El Centro Mission Statement:
“Providing an inclusive learning environment that welcomes all students. El Centro supports and strengthens the academic and cultural experience of students by providing workshops; leadership opportunities and Latina/o cultural awareness programs that promote students success and retention.”

Core Values:
1. Academic support/success
2. Cultural Awareness/Enrichment
3. Resources
4. Retention

Program Coordinator, Zulema Sierra

In her own words:
I was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. My mother is Guatemalan and my father is Mexican. I grew up speaking Spanish, primarily, and learned English in school. I completed my BA at CSU in 2008 and am currently working on my MS in the Student Affairs in Higher Education program at CSU. My anticipated graduation date is May 2013. Upon graduation, I plan on working at an University preferably with a TRIO program helping students bridge from high school into college. My passion is assisting underrepresented populations get to college and graduate.
The Upside of Winter

The Winter Solstice

The December solstice is also known as the "summer solstice" in the southern hemisphere. It is the winter solstice only in the northern hemisphere. The winter solstice is the shortest day of the year, respectively, in the sense that the length of time elapsed between sunrise and sunset on this day is a minimum for the year.

In the northern hemisphere, the Winter solstice is day of the year (near December 22) when the Sun is farthest south. However, in the southern hemisphere, winter and summer solstices are exchanged so that the winter solstice is the day on which the Sun is farthest north. The winter solstice marks the first day of the season of winter. The declination of the Sun on the (northern) winter solstice is known as the tropic of Capricorn (~-23° 27').

May his dream be our reality!

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.”

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day — A Recap

I Have A Dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

This was the scene in Denver’s Marade. The combination of a Parade and March to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King. His vision and dream for SOCIAL JUSTICE to reach all men, women and children was his passion until the day he died.

Upcoming Events

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<td>El Centro Staff Retreat</td>
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<td>January 25</td>
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<td>February 2</td>
<td>Lecture Series: Contestation &amp; Moral Stance</td>
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<td>February 6</td>
<td>Graduate Student of Color Reception &amp; Forum</td>
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<td>March 26‒30</td>
<td>Cesar Chavez Week</td>
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<td>May 4</td>
<td>El Centro Awards Ceremony</td>
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Remember that we have survived the false predictions before:

2001, Millennium Doomsday 1999

Scene from the movie: 2012
Graduate Watch

Written by: Phyllis Chacon

We ended the semester with a holiday festivity where everyone brought an appetizer and a favorite White Elephant gift. But before the exchange we broke into groups and played some games, yes, we did play games. As the facilitator I had the best time, I am sorry, I am still smiling. The exchange of gifts was filled with angst; one never new if their gift would be snatched away. Of course some prayed that their gift would be loved by someone else. One person’s junk is another’s treasure. LOL!

We will be gathering again soon, stay posted. If you have ideas, let me know. For more information please contact Phyllis Chacon <pcjustice@gmail.com>.

Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy & Research Organization (CLLARO)

CLLARO 2012 Public Policy Summit Photos – Media Center

More than 150 people attended the Third Annual Public Policy Summit, at the University of Colorado campus in Denver, on January 7, 2012. The event was hosted by the Colorado Latino Leadership Advocacy & Research Organization (CLLARO). January 7th!

Keynote speakers included

*Colorado Latino Forum

*Colorado Latino Leadership

Advocacy & Research Organization GOAL:

To achieve a Colorado without disparities in educational achievement, economic opportunity, social integration, health & well being, and civic representation.

Your attendance is enthusiastically requested by

Provost, Rick Miranda
Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs, Jodi Hanzlik
Vice President of Diversity, Mary Ontiveros

To Attend

Graduate Student of Color Reception and Forum

University Club in the Lory Student Center

February 6th

5:00pm to 7:00pm

Remarks will occur at 5:15 p.m. Appetizers and beverages will be served.

RSVP Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs Office: Bonnie.Beer@colostate.edu (970) 491-3702 by January 31st, 2012
El Centro is one of the seven diversity centers at Colorado State University. A marker of efficacy for a diversity center is student outreach (attendance). On average, El Centro receives 55 students per day. This AMAZING number is evidence of the dedication of the staff and community of El Centro. The hope of El Centro’s staff is to receive even more student engagement... So...

**DON’T BE SHY,**

**STOP ON BY!**

### January birthdays

Lee Camacho, January 6  
Lupita Mendoza, January 26

Birthdays are good for you. Statistics show that people who have the most, live the longest!

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**El Centro**  
178 Lory Student Center  
Colorado State University

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**Doctoral Candidate Education**

**Leadership Renewal & Change: Peace & Reconciliation**  
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