

# *14th Annual National M.E.Ch.A. Conference*

## *WORKSHOPS: NUESTRA HISTORIA*

### *The 21 Year-Old Struggle for the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant*

Session(s): 1, 3

This session will discuss the legal and grassroots efforts of a Chicana/o community in southern Colorado to regain their historical use rights to La Sierra. This struggle is one of the most significant and greatest victories for Raza in the Southwest.

### *Lowriders in Aztlan*

Session(s): 1

A brief overview of the history and impact of Lowrider Culture among Chicana/os and the Chicana/o Community

### *What is National Liberation?*

Session(s): 1, 2

The workshop will present views on National liberation within the context of the Chicano Movement and the recent repression against our communities by ICE.

### *The Legal Racist Institution: The Prison Industrial Complex*

Session(s): 1, 3

The 13<sup>th</sup> amendment to the US constitution “abolished” slavery in 1865. However, the exceptions include “except as a punishment for crime, where the party shall have been dually convicted”. Is the racist institution of slavery still alive today in other forms? Join us for a critical analysis on the institution that is the Prison Industrial Complex to find out!

### *M.E.Ch.A. 101*

Session(s): 1

A brief look into Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana y Chicano de Aztlan (M.E.Ch.A.); Past, Present & Future. This workshop will also go over Los Planes, the Philosophy of M.E.Ch.A., and the structure of our organization. Q & A's will also be addressed through out the workshop.

### *Ricardo Falcon: Hero and student activist of the Chicano Movement*

Session(s): 2, 3

Ricardo Falcon was killed on his way to the National La Raza Unida Convention in El Paso Texas in 1972. This workshop will discuss the role of student activism in political movements.

### *We Must Tell Our Own Stories, or They Will Die With us*

Session(s): 2, 3

Let us tell our own stories that reflect our lives, our experiences, to rediscover the heroes in our families, and be able to express our struggles and triumphs. The stories of pride and victories from struggles of a Mexicana, Chicana, and Indigena are how she came to be. What will happen to our stories if we don't share them, who will pass them on to our children or to others for generations to come?

*Chican@ student movement: fight for survival.  
Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow.*

Session(s): 1,5

A fast-paced presentation defining why an effective national Chican@ student organization is needed to fight for the educational rights of the Chican@, Mexican@ community, now more than ever. We will discuss how campus, state, and federal agencies can create major interferences to block the sincere efforts of minority students trying to increase minority enrollment at their schools, including provoking activists into violent confrontations.

*Chicana/o Literature in the Midwest*

Session(s): 2, 4

Our focus will be on Chicana/os that came out of Chicago. We will be discussing Chicana/os from the Midwest such as Ana Castillo, David Hernandez, Paul Martinez Pompa, and Carlos Cortez. We will also study how solidarity between Chicana/os and other groups help push for social justice in the city. Moreover, we will analyze how Chicana/os from the Midwest have felt an obligation to help out our compañera/os in the struggle for rights for farm workers in the Southwest. We, as a M.E.Ch.A chapter in the Midwest, feel it is necessary to examine Chicanismo in the context of the history that surrounds our region.

*The History and Legacy of the Crusade for Justice*

Session(s): 3, 4

A panel of three generation of activists will give oral histories, philosophies, and undocumented histories and stories, of one of the most progressive Chicano Political Movement organizations. Historical videos, musica, art, and literature will transform the minds as we honor La Raza, through the experience of the people who lived, died and struggled for self-determination. A history of Chicana/o familia organizational structures: 1965 to indigenous Xicana.o Kalpulli. Viva La Raza!

*M.E.Ch.A. 101*

Session(s): 3, 4

This workshop provides students the history of the Chicano Movement, what MEChA represents, and how the organization came about. The main purpose is to give a historical overview to the conditions that existed in the past and how it relates to Chicana/os today. MEChA 101 addresses issues of self identification through terminology and the importance of the label Chicana or Chicano. In doing so students will gain a better understanding about who we are, where we come from and the importance of Chicana/o activism in the progression of deconstructing oppressive institutions for the advancement of all oppressed communities.

*Jesus Helguera: Heroic scenes of a proud and triumphant race*

Session(s): 3

In this workshop we will present visual images by Jesus Helguera that depict the rich indigenous stories of Pre-Columbian symbols based on Aztec spirituality. These images celebrate the ancient cultures with the assistance of social and artistic movements set up by the new, post-revolutionary government. “La Leyenda de los Volcanes” is one of the most important paintings that assisted in promoting this new attitude towards the ancient indigenous.

### *Gang Formations in Our Communities*

Session(s): 3, 5

A brief history of gang formations in California, looking closely at the Bloods and Crips, and Sureños and Nortenos (in Califas), and how these gangs were formed initially as a form of protection from guards, police brutality, and other gangs, and not as a form of violence against other gangs. Then, discussing why people join gangs, affects of being a gang member, and solutions— focusing on solutions, and what has been done in the past, the present, and what we can do in the near future.

### *From Maria to Dora: Chicanas in the Media*

Session(s): 5

Raza women are often objectified and only allowed stereotypical roles in film and television. We will look at such films as West Side Story, Mi Vida Loca and more recent portrayals such as Ugly Betty and Dora the Explorer. We will discuss how we can change these portrayals and empower our communities.

### *Venceremos*

Session(s): 4, 5

Presentation about the U of U's progressive newspaper from 1992-2003. Followed by a discussion about how progressive newspaper and media can contribute to the Movimiento.

### *Chican@ Art: Expression and Identity*

Session(s): 4, 5

This workshop will highlight Chican@ artists including local, national and international. We will also go over Chican@ Art History and highlight empowering portrayals and alternative media our Raza has used in the movimiento.

