

Reality Spanish: Building a Communication Bridge

**Kosciusko Leadership Academy
White Paper - April 2004**

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Reality Spanish™

According to the latest census bureau, 7% of Kosciusko County residents speak Spanish as well as 10% of students in the county school system. The numbers continue to increase. There are two reasons for Hispanic immigration to the US; 1) escape for political persecution; and 2) the economic opportunity. The migrants who came to the United States were drawn by jobs, unskilled or semi-skilled, by wages eight, ten, even fifteen times higher than what they could earn in Mexico. Because of these wages, the Mexicans left their families, farms, villages and cities. Employers thirsting for willing, hard-working labor recruited these migrants.

With the large increase of Spanish speaking people coming into the United States, there is a greater evidence of the cultural differences. Such as, in Mexico, when an individual gets pulled over by a police officer, their culture is to get out of the vehicle and walk towards the officer out of respect. If this happens in the United States, it is considered confrontational aggressive behavior. With the large increase of Hispanic immigration to the United States, and the varying differences in cultural behavior, the process rate for Americanization in the Hispanic communities has lagged behind the desire of the Naturalized citizen. Today's Hispanic migration is being compared to the Great Wave that brought many Italians, Germans, Poles, Greeks and others to the United States a century ago.

One of the many questions being asked today, throughout the country and in its industries, is, "They are in our country. Why don't they learn our language?" As with

past immigrants, today's Hispanic people are expected to take three generations to complete the Americanization process being, 1st generation speaking only Spanish; 2nd generation being bilingual and 3rd generation solely speaking English

In an effort to bridge this communication gap, *Lingo Lynx*TM has developed a program to assist with making a connection of multicultural communities *Reality Spanish*TM is an "integrated community approach" that will help to "facilitate the building of language and culture bridges between Spanish speakers and non-Spanish speakers in the community, so as to foster cooperation, safety and productivity of all community members."

*Reality Spanish*TM uses an Integrated Community Model, which teaches functional and customized situational based language and cultural understanding to four essential community groups:

- Academic community. administrators, school staff;
- Business community. employers, supervisors, and employees;
- Law enforcement/safety community: police officers, fire fighters, and correctional officers;
- Healthcare community nurses, doctors, office staff, aides and EMT's

The uniqueness of the *Reality Spanish*TM program is the teaching methodology *Lingo Lynx*TM has incorporated face-to-face instruction via Total Physical Response Storytelling (TPRS) TPRS employs kinesthetic muscle memory along with auditory and visual engagement to provide comprehensible input for spontaneous reproduction of speech and long-term retention of language 'Bites' of language taught actively built into phrases and stories so students internalize language to reproduce on demand This provides

immediate usable commands and vocabulary, not verb conjugations or memorization of dialog

In addition to this methodology, various instructional components are included such as:

- Customized on-site workshops,
- Multiple access options for ongoing personal support and training, online (via *Lingo Lynx™* website), phone support, email;
- Interactive CD-Rom, workbook, video,
- Immersion training in select Latin American countries (optional)

Kosciusko County has been given the opportunity to be a “beta site” for this distinctive integrated community approach in gapping cultural communication barriers. This is where the Kosciusko Leadership Academy and the “Bosum Buddy Group” come into partnership. Allison McSherry, Christie Poe and Mindy Truex have teamed together to assist the Kosciusko County Foundation and Kosciusko County, Suzie Light, and Kosciusko County LifeQuest group in introducing *Reality Spanish™* to our county residents and focusing on community groups of educators, healthcare personnel, law enforcement / first responders, and business professionals. Through the LifeQuest group, coordinated by Judy Mugg, we have met monthly since October to develop an operating procedure for such issues as: administration; negotiation of contracts with *Lynx™*, recruitment and selection process of the “*Core Trainers*”; and additional steps in the integration process

Reality Spanish™, through LifeQuest, will create an accredited community-based pool of *Core Trainers* to teach functional and context-based language and cultural understanding to the four essential community groups that are listed above

There are numerous phases to this integration process. They are:

- Phase 1: Determining a community consensus and LifeQuest study circle to gain needed support in the project moving forward
- Phase 2: Contract negotiations and identify/secure funding
- Phase 3: Selection and training of 20-24 *Core Trainers* by LifeQuest and *Lingo Lynx™* in the modules of Education and Law Enforcement.
- Phase 4: While *Core Trainers* begin serving the community in Education and Law Enforcement, *Lingo Lynx™* will begin developing the modules and curriculum for the Healthcare and Business sectors
- Phase 5: *Core Trainers* are further trained in the newly designed modules of Healthcare and Business and subsequently go on to serve the community in those areas (Representatives of *Lingo Lynx™* are communicating currently with Marian College, IN, to establish certification credits for educators and nursing professionals. Law Enforcement academies will be contacted shortly to pursue the same purpose for these professionals.)
- Phase 6: Finalizing complete community integration, with coordination of trainers in *Reality Spanish™*.

