Uneasy Welcome: Immigrant and Refugee Newcomers in Nebraska

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Like other ‘fly-over’ states located in the center of the U.S., Nebraska is a no-coast, agricultural state experiencing demographic shift. Nebraska’s unique situation as a Latino receiving state and a refugee resettlement area has had deep impact on the state’s identity, educational institutions, family and civic life. In this presentation, Jenelle Reeves and Stephanie Wessels overview Nebraska’s immigration situation and share some of their research particularly related to immigrant youth, schooling, and teacher preparation. Dr. Reeves will share a teacher preparation initiative for teaching immigrant youth in elementary and secondary schools. Dr. Wessels will share her work with Latino families (parents and school-age youth) involved in a family literacy project.