El Centro: A Year in Review

2011

El Centro

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF COLORADO STATE’S LATINO COMMUNITY.

“Helping you achieve your educational goals.”

2012

Graduates

Bachelor’s Degree

Doctorate Degree
El Centro is one among several diversity offices. These offices are referred to as Student Diversity Student Programs. They include El Centro, Native American Cultural Center (NACC), Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT), Asian Pacific American Cultural Center (APACC), Black African-American Cultural Center (BAACC), Women's and Gender Advocacy Center (WGAC), Resources for Disabled Students (RDS), Adult Learner and Veteran Services (ALVS), and Office of International Programs.

This program has been serving students in the Fort Collins community for over twenty years. It has worked in collaboration with the Center for Science Math and Technology Education; Triunfo/Triumph Tutoring Program is an after school outreach program aimed at assisting local PSD K-5 grade students with homework. The program is free of charge and connects current CSU students with local students every Thursday from 4-6pm. The program is held in the Natural Environmental Science building on the 3rd floor here at Colorado State University.

"We will surely get to our destination if we join hands."
Kyi, Aung San Suu Burmese political leader (1945-)

Successful Collaborations

"It is the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed." - Charles Darwin

Graduate News

El Centro has recently started a graduate group, “TODOS JUNTOS”. In September 2011, we collaborated with NACC and invited all graduates to a Meet & Greet connecting other graduates with each other and letting them know they are not alone. They had an opportunity to meet graduates who have been through the process. They were connected with mentors and we established an ongoing support system via El Centro. We averaged one gathering per month.

What we want for Graduates:
Managing stress & maintaining a balanced life —
Being part of a Co-hort
Financial Aid — Scholarships
Mentoring
Social Interaction with:
*Faculty
*Peers
*Family

What we do Not want for Graduates
Isolation
Cultural Disconnect
Lack of Mentors/Lack of Latino/Native American mentors
Lack of guidance/resources for financial issues/challenges
Lack of balancing, school, work, & family
Lack of a sense of belonging
Inclusion in classes

Tips to Help Along the Way
-Be available to your professors
-Surround yourself with positive people
-Creative & solution oriented
-Lose your ego.

-It is a lonely journey (you cannot please everyone—especially family)
-Expect the unexpected in every possible way
SDPS PEER MENTOR TRAINING

All SDPS offices collaborated in the beginning of the 2011/2012 school year to embark on a “Peer Mentor Training” program. Through their collaborative efforts they were able to reinforce the culture of working together throughout the year. Each peer mentor was able to deliver this message on to their students. The peer resource leaders from each office were then able to comfortably visit the other offices and continue the collaboration process knowing they were welcome. These initial efforts of each office coming together proved successful to the overall welfare of a diversified campus. Each office is supporting the other offices in their individual events throughout the school year. There is shared collaboration yet each office is able to remain unique in their culture.

MGC SALSA TASTING

This event was sponsored by the Multicultural Greek Council (MCG). The event’s educational piece focused on Latin Music. A salsa competition; where each Greek organization prepared a salsa and tasters voted. There was a poster display and presentations.
SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH OCTOBER 15

National Hispanic Heritage Month featured a medley of events hosted by El Centro. Students, staff, and community members all joined in on these fun-filled, insightful events exemplifying Hispanic Heritage.

Some of the information sessions included controversial or interested topics, such as The Dream Act, intersecting identities, preconception and misconceptions, immigration, and so forth.

Since 1988, the government put aside September 15 through October 15 to honor the contribution of Hispanic Americans. The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

This Year's Theme: “Many Backgrounds, Many Stories…One American Spirit”

RECALL OF FALL 2011

⇒ Preconceptions & Misconceptions of Latin Culture
c-sponsor BACC
⇒ Real Talk: Intersecting Identities of Afro Latinos
c-sponsor BACC
⇒ Dream Act: A Path to Citizenship co-sponsor
⇒ Lamda Theta Nu
⇒ El Grito De Independencia– September 16 co-sponsor La Raza
⇒ Career path Internships co-sponsor INROADS
⇒ Undocumented Queer standing together co-sponsors La Raza & GLBT
⇒ Resume Workshop co-sponsor Career Center
⇒ World Unity Fair co-sponsor International Education
⇒ History of Stepping co-sponsor Black Student Alliance
⇒ Stress Less co-sponsor University Student Health
⇒ Lincoln Middle School co-sponsor Poudre school dis-