By increasing direct professional-to-client cultural empathy and communication in Spanish, there will be a marked improvement in the quality of social programs and community interactions. Specifically, anticipated outcomes will include the following:

- Teambuilding, problem-solving, safety and respect in the workplace;
- Cooperation between law enforcement officers and the public;
- Greater immediate buy-in of students and parents to school life;
- Enhanced ability of teachers to foster learning among all students in the classroom,
- Effective communication between healthcare professionals and patients

Professionals who are able to communicate with their clients become positive role models for language acquisition and for respecting and valuing differences. This in turn, encourages Spanish speakers within the community to pursue every opportunity to develop their English skills and incorporate these into the larger culture.

A program fostering the above skill and mindsets will lead to a safer, more mutually satisfying, and more successful environment for all

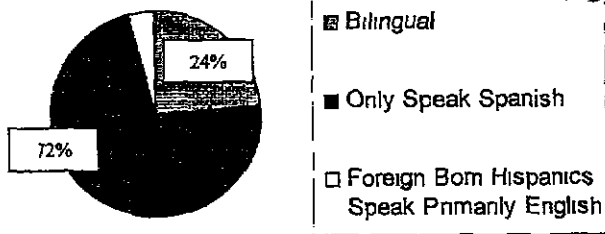
Reality Spanish TM can benefit Kosciusko County as a whole, by making the county a community. The community and workforce will be safe and cooperative; harmonious and empathetic; functional and productive; reliable and stable, welcoming and culturally diverse, successful and productive; cohesive and visionary. If anyone has any questions or comments regarding the program, Reality Spanish TM, feel free to contact any of the "Bosum Buddy Group" at the below information

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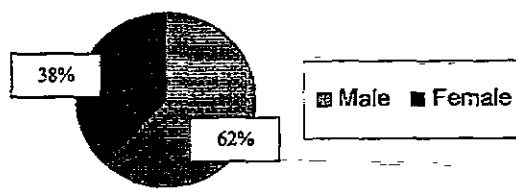
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English vs. Spanish in Indiana



