



National Latino Research Center Newsletter

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NLRC's Mission

To contribute to the knowledge and understanding of rapidly growing Latino populations through applied research, training, technical assistance, and research-based services.

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Promotoras in North San Diego County

As part of the Poder Popular Initiative, The National Latino Research Center, CommunityHousing Works, and the Vista Community Clinic have partnered to reach out to three communities in North San Diego County in an effort to begin the process of training community members to become promotores comunitarios.

Three field project coordinators from the Poder Popular Initiative are tirelessly working to organize residents throughout North San Diego County. Sandra Carmona, from the NLRC, works with community residents in Pala; Julio Quintero from Vista Community Clinic works with residents in Oceanside, and Leticia Jimenez from Community HousingWorks, organizes residents in Fallbrook.

The Poder Popular Initiative Works toward empowering the agricultural community to become advocates of their needs and participate in civic engagement in order to improve their health, communities and, overall well being.

The strategy of the Initiative is based on a Promotor model in which members of the community, possessing leadership skills and the desire to improve their community, are trained on various topics such as civics, grassroots organizing, asset mapping, conducting needs assessments, among other activities. Once

trained, the goal is that promotores will engage their neighbors to actively participate in organizing themselves so that their social needs are met and make positive changes in their community.

In Oceanside, many parents were paying eighty dollars a week per child for carpool services because there were no school buses going to their area for over a year due to budget cuts. The promotores led the community residents to collaborate with the Oceanside school district and brought back student transportation services to this area.

Similarly, in Pala, promotores advocated for the area known as Rice Canyon. The Rice Canyon community greatly needed medical services. After weeks of collaboration, the promotores partnered with North County Health Services to add a new route for the mobile clinic. These are only a few examples of the power of promotores. Their commitment and work toward the betterment of their own communities is an invaluable component of the Poder Popular Initiative.

For more information about this project, contact Dr. Konane Martinez at kmartine@csusm.edu or Sandra Carmona at carmona@csusm.edu.



Promotoras in Pala, California
Graduation Day - October 22, 2006

Greetings from the NLRC Director



Dr. Núñez-Álvarez
NLRC Interim Director

We've enjoyed a very productive semester and are looking forward to 2007! As we maneuver through challenging contemporary social and political issues affecting Latinos in our communities, we are thankful to our new and continuing NLRC staff, collaborators, supporters, and advisory committee members who share the NLRC vision and are committed to the ongoing *lucha* for social justice.

We continue working on projects focusing on applied research aiming to amplify the scope in which we study and evaluate social issues affecting Latinos, expand NLRC-University-Community collaborations, and integrate NLRC-sponsored and co-sponsored lectures into Chicano(a)/Latino(a) studies.

This semester, the NLRC piloted an innovative collaborative project with Dr. Bonnie Bade's Farmworker Health Ethnography class regarding the healthcare practices of local farmworker communities. Using quantitative ethnographic methods, students recorded work histories, living conditions, health behaviors, health histories, and use of clinical and non-clinical healthcare forms to assess the healthcare practices among local agricultural workers in North County San Diego.

We also sponsored a successful annual reception where we introduced our new projects and, hosted a series of lectures and forums, such as *De Colores* by Elizabeth "Betita" Martinez, to increase awareness about contemporary issues. Next semester, we will be co-sponsoring two important lectures by authors Sandra Cisneros and Sonia Nazario. Please look for details in our upcoming events announcements.

On behalf of the NLRC staff, we wish you an enjoyable winter break and invite you to join us next semester!

Sincerely,

Arcela Núñez-Álvarez, Konane Martínez, Ana Ardón, Sandra Carmona, Paul Hernandez, and Gloria Santos.

New Staff at the NLRC

Paul Hernandez

Paul joined the NLRC in July 2006. As the Data Analyst for the NLRC, he provides methodological and statistical support for many of the NLRC projects. The activities he oversees generally include providing assistance with project specific methodology, data collection, database design, data entry protocol, statistical analyses, and the interpretation of project results.



In addition to working at the NLRC, Paul is a graduate student at Cal State San Marcos, pursuing a Master's degree in Experimental Psychology. For more information, please contact Paul at phernand@csusm.edu.

Gloria M. Santos

Gloria is the new Administrative Assistant for the NLRC. She provides administrative support for the Center's management staff. She assists by managing projects, coordinating events, symposiums and conferences, and organizing project-related activities such as the execution of focus groups, community forums and other project-related tasks.



Gloria graduated from Cal State San Marcos in 1999 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. In the past, she has worked as a Program Director for an Early Child Development Center in Escondido, California, as an ESL Instructor (INEA) for Palomar College, teaching parenting classes for the San Diego Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE), as a Teen Program Supervisor for Foothill High School, and as a Social Worker and Parent Involvement Coordinator for MACC Project Head Start.

