Café Latino Working With Diverse Spanish Population Nelly Nelson (FL), Diversity Committee

There are five million Spanish speakers in Florida (out of 21 million residents and growing). This large portion of our population can be better served if we are able to provide more materials and support in Spanish. The Coalition of Florida Extension for Latino Communities (CAFE Latino) is assisting in this effort. In addition, CAFE Latino is gaining visibility in Extension across the country (as well as international inquiries), and as such requires a robust presence.

As part of the University of Florida's Diversity Initiatives, CAFE Latino (created in the spring of 2018) was built and designed by UF/IFAS Extension faculty to help increase the capacity and competency for Extension to serve the needs of Florida's growing Latinx population. It is recognized by the university's inclusivity initiatives led by the office of Diversity.

CAFE Latino represents a grassroots service organization that is focused on enhancing the access and efficacy of Extension programs. Comprised of Extension faculty and staff across the state (with expertise in all program areas), the 50 members of CAFE Latino are not solely Latinx faculty and staff. Instead, the group includes representation from various racial/ethnic groups. We invite all who are interested in advancing culturally responsive programs for multicultural audiences.