RECALL OF SPRING 2012

⇒ El Centro Open House
⇒ Financial Aid 101
⇒ Somos Rams Leadership Retreat
⇒ Cesar Chavez Awards Ceremony
⇒ Prison: Unlocked
⇒ Celebration of Graduates
⇒ Cinco de Mayo
⇒ El Centro Award Ceremony
⇒ Middle School & High School Visitations
Carlos Jaquez
Colorado State University
Freshman

SCHOLASTIC HONORS: 3.57 GPA, Honors Student
CAREER/COLLEGE PLANS: Health & Exercise Science Major with Sports Medicine Concentration
HOBBIES: Basketball, Playing with the Mariachi in San Luis
FAMILY MEMBERS: Charlie (father), Kathy (mother), David (brother)
FAVORITE CLASS: Spanish
FAVORITE TEACHER: Dr. Von Fisher
FAVORITE FOOD: Italian
FAVORITE T.V. SHOW: That 70’s Show
PERSONAL GOALS: To become a general physician

FAVORITE QUOTE: "Most success springs from an obstacle or failure." Words from a fortunate cookie

Carlos is from the small, rural town of San Luis, CO, where he graduated from a school amongst 26 classmates and earning the title of salutatorian. Upon his graduation at Colorado State University, he wishes to attend medical school at University of Colorado Denver or the University of New Mexico. After earning his medical degree, he plans on moving back to the San Luis Valley to help provide exceptional health care to the people of his home community in an attempt to give back to those who have always supported him.
**Fall 2011**

**September 29:** Meet Your El Centro Peer Resource Leader

**October 6:** Body Peace

**October 13:** “What the Greek?” discussion about the Greek Community at CSU

**October 20:** United Men of Color Meet and Greet

**October 27:** “GLBTQ and Other” and “De Colores” discussion on Multiple Identities

**November 3:** Resume Workshop and Resume Review

**November 10:** Paying Tribute to our Latino Indigenous Roots!

**November 17:** History of Stepping, with Black Student Alliance

**December 8:** Test Taking Tips

**Spring 2012**

**March 6:** Time Management and Academic Probation: Road to Redemption

**March 20:** Life is Unexpected

**March 27:** Cesar Chavez Week — Chicano CSU, Then and Now

**April 3:** SAVA Presentation on Sexual Assault

**April 10:** College Life Off-Campus. How to Survive Roommates and Other Challenges

**April 17:** La Raza Week: — Un Pedacito de Mexico

**May 1:** Cinco de Mayo, El Dia de Las Madrez, and Other Latino Holidays

The Sala de Charla is an event that was held throughout the year to inform students about various topics. Many of the topics discussed were used to inform others about the Latino culture; other events were used to assist students in challenging situations they may face at Colorado State University. With all these events and topics, which are conveniently hosted in El Centro’s Sala, valuable information is shared among all the students in attendance.

The Sala de Charla of the 2011-2012 school year was very successful. Stay tuned for the upcoming school year to see if the Sala de Charla is still available to all interested students.
For Halloween, all the offices in the Lory Student Center compete to see who can pull off the best Halloween-themed office. The prize for having the most festive office is a pizza party for all the staff members. A committee of judges makes the final decision on the winning office. As for El Centro, the theme chosen was Hocus Pocus. All the staff members worked extremely hard to put up tarps, make decorations, and change up the office. The Sanderson sisters were played by Lupe, Phyllis, and Rocio; Billy the zombie was played by Roberto, who also acted as a tour guide. In the end, El Centro did not win the event, being that the office was a little too scary. However, the event was a major success!

On November 12, Colorado State University hosted the World Unity Fair. This comprised of numerous organizations representing a different country to create a sense of world unity. Food, dancing, and information was shared among each of the represented countries. El Centro decided to represent the country of Puerto Rico. In addition, El Centro made several pans of flan for the event. With all the food available from the various countries, a contest was held for the best drink, entre, and dessert. Due to the exquisite flan that was created from El Centro staff, we took the gold in the competition for “Best Dessert”.

