

With Dr. Alisa Garni's guidance, I examined how a small rural farming community in Kansas is responding to a recent resurgence in immigration, primarily from Mexico and Central America. Until a few years ago Dairy City lacked significant racial and ethnic diversity; today, however, the Hispanic population has grown to approximately 30 percent. As part of my research, I conducted ethnographic field observations by going to local social venues and examining the interactions between locally born and long term residents with recent immigrants. I attended school events to see how parents of migrant children interacted with long term residents. Additionally, I conducted an in-depth interview with a member of the community who was in high school when the migrant workers began coming into the area. The purpose of this interview was to get the perspective of a young adult on how new students are fitting into the community. The purpose of the research is to understand both the barriers and channels of integration. In the fall, I will work with Dr. Garni to cross reference the data I collected with additional data that has been collected for the project, and begin analyzing it.