

Gallegos Personal Bio re Latino Leadership:

Born in San Antonio, Texas. Parents moved to Portland during WWII to work in shipyards. After the war, the family transitioned to summer farm-work—living in migrant worker camps throughout the Willamette valley and finishing the season picking hops in Yakima valley. At 17, Gallegos spent his last summer working in the fields. He spent the next ten years working in the Portland shipyards while completing his military duty with one year in the regular US Air Force and three years with the Oregon Air National Guard during Viet Nam ear, 1961-1969.

While working in the shipyard and supporting his parents, he also attended night school at Portland Community College and then Portland State University. At PSU he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology with a minor in sociology and a certificate in social work. He went directly into the MSW program at Portland state where his practicum experiences included an internship at the JD Long Juvenile Detention Center; Family Counseling (with Latino and Native American families) in NW Portland and community organizing with SE Impact; and as a Teaching Assistant with a student clinical unit at the Salem mental hospital and finally as an instructor during his final semester teaching a course on "Chicano Mental Health" to first-year MSW students. During this time, he also became involved in the Chicano movement, studied Spanish and Social Change in Cuernavaca, Mexico, started the Chicano Student Union at PSU, attended a seminal conference on Chicano curriculum in Las Vegas, NM, and wrote a successful grant to address Chicano curriculum in the MSW program.

After graduating from the MSW program at PSU, Gallegos accepted a position with the Chicano Indian Study Center of Oregon (CISCO) to provide family counseling services to Latino and Native American families in the Portland School District. After a year, the funding of this program ran out and he moved to a position as the director of a University of Oregon Teacher Corp program. He was out-stationed at Mt. Angel College where he was in charge of a Bi-lingual Bi-Cultural unit of Latino student educators who were assigned teaching internship in the Woodburn school district. Mt. Angel College lost its accreditation and disbanded at this time. Gallegos, along with other Latino's assumed leadership of the college and transformed it into Colegio Cesar Chavez playing an instrumental role in its accreditation.

From there Gallegos went on to pursue his doctorate in cultural perspectives in mental health. After completing the doctorate, his first academic job was that of Associate Director of the Indian Social Work Education program at Portland State. From there he was recruited to the University of Washington to help them develop a minority curriculum and that is where in 1982 he published the article for which he is cited as initiating the concept of cultural competence. While at the UW he was instrumental in the founding of Consejo in Seattle—a Latino mental health counseling agency that later went state-wide.

After the UW he was a faculty member at San Diego State University from 1983-1988. While there, besides his regular teaching responsibilities, he secured and administered a minority grants from the National Institute of Mental Health. He won a Promising Researcher Award from the National Institute of Mental Health and a Post-doctoral award that sent him to the University of Maryland where he completed a research fellowship in Washington D.C. with the Coalition of Hispanic Mental Health Organizations. He then won another doctoral fellowship with the American Gerontological Society which led to several studies on Latino aging. He returned to Portland in 1989 and established the Social Work Program at the University of Portland and also started a MEChA program there as well. He spent twenty years (1990-2010) on the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities (Portland) where he helped to launch the low-income (migrant) housing initiative. As owner of Western Research Associates, he has also been a consultant to various Latino organizations, OCHA, OHDC, and the Latino Network. He has led delegations to Oaxaca Mexico and taught summer courses regularly in Morelia, Mexico. He is presently on the Advisory Council for the Latino Network Latino Leadership Project.

