



Community Focus



Earth's Village

LaDeane Jha
Extension Educator

Several years ago I came across the following information. Although I'm sure some of the information has changed slightly—it is still informative when we think about diversity and privilege.

If we could shrink the Earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look like this:

There would be:
57 Asians
21 Europeans
14 from the Western Hemisphere (north and south)
8 Africans

Of these:
51 would be female; 49 would be male
70 would be non-white, 30 white
50 would be non-Christian; 30 Christian
50% of the entire world's wealth would be in the hands of only 6 people and all 6 would be citizens of the United States
80 would live in sub-standard housing
70 would be unable to read
50 would suffer from malnutrition
One would be near death, one would be near birth
Only one would have a college education
No one would own a computer
Source unknown.

“Upcoming Opportunities to Expand YOUR Cultural Perspectives”

Understanding Hispanic/Latino Patterns of Communication

November 27-29, Schuyler, Nebraska

- Carmen de Neve, nationally known consultant as facilitator/teacher
- Focus on communication styles (verbal/nonverbal), communication among Hispanics and others in the workplace, school, socially
- Open to extension educators, faculty, agency/school or community leaders
- Graduate credit option

Latino Immigration Challenges for Communities and Institutions

- * November 7, 8, 9, Best Western Villager Hotel, Lincoln, NE
- \$100 registration (scholarships potentially)
- Call for presenters of posters or sessions
- Emphasis on building linkages with/among other educational, public sector, nonprofit/for-profit organizations
- Formation of state teams and multi-state networks to focus on special topics

For more information, please contact:

Georgia L. Stevens, Ph.D.
Extension Family and Community Specialist for Diversity
Professor, Family and Consumer Sciences College of Human Resources and Family Sciences
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
e-mail: gstevens1@unl.edu
phone: 402-472-5518

Recently Released 2000 Census of Population Communicates Area Growth and Diversity.

Diversity is transforming our nation. We are no longer a country reflecting the culture of people of white European descent.

Understanding diversity enriches our lives. Individually we become enlightened, gathering new insights and outlooks. Organizations and groups that understand and embrace diversity enjoy added morale and productivity. Businesses who appreciate diversity gain the “competitive edge” in today's global economy. Communities also thrive by tapping into the varied talents, perspectives of a diverse population.

Diversity is many things including:

- ethnicity and culture—language, customs, and sense of identity.
- beliefs—an individual's religion and philosophy on life.
- family—size, traditions, values, and social economic standing.
- biological—which determines gender, body shape and size, color of eyes, skin and hair.
- geographical—where one was born and raised in a region of the world or even a city and neighborhood.
- experiences—everyone is a product of his or her experiences from school, community, work, and relationship with others.

Diversity should be celebrated! Pride should be taken in our own uniqueness. We should welcome the unique qualities of others and grow to appreciate similarities as well as differences.

Appreciating diversity enriches the world. (GB)

Cultural Differences

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The 2000 census has confirmed what many of us knew. Lincoln is more culturally diverse than ever before and is being enriched in many interesting and unforeseen ways. New immigrants and other newcomers bring a spirit of entrepreneurship, enthusiasm, fresh approaches, and fascinating new festivals, clothing, religions, and languages to Lincoln.

Each new group that calls Lincoln home brings with it some cultural differences. What does that mean? Cultural differences usually include: language and communication, appearance and dress, time and time-consciousness, rewards and recognition, food and eating, roles and responsibilities,

values and norms, sense of self and space, mental processes and learning styles, beliefs, values, and attitudes. Becoming more aware of cultural norms is key to accepting and celebrating the differences among us. Being unaware can create issues in the workplace, school and in social situations. We sometimes make incorrect assumptions about cultures based on incomplete or erroneous information. Often we have an expectation that others will conform to our cultural norms and many of us have biases against the unfamiliar. Language problems can lead to miscommunication and misinterpretation. In addition, our traditional American values sometimes are in conflict with those of other cultures.

Whenever we find ourselves being irritated when we encounter cultural differences, it's a good idea to look deeper

and to understand the cultural programming that may underlie them. A multi-cultural personality:

- Is actively interested in learning about other cultures.
- Recognizes the boundaries of culture within all of us.
- Accepts every culture for its own internal coherence and integrity.
- Continues to develop and grow through interacting with the differences of others.
- Recognizes, legitimizes, accepts, and appreciates the fundamental differences of people of different cultures.
- Goes beyond the mere recognition and appreciation of differences.
- Is genuinely open to new experiences, variations, and changes.
- Actively incorporates components of those experiences into his/her identity.

Non-English Speaking Families

Non-English speaking families move to Lincoln, Nebraska for a variety of reasons. Imagine the challenges of beginning a new life in Nebraska after fleeing persecution, poverty and/or war in your home country.

Catholic Social Services, Lincoln Action Program, and WIC are just a few of the programs that have provided volunteer interpreters, space and clients for NEP. Ongoing Nutrition Education Programs are presented at the Good Neighbor Center, Hispanic Center, Asian Center, Urban Indian Center, Salvation Army, and the Malone Center. Each of these agencies have been vital links to non-English speaking families.

Karen Wobig, extension

assistant, enjoys learning from students as she provides hands-on learning experiences for



▲ Patrice Broussard, EFNEP Advisor teaches Elliott students how to make Peanut Butter Bites.

tant in our country.

Many of the Bosnian and Croatian families have learned to use a shopping list and to shop only once a week. They were used to going to the

market daily. A Bosnian family had a concern about sell-by dates on products. They had gone to the market that day and purchased meat which would expire that day. It was explained the meat could be frozen and used later. Clients are also learning how

to use frozen vegetables; and frozen and canned vegetables



▼ Elliott student washes her hands before NEP food preparation experience.

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