Gloria's interest lies in educating Latino parents with parenting classes to improve relationships with their children. For more information, please contact Gloria at gsantos@csusm.edu.

A Grassroots Effort in San Diego County

Latinos y Latinas en Acción (LLEA) is a community leadership and empowerment grassroots organization formed by community residents living in the Mid City area of San Diego, California. The organization has been working together since 2002 to address local issues facing the Latino community in the area such as safe standards of living, health, and education.

LLEA recently helped form a collaborative of parents, students, teachers, counselors, advocacy groups, and the NLRC to address racial and gender inequality in education in Mid City San Diego.

The Mid-City area is home to a culturally diverse population comprised of an estimated 47,661 children aged between 0-17 (6.6% of the region). According to the Census 2000, 52% of Mid-City's children are Hispanic, 13% White, 16% African/African-American, 13% Asian/Asian-American/Other, and 6% mixed race. Seventeen percent of residents have less than a 9th grade education and approximately 20% of Mid-City residents are high school graduates. These demographic trends reveal that educational needs of this population are key considerations.

This collaborative works to implement a two-pronged strategy consisting of research and constituency building/organizing involving local schools, parents, students, NGOs, and the NLRC. Through education, leadership and advocacy trainings, workshops, mentoring, participatory-action-research and evaluation, LLEA aims to implement activities/strategies to increase awareness about educational disparities, develop advocacy and policy priorities with local residents, advance grassroots civic engagement in educational reform, and support resident leadership development.

For more information about this grassroots organization, please contact the NLRC at nlrc@csusm.edu.



Members of LLEA with NLRC Director

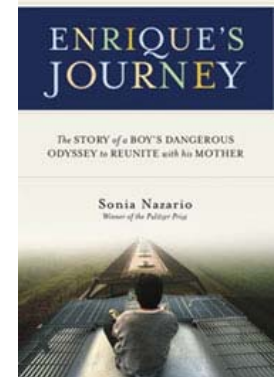
Spring Latino Conversation Series

The NLRC is collaborating with the San Diego Public Library and the Escondido Public Library on promoting a new and innovative project known as, "One Book, One City."

One Book, One City is an open invitation to everyone who lives, works or visits a city to read and discuss the same book. The campaign was developed to promote an appreciation for reading and encourage discussion about books and important issues to our community. Several cities in San Diego County will join the efforts to promote this valuable activity. The City of San Diego will be discussing *Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario. The City of Escondido will be reading *Caramelo* and *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros. Lecture presentations and other related events will be held in the community. These events aim to increase positive awareness about Latinos in San Diego. For more details, please visit: <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/news-events/onebook.shtml>.

Based on the Los Angeles Times newspaper series that won two Pulitzer Prizes, *Enrique's Journey* is the timeless story of families torn apart, the yearning to be together again, and a boy who will risk his life to find the mother he loves.

In this astonishing true story, award-winning journalist Sonia Nazario recounts the unforgettable odyssey of a Honduran boy who braves unimaginable hardship and peril to reach his mother in the United States.



Drawing heavily upon her childhood experiences and ethnic heritage as the daughter of a Mexican father and Chicana mother, Sandra Cisneros addresses poverty, cultural suppression, self-identity, and gender roles in her fiction and poetry. She creates characters who are distinctly Latina/o and often isolated from mainstream American culture by emphasizing dialogue and sensory imagery over traditional narrative structures. Cisneros seeks to create an idiom that integrates both prosaic and poetic syntax.

NLRC participates in Border Health Forum

In October, Dr. Konane Martinez, NLRC's health projects coordinator, was invited to participate in the First United States-Mexico Binational Border Health Research Forum. The event took place in Monterrey, Mexico and was organized by the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission. The United States-Mexico Border Health Commission (BHC or Commission) was created as a binational health commission in July 2000, with the signing of an agreement by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of the United States and the Secretary of Health of Mexico. On December 21, 2004 the Commission was designated as a Public International Organization by Executive Order of the President. The mission of the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission is to provide international leadership to optimize health and quality of life along the U.S.-Mexico border. The Commission is comprised of the federal secretaries of health, the chief health officers of the ten border states and, prominent community health professionals from both nations.

The purpose of the convening was to begin long-term and coordinated dialogues and actions focused on understanding the present-day border health research environment as well as overall gaps in border health research. Twenty five researchers from each side of the border were selected to participate in the forum. CSUSM was the only university represented from the State of California.

At the intensive two day forum participants worked to identify areas of needed research, how to best disseminate and share data, and processes by which to conduct research collaboratively alongside and across the border. The forum was a very productive one and allowed participants to not only network and share common interests but to provide feedback to the USMBHC on pressing issues impacting border health issues.