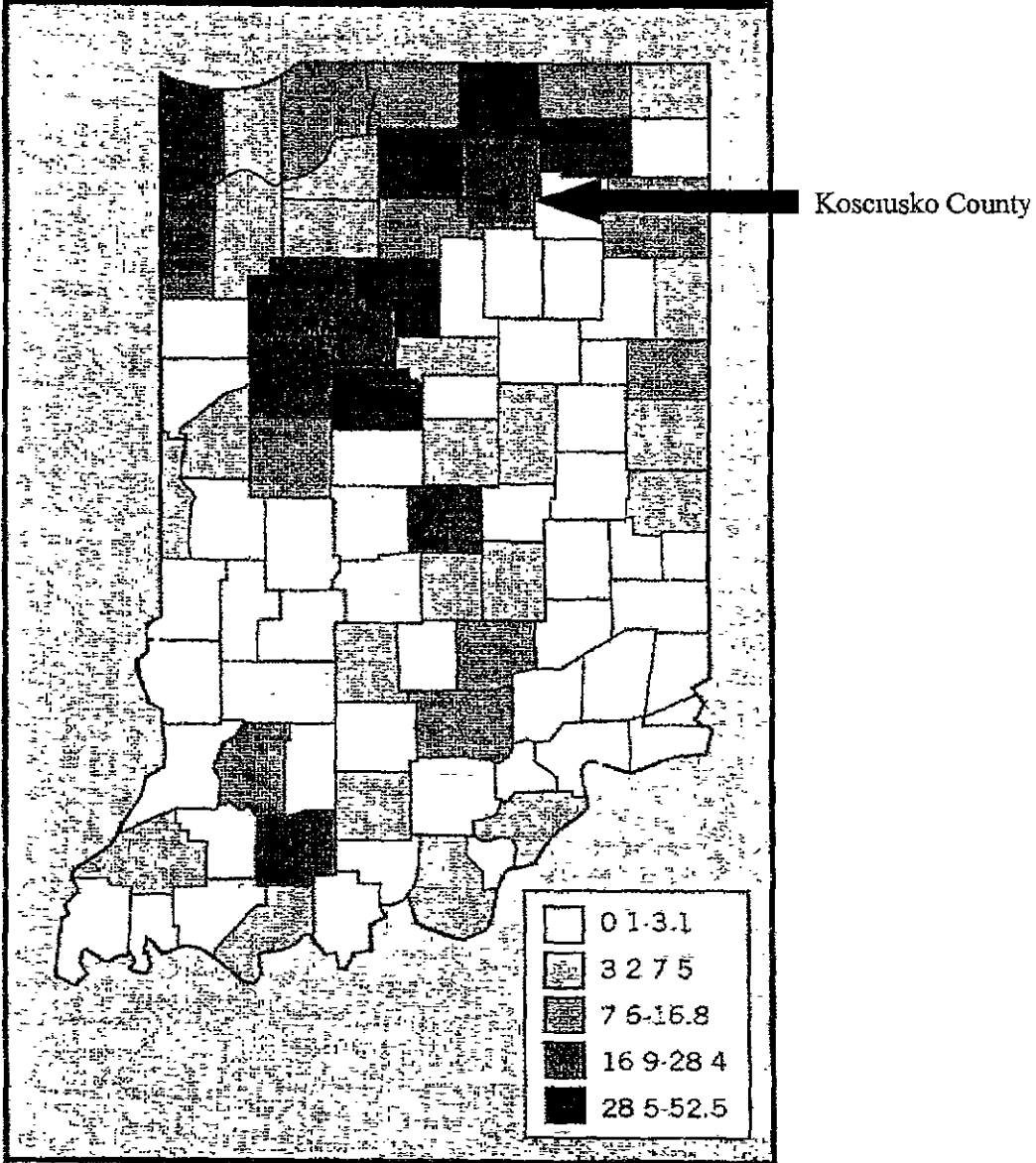
Indiana's Dominant Immigrant Population



Amount of Hispanic Speaking Individuals Who Come to America by Age



Number of Hispanic Immigrants per 1,000 Residents: Indiana, 2000.



Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census. Summary File 3, Tables P3 and PCT 19. Analysis by the Indiana Youth Institute

Works Cited.

- 1 LingoLynx TM LLC, P O Box 1494, Buena Vista, CO 81211
<http://www.lingolynx.com>
- 2 LifeQuest – Kosciusko County Community Foundation
- 3 Compton’s Encyclopedia Online v 3 0 © 1998
The Learning Company, Inc
<http://comptonsv3.web.aol.com>
4. Census 2000, Kosciusko County Chamber of Commerce

Attachment.

- 1 Sample worksheet for a *Realty Spanish*TM session
2. Times Union article 3/31/04

Reality Spanish™ for Teachers - I

DICCIONARIO: El chico corre en la clase.

In the following table, use the boxes to record the vocab definitions

- Draw an object or figure representing the phrase or word in the upper part of the box
- You may write the meaning instead, if this is easier to remember

<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
El chico	La chica	La clase	la silla
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
(no) ve	grita	ríe	corre
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
La maestra	Está triste	levántate	siéntate

Mini story:

El chico está en la clase
 La chica está en la clase
 La maestra está en la clase

La chica ve al chico y ríe
 La maestra ve al chico y no ríe

La maestra no ve al chico
 El chico no ve a la maestra

El chico está triste

El chico ve a la chica y corre a la chica

El chico no ve la silla y corre en la silla
 El chico grita - ¡Ay Ay!

Times-Union



02-13-2004

Trainers Sought For 'Reality Spanish' Class

BY TERESA SMITH, Times-Union Staff Writer

Spanish-speaking individuals, who wish to pass the language on to others are invited to become "Reality Spanish" trainers

Reality Spanish is a customized course – honed to apply in various situations. For example, information gathering in an emergency room is vastly different from a discussion about job safety.

The Reality Spanish system provides effective communications skills within these contexts – for educators, healthcare personnel, law enforcement, first responders and businesses.

Kosciusko County Community Foundation Executive Director Suzie Light introduced LingoLynx representatives Gaye Tiepel and Molly Lynx last fall. Since then, plans have been formed to create a "Beta" community of Reality Spanish in Kosciusko County.

At the completion of the integrated community model, Reality Spanish trainers would be certified with a goal of teaching 200 students the "reality-based" method.

A Life Quest executive committee has been formed to oversee the project and a group of Kosciusko Leadership Academy students are investigating the project's potential in a White Paper project.

Those wishing to become a trainer may pick up application packets at the foundation, 102 E. Market St., in Warsaw. Completed applications need to be returned by noon March 5 to begin the review process. A four-day training seminar is scheduled to begin April 20.

Applicants should have a familiarity with basic Spanish grammatical principles, equivalent to college level I with the ability to read, write, hear and speak Spanish accurately and a belief that anyone can learn another language.

For more information, contact Judy Mugg, Life Quest coordinator, at the foundation, 267-1901, or via e-mail. kc@kcfoundation.org

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