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Poster Presentation P14

LEARNING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE: BEST PRACTICES FOR ADULT LATINO LEARNERS

<u>Kirsten Fredrickson</u> and Carolyn Nadeau* Hispanic Studies Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Over the past three months I have spent many hours as an intern in the Hispanic Outreach Program at Western Avenue Community Center, where I have witnessed the struggles of Hispanic immigrants who do not know the English language. By observing English classes and speaking to many native Spanish speakers, I have been able to see the types of English needs of Hispanic speakers and effective pedagogical strategies to meet those needs. While it is important for children to learn grammatical rules and complete English, many adults first need to focus on learning essential English phrases for the work place and daily life. By observing the types of difficulties many Hispanic adults face, and different teaching methods that can be used to improve their English abilities, I have been able to draw conclusions about the best way to teach English to adults in the Hispanic community. This bilingual poster presentation, will exemplify some of these "best practices" in adult English classes for native Spanish speakers.