The forum builds upon the expertise of the NLRC in the area of border health. In 2004 the NLRC completed an organizational capacity study in the area of border health that has helped guide many agencies working in the border area in improving their capacity to work in the field. For more information about border health, please visit the NLRC website (www.csusm.edu/nlrc) to download a report commissioned by The California Endowment.

Remembering Dr. René Núñez

By Arcela Núñez-Álvarez

I first met Dr. René Núñez during the Latino Education Summit at the San Diego County Office of Education. He addressed a class full of Latino parents, encouraged them to get involved in education to improve the educational crisis our youth currently faces, and continued to work with parents throughout the county in the aftermath of the summit, year after year.



Dr. René Núñez

Dr. Nunez's exemplary life provides an educational blueprint as important as the El Plan de Santa Barbara he helped draft in 1969, a plan created to change educational structure in the United States by integrating Chicano Studies into mainstream curriculum.

Having served in the United States army, he earned his bachelor's, two master's degrees and a Ph.D. in education. While his academic credentials are superb, I was most impressed by his humanitarian philosophy. Throughout his life, Dr. Núñez supported the Chicano/a civil rights movement. In 1968, he joined the student walkouts in East Los Angeles to protest academic prejudice and school conditions. He marched in support of immigrant rights and spoke on behalf of students and parents.

He was born on March 10, 1936, in San Diego and grew up in Logan Heights and died on June 30, 2006 in San Diego. Dr. Núñez, Professor Emeritus at SDSU, Founding Member of Chicano Studies at SDSU, teacher, scholar, activist, mentor, elder, advocate, and community leader, will live in the actions of leaders and educators he mentored throughout the years.

CSUSM Students Participate in Summer Program in Washington, D.C.

For the past two years, the NLRC has collaborated with the Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR) to support the Summer Institute for Latino Public Policy (SILPP), a one-week workshop focusing on Latino public policy. This year, two students represented San Diego and CSUSM in the workshop. Nancy Martínez-Molano and Daisy Alonso were among 35 students from across the United States selected to attend.

IUPLR is national consortium of university-based research centers dedicated to expand the knowledge of Latino communities, as well as support future scholars and leaders. The NLRC has been a member of IUPLR since 2003 and collaborates with other research centers to share information and resources.

SILPP is a very rigorous workshop aiming to increase leadership skills and knowledge of Latino public policy among college students, as well as to build strong networks with students from other universities. This year, Daisy and Nancy had the opportunity to meet with representatives from grassroots organizations, national governmental organizations, and community agencies. Through these meetings, the students were exposed to the daily activities of these organizations to better understand their goals and objectives and the ways in which they conduct their work in the context of public policy.

Students were also exposed to the political arena by meeting with senators and representatives from their districts to advocate for the well-being of their communities. These activities provided a closer look at the process of public policy from the perspective of lawmakers.

The NLRC hopes that, through this workshop, students are better equipped to be leaders in their communities and become more knowledgeable about the legislative process in the U.S.

The NLRC wishes to thank President Haynes, The Office of Student Affairs, and the Office of Graduate Studies for providing financial support to make this experience possible for Daisy and Nancy.

Student Highlights

Nancy Martínez-Molano was born in Oaxaca, Mexico and moved to the U.S. when she was 5 years old. When her father died, her mother had to support her and four other children. After her father's death she decided that she needed to work very hard in school in order to accomplish what she set out to do in life. Nancy is now a college student, first generation in her family, working on a double major in Women's Studies, Criminology and Justice Studies. She is also very involved in student organizations such as the Women's Studies Student Association (WSSA), Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (M.E.Ch.A), TRIOTA Women's Studies Honor Society, and the Oaxaca Student Organization (OSO). She decided early on that her passion was in helping others. Thus, her goal is to go to law school and become an immigration attorney addressing issues such as immigrant rights and women's rights.

Daisy Alonso has been a student at CSUSM since fall 2004. She is actively involved in campus and community organizations. She has helped the NLRC in many campus events, such as the César Chávez Vigil, the Dolores Huerta event, and other important activities that help increase the knowledge of Latinos in the local community. Her community and academic participation has enticed her to create change and to empower others in her community. She is a strong advocate of education. She has been involved in educational programs that assist Latino groups in local schools. Her work in the community is very committed to educational issues. Daisy is a member of the Regional English Language Advisory Committee (RELAC) that aims to support the needs of immigrant families in local schools.

Nancy Martínez-Molano and Daisy Alonso are very involved in school and the community. Their advocacy and leadership abilities are a statement to their commitment to address social issues in their communities.



Daisy Alonso and Nancy Martínez-Molano
with Ana Ardón (NLRC) in D.C.

