement, social work, etc.); and teacher preparation.

Desired pedagogical approaches: online learning, service learning, applied or experiential learning.