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A COMPARISON OF MEXICAN AMERICAN ADOLESCENT
EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER DECISION-MAKING
AND PERCEIVED INFLUENCES

by

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RESEARCH PROJECT REPORT

Presented to the Graduate Faculty of Education
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MASTER OF ARTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN

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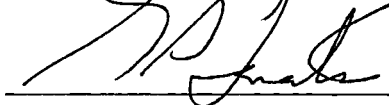
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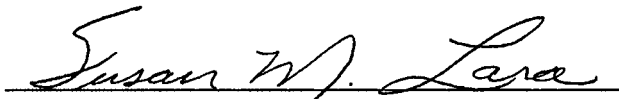
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Abstract

Previous research has considered Mexican Americans as a homogeneous group in studies relating to education and career decision-making of adolescents. In a study of 22 Mexican American adolescents, using an interview format, results report similarities between lower and middle income Mexican American youth in occupational expectations and in value-orientations which are not characteristic of traditionalism. Findings indicate differences between the two groups in educational expectations, degree of certainty, effects of the familial environment, and in hope of success for the future. Both lower and middle income youth respond to parental influence no matter how close the relationship, but parental expectations, possibly affected by perceptions of inaccessible mobility, are lower for lower income youth. Responses from youth in both groups indicate their counseling needs, in particular those related to the world of work, are not presently being met in public schools.