El Centro and APACC joined forces to welcome back their students with an old fashioned BBQ at Lee Martinez Park. 200 students, faculty, and community members stopped by to welcome the returning and incoming freshmen. We had a great P.A. system with music, singing, and dancing. There was great food that was being made on site while others enjoyed the entertainment.
We have made contact with graduate students across campus and across the country. El Centro’s first year of graduate student support has been slowly expanding and evolving.

Local students have made their way into the comfort of the El Centro community. Long distance students have acknowledged our presence and have expressed gratitude for the contact. The attendance at events are slowly increasing.

Meet and Greet September 29, 2011

**What we want for you is**

To: Manage stress & Maintain a balanced Life. Todos Juntos will provide a Co-hort.

You can become a mentor to others.

**Graduate Watch Recap 2011-2012**

**How to Flourish in Graduate School:**
- Be available to your professors.
- Surround yourself with positive people.
- **Creative & solution oriented**
- Lose your ego.
- It is a lonely journey (you cannot please everyone—especially family)
- Expect the unexpected in every possible way.
- Trust your gut—If it feels right, it probably is.
- Pace yourself—Try to prevent yourself from burning out.

**Goals:**
- Long term: 5—10—yrs etc
- Graduate program Priority
- Commitment: keep the prize in sight.
- Short term: week-Month—semester
- Focus on the term at hand.
- The project, the test, the paper, the class.
- Be in the moment—the here and now.
- Learning styles: in the classroom; study outside the classroom organize your time and materials.
- What do you really need to carry with you to class? Are you organized or fumbling?

**Summer Events**

**June**
- Drive-In Movie Night

**July**
- Lory State Park Hike & Picnic

**August**
- Ramapalooza
- Ram welcome

We finished the semester with a spring celebration May 5. Twenty six students were in attendance. We want to congratulate the following students who graduated this spring:
- Delma Ramos M.S.
- Moises Padilla M.S.
- Jennifer Nival M.S.
- Phyllis Chacon Ph.D.

CONGRATULATIONS!
El Centro Outstanding Student Organizations

SOGLBT
Delta Xi Nu Multicultural Sorority, Inc

El Centro Outstanding MGC Awards:

Nu Alpha Kappa Fraternity, Inc
Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Inc
Sigma Lambda Beta, Fraternity, Inc

El Centro Outstanding Student Volunteers Award:

Juan Flores
Josh Fainsod
Chase Jones

Outstanding El Centro Staff award:

Marta Alvarez
Mayra Granados

Dr. Guadalupe Salazar Outstanding Student Award: This award is given through Dr. Sala-zar’s personal reserves. This year’s award was $200.00. Dr. Salazar’s goal is to increase this amount each year to reach a minimum amount of $1,000.00.

This year’s recipient was Adam Nieto: Adam is very involved both on and off campus: President of Sigma Lambda Beta, Key Academic Mentor, CSU- UADY Leadership exchange program, Volunteer for Triunfo, CORE, Cesar Chavez celebration, Dia de Los Muertos, Slam Poetry night, National Hispanic Heritage Month & other events at El Centro while maintaining a 3.0 GPA.

El Centro Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award finalist - Arlene Nededog

El Centro Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award - “Dr. Antonette Aragon
A unique faculty member who can sustain an impressive research record in critical multicultural education while valuing her teaching, investing in the success of her students, and involving herself in important local community issues.

Outstanding El Centro Graduate Student: Surprise- Phyllis Chacon
El Centro Awards Ceremony
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 El Centro Staff hope to receive even more student engagement… So…

**El Centro Outreach Statistics**

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<td>September</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
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<td>November</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
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<td><strong>TOTALS:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
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Don’t be shy, stop on by!

**SUMMER BIRTHDAYS**

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<tr>
<td>Guadalupe Davila</td>
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<td>Claudia Hernandez</td>
<td>May 26</td>
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<td>Diana Gallegos</td>
<td>June 1</td>
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<td>Nathaniel Phelps</td>
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<td>Jesus Meza</td>
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<td>Juan Flores</td>
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<td>Brandy Salazar</td>
<td>August 19</td>
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Leadership Renewal & Change: Peace & Reconciliation

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