

## USU records Hispanic voices in northern Utah

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LOGAN --Utah State University is collecting stories from Hispanics as part of an oral history of the Cache Valley.

"This is a rich culture that is not often represented," folklorist Randy Williams said.

"It is estimated that 10 percent of Utah's population is drawn from the Latino community. Their voices certainly do not make up 10 percent of the archive. We want to change that," she said.

The Latino Voices Project is the next step in the Merrill-Cazier Library's Northern Utah Speaks series. There are several accounts in the collection, including stories from war veterans and Cache women of the 1930s.

The recordings are kept in the library's special collections and are available through Utah State's online digital library.

By July, Williams would like to add 40 interviews with Hispanics. Five interviews have been completed by students who are majoring in Spanish.

"One that is a great success story is a woman from Paraguay who did not get much education there but is now attending USU," said Jorge Rodas, a local real-estate agent, who is looking for voices. "We're not looking just for success stories, but it's nice to see those."

A Spanish professor, Maria Luisa Spicer-Escalante, agreed to be interviewed. The Mexico City native said the project breaks many stereotypes.

"We need to get the different profiles of the Hispanics who live in the valley," Spicer-Escalante said. "People think of illegal immigrants when they think of Latino people. We need to look at the variety of people who are here."

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