

# Creative opportunities within secondary agriculture classrooms for Latinx leadership development

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## Introduction

- The Latinx population is the fastest growing population in the United States of America.
- Agriculture teachers need to find ways to recruit Latinx students.
- Some barriers are Latinx students' perceptions of agriculture programs, cultural barriers, communication challenges.
- The researcher suggests a simple intervention that can be implanted within the Ag. Classroom.

## How it Works

- The teacher chooses Latinx students in their classroom who show potential for leadership as the class teaching assistant.
- Students are given daily responsibilities.
- Tasks can vary depending on the class and time of year.
- TA's are held responsible for all of the class work while still being a leader within the classroom.
- Strict expectations are set to ensure both the teacher and student understand what should happen.
- The Latinx student is seen as a leader within the class and inherently begins to feel like an integral part of the class.
- Other Latinx students also have a peer leader in the class..



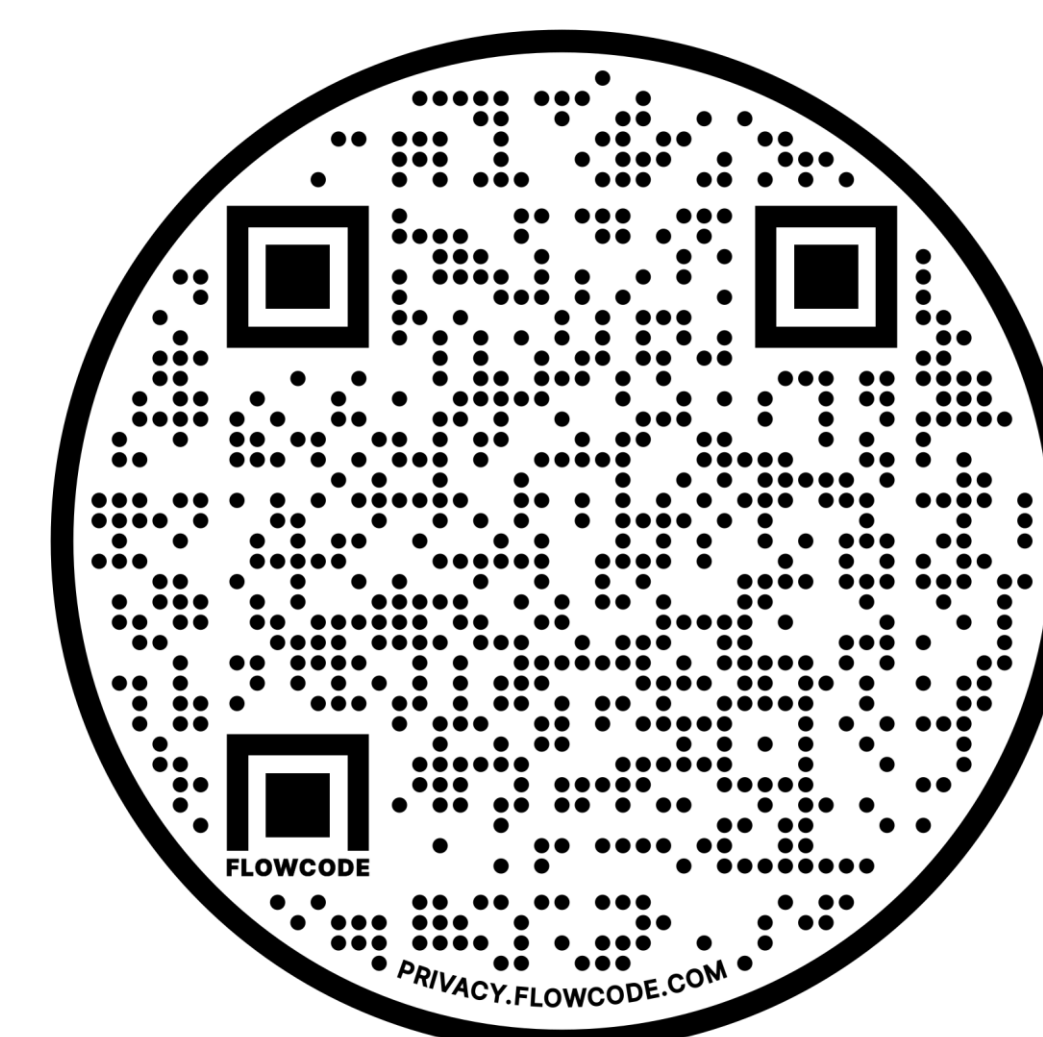
Note: Only six of the eleven students above participated in the agriculture/FFA program.

• “If it weren't for you to give me the chance for TA IN YOUR classroom I don't think I would've made it out of high school”.

-Bryan Carrillo



AGRICULTURAL  
EDUCATION AND  
COMMUNICATION



## Results to Date

- Six Latinx TA's invited close friends to participate, and the FFA program saw an increase of 12 new Latinx students within a year.
- An increase in Latinx students taking Ag classes occurred between 2017-2020.
- Latinx students who were TA's saw an increase in their grades.
- Latinx student confidence grew within the classroom.
- Latinx TA's added cultural insights and content knowledge to the course.

## Future Plans/ Advice to Others

- Develop a set criteria for TA selection and expanding .
- Expand the intervention to all underrepresented students.
- Clear communication as to what is expected and what needs to be done TA .
- Patience during the training period and allow for flexibility

## Costs

- Teacher time : Expectation creation, supervision, and training.
- Material costs (stationary)