A) Specific Aims: The aims of the project have not been modified from those proposed originally in the application.

B) Studies and Results: The past year of the project has been productive and is yielding interesting results. We believe that the papers that will emerge from our efforts this past year will ultimately have a significant impact on research with Latinos youth.

The research design requires interviewing inner city, Latino mother-adolescent dyads, twice a year for three years as the adolescents complete middle school and transition to high school. The study is intended to better understand the emergence and maintenance of underage drinking in Latino youth during early adolescence. Prior to the collection of data in the context of these surveys, we have finished this past year extensive preparatory data collection that includes (1) in-depth interviews of approximately 40 mothers and 40 adolescents, cross sectionally, in grades 7, 8 and 9, (2) open ended elicitation interviews on a wide range of topics related to the main study, also covering grades 7, 8 and 9 in a cross sectional design (these interviews were conducted with approximately 130 adolescents and 130 mothers), (3) cognitive testing of the derived closed format questionnaires (in both English and Spanish) to ensure comprehension and clarity, and (4) a small-scale psychometric study of approximately 75 mothers and 75 adolescents representative of our study population to document test-retest reliability and concurrent and discriminant validity of all measures used in the main survey.

One of the more interesting analyses in the above work has been our exploration of the traditional Latino constructs of acculturation, familismo, machismo-marianismo, acculturation stress (including discrimination), ethnic identity, and acculturation more generally. In reviewing extant scales for these constructs, we were struck at how few of the measures have been subjected to careful qualitative and psychometric analyses with early adolescents (e.g., middle school and high school Latino youth) and with older Latino populations (e.g., the mothers of these Latino youth). Rather, with the possible exception of acculturation in general, most of the measures have been developed using convenience samples of young adults. Although we will use standard extant scales in our main survey so as to maintain comparability with prior research, we undertook to construct our own scales that are more appropriate for our target population. The main survey includes our new scales as well, some of whose items overlap with the standard, extant scales. Given space constraints, we illustrate the utility and interest of this work using the construct of machismo. The same type of analysis has been performed for each of the Latino constructs noted above.
In the extant literature, machismo describes behaviors that are culturally relevant to Latino males. Machismo is seen as a form of masculine ideology and behaviors that can be antisocial, prosocial, or both. The antisocial view holds that machismo consists of masculine behaviors that are negatively viewed by society, while the prosocial position sees machismo as reflecting concern for people who are unable to protect themselves, dignity in personal conduct, respect for others, chivalry, courage, and generosity. An integrationist approach acknowledges both views. We first pursued the issue of what the construct of machismo means to Latino youth who are early adolescents. In the elicitation surveys, for example, we asked youth “If a boy in your grade level in school is macho or has machismo, what is that boy like? That is, when you think of a boy in your grade as having a lot of machismo, what is it that makes that boy different from others?”

Content analyses revealed that it was primarily negative attributes that were salient to adolescents when they thought about machismo. Machismo tended to be associated with arrogance and a feeling of superiority (28% - but this was more likely to be mentioned by girls); being disrespectful, rude, and selfish (19%), being dominant, bossy or a bully (18%), being a misogynist or exhibiting poor treatment of women (15%), being mean or “tough” (15%) and trying to be cool (14%). Notwithstanding these results, a few positive categories were mentioned – mostly related to the idea that macho men are physically fit and strong, assertive, and leader-like. However the low frequency with which these concepts were mentioned (around 1% or 2%) reinforce the view that machismo is generally viewed in negative terms by young adolescents – a bit more so for girls than boys. Concepts mentioned in the research literature related to drinking, chivalry, courage, generosity, dignity, and social responsibility did not emerge. In addition, violence and aggression and sexual promiscuity were mentioned on occasion but very infrequently by adolescents.

Comparable question asked of the mothers in their elicitation surveys revealed that mothers also tended to view machismo as an overall negative concept. Like the adolescents, they consider men who display machismo as being bossy (58%), misogynist and treating women badly (26%), violent (26%), arrogant or believing themselves to be better than others (16%), and disrespectful (10%). The mothers but not the adolescents tended to mention being jealous, possessive and controlling (22%) and uncooperative towards daily household activities and chores (14%). Promiscuity was mentioned by 6% of the mothers. On the positive side, a small number of mothers stated that macho men dress nicely and are well groomed and that they are independent, self-sufficient, and go-getters (about 9% for each category).

The above themes also emerged in the in-depth interviews but with greater elaboration. Overall, then, the construct of machismo tended to be viewed predominately in negative terms by both Latino youth and their mothers. This stands in contrast to most of the extant scales that measure and conceptualize machismo in both positive and negative terms, many of which do not map onto the above categories.

Other interesting results were (1) familismo is associated with both positive (support, loyalty, sharing) and negative attributes (a source of stress and anxiety); for mothers, “keeping their kids on the right path” is an integral part of familismo, something rarely mentioned in the literature, (2) about 20% of adolescents perceive themselves as having experienced discrimination whereas only about 15% of mothers make such an attribution, (3) that marianismo is seen as a true mix of positive and negative attributes, thereby supporting an integrationist approach to this construct, (4) Americanismo is characterized by a mix of wanting the American way of life, the culture, and wanting to “look American,” coupled with attributions of being followers and wanting to fit in, rejecting Latino culture, being ashamed of one’s origins, and being “fake.” Somewhat surprisingly, mothers were more likely to characterize Americanismo in positive terms than adolescents.

We also have considerable qualitative data on adolescent and maternal conceptions of drinking alcohol as guided by our five facet theory of drinking and on parenting and communication. The data are extremely rich in this regard and will be the source of a wealth of new knowledge about drinking in Latino youth.

C) **Significance:** The research conducted thus far will have implications for documenting how everyday people, including youth and older adults, define and characterize core Latino constructs. Few studies have taken this angle, instead imposing investigators’ own conceptual schemes onto the constructs.

D) **Plans:** To continue analyzing and writing up for publication the qualitative data and to continue collecting data for the main survey.

E & F) **Publications:** None as of yet; **Project Generated Resources:** None