CUNY DSI Releases Paper on
Dominican Geographic Mobility in the United States

Old Places, New Places: Geographic Mobility of Dominicans in the U.S., a statistical study documenting the internal mobility and geographic dispersion of the Dominican population in the United States, was released to the public on October 19th on the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute (CUNY DSI).

Over the past four decades the Dominican population living in the U.S. has grown substantially. With a population of 204,360 in 1980 it has increased to reach a population of 1.5 million in 2010. While the growth of the Dominican population in the U.S. has been consistent, the settlement patterns of the group have begun to shift. By analyzing IPUMS harmonized American Community Survey (ACS) data, this paper illustrates how demographic growth among Dominicans has been accompanied by a deconcentration process where we see Dominicans moving in large numbers to states outside of the northeast, where the highest concentration of Dominicans have historically resided.

The methodology for the study consisted of disaggregating the Dominican population based on past year migration status and nativity over the 2001-2011 period. Researchers compared Dominicans arriving from the Dominican Republic, identified as international migrants, and Dominicans who have already been living in the U.S., identified as domestic migrants. The differentiation of Dominican international migrants from Dominicans who moved internally within the U.S. allowed researchers to generate separate socioeconomic profiles for each group and compare their trajectories.

Major differences were found between international and domestic migrants: (1) whereas international migrants settle primarily in New York, many Dominicans already living in the U.S. are relocating from New York to other states in the northeast and the south; (2) international migrants have generally attained lower levels of education as compared to domestic migrants, especially among females and when compared to
second or later generation domestic migrants; and (3) average and median earnings were higher among non-migrants, followed by domestic, and then international migrants.

*Old Places, New Places: Geographic Mobility of Dominicans in the U.S.*, was co-authored by CUNY DSI Director, Dr. Ramona Hernández and CUNY DSI Research Associate, Sarah Marrara.

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*Founded in 1992 and housed at The City College of New York, the Dominican Studies Institute of the City University of New York (CUNY DSI) is the nation's first university-based research institute devoted to the study of people of Dominican descent in the United States and other parts of the world. The Institute houses the Dominican Archives and the Dominican Library, the first and only institutions in the United States collecting primary and secondary source material about people of Dominican descent. CUNY DSI's mission is to produce and disseminate research and scholarship about Dominicans, and about the Dominican Republic. For more, visit http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/dsi.*