

La Plaza Comunitaria: A Model for Empowering Migrant Workers

Workshop 5 - Saturday, April 2, 4:00pm-5:30pm

Objective

This workshop is designed to enable students to interact directly with local migrant workers. If this track were to be replicated, this workshop could be facilitated by a community partner in the area, ideally including refugees or immigrants in some way. The panel format seemed to work best for this organization, but might look different for another organization.

For many years Stetson has been working with the Pierson community located 11 miles from Stetson's Campus. Pierson is known as "The Fern Capital of the World", where the majority of the population is Mexican-migrant farm workers. Stetson University has partnered with La Plaza Comunitaria, in Pierson, offering different services, including English classes, computer literacy classes, and an after school program for youth in the Pierson community. In this workshop you'll learn about Stetson's partnership with La Plaza Comunitaria and hear from a panel of farm workers who have been exposed to harsh working conditions. They will share their battle for their rights as farm workers.

This workshop will enable participants to:

1. learn about La Plaza Comunitaria;
2. interact directly with local migrant workers; and
3. ask questions of the migrant workers, the agency staff, and the student volunteers.

Materials

- Computer with Internet access
- Projector
- Panel format set-up

Handouts

- Plaza Comunitaria Brochure/Flier

Brief Outline

This workshop will include the following sections:

1. Introduction to La Plaza Comunitaria | 15 minutes
2. Panel Presentation | 45 minutes

3. Q&A Session | 30 minutes

Facilitator Guidelines

1. Introduction to La Plaza Comunitaria | 15 minutes

Students serving La Plaza Comunitaria share the organization's mission, goals, and programs.

2. Panel Presentation | 45 minutes

Panelists share their stories as facilitator asks questions about how they arrived, what social issues they may be facing, and how La Plaza Comunitaria was or was not helping them achieve their goals.

3. Q&A Session | 30 minutes

Participants have the chance to ask questions in a standard panel Q&A format.