### *M.E.Ch.A. 101*

Session(s): 2

Explaining the his/her story of M.E.Ch.A., and the role M.E.Ch.A. played/plays in the Chicano/a Movement. Summarizing the founding documentos, checking out the relevancy today. Emphasizing how M.E.Ch.A. is part of the movement, and only a step towards your future as a MEChistA to take back to your community all the skills and consciousness M.E.Ch.A. provided for you. And finally, how can M.E.Ch.A. be improved in your opinion?

### *Chicana Experiences: A Look at Education and Identity*

Session(s): 4

A muxerista and feminista approach to the way we teach, learn and know. We will use the works of Gloria Anzaldua, Dr. Dolores Delgado-Bernal and Sofia Villenas to create discussion.

### *The Political Battle for Comprehensive Immigration Reform*

Session(s): 2, 3

The workshop will cover the historical, political, social and cultural aspects of immigration reform and its deleterious effects on the Raza community. The presenters will discuss various aspects of immigration including the ICE Raids in Colorado.

### *The History of Danza in Coloraztlan*

Session(s): 1

Come hear about the history and culture of Grupo Tlaloc. The Danza group will also discuss how Danza has grown in ColorAztlan.

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## WORKSHOPS: NUESTRA CULTURA

### Tonalmaxiotl: Aztek Calendar (Intro to the Sun Stone)

Session(s): 1, 4

This is an introduction to the tonalmaxiotl (Aztek Calendar). The lecture will cover the Nahuatl language and philosophy. I will discuss the symbols in the stone and their significance. Many which are based in science and math. Science is our basis for investigation. I will attempt to present at least one thing that will make u say "I did not know that?" The presenter takes a critical look at history from the mexika perspective. We will discuss things that are not found in books. There is always two sides to every story....

### When "Gay" is not enough: Theorizing Queer Identity

Session(s): 1, 2

Historically, "Gay" as an identity has been used to homogenize a broad, diverse community, ignoring and silencing issues of race and gender. This workshop will discuss the limitations of a gay identity and offers queer as an alternative that better includes those living in the intersections of identity.

### Poesia Coral/Choral Poetry

Session(s): 1, 2

Promoting culture, education and revolution with the words of our leaders. Movement, voice and performance using the poems/YO SOY JOAQUIN/Stupid America/I am the Peon.

### Music as a Component of Indigenous Culture

Session(s): 2, 3

Utilizing music for self-empowerment, organizing, & uniting the souls of every community. We will also explore historic & contemporary roles of music within our communities

### ¿Qué Dices?" A look at el #habla de l@s Chican@s: Caló, Tex-Mex, Spanglish, Chican@ Language and Dialect

Session(s): 4

An interactive and fun workshop designed to educate on our Raza speech. Learn about the history and social use of each language and dialect.

### Arts, Dance, and Music of La Danza

Session(s): 3

Enjoy a first hand experience in the arts, dance, and music of La Danza de Mexica.

### Teatro: From Repression to Revolution!

Session(s): 2, 5

Using theater of the oppressed to create social change. Tired of the repression and oppression, calling for a revolution!

### *Muxerismo, Ch/Xicanismo: Nuestro Movimiento, Our Struggle*

Session(s): 3

What is muxerismo? Why is it important and fundamental to our movimiento? This workshop explores the role of la muxer within the Chican@ movement through a gendered lens.

### *Deities within the Nahuatl Ollin*

Session(s): 2

Learn about the Nahuatl Ollin and each of its deities; Quetzalcoatl, Tezcatlipoca, Mictlantecuhtli, Huitzilopochtli, Tonatiuh, and Tonantzin.

### *Labels and Identities*

Session(s): 1, 2

A discussion on the various identities, names and labels that are used to describe our community. We will look at how terms like Hispanic, Latin@, and many others have impacted Chican@ identity and the ways in which we can work to decolonize our perceptions.

### *Xueer, "Queer with an X"*

Session(s): 4, 5

Jotera will no longer be silenced; Xueer with an X is our reclamation, our liberation. Xueer challenges the eurocentric, male-identified spaces that exist even within the LGBTIQ community.

### *The Effects of Immigration on Cultural Identity*

Session(s): 4

A bilingual analysis of the effects of immigration on children and teenagers while exploring and understanding various cultural roots. A visit into the unknown and/or unacknowledged culture of the Afro-Mexican.

### *La Malinche: Mujer Abandonada,*

### *Golpeada, y Humillada entre la Historia Mexicana*

Session(s): 3, 4

This workshop's purpose is to discover and explore the role of Maliztin Tenepal (Malinche) as we reinterpret her role and openly discuss her stereotypes about how the Malinche affects women today. As we discuss her involvement in Mexican History, colonization and how society applies all women as Malinches and its ties to the women of Juarez.

### *La Mexica Cultura de ColorAztlán*

Session(s): 5

Learn the meanings of the instruments, regalia, and altar of Mihtotiliztli (La Danza).

*X-press Yourself!! Hip-Hop, Poetry, and Spoken Word*

Session(s): 4

Step inside this workshop and learn how to express your thoughts and feelings through hip hop, poetry, and spoken word. Give voice to our stories of love, struggle, injustice, and celebration.

*The Beyond Chicanismo Oral History Project: Building New Roads to Liberation*

Session(s): 1, 2

This workshop will explore how to utilize oral history as a pedagogical tool, which can enable students to become producers of knowledge (an original goal in the creation of Chican@ studies) as opposed to consumers and empty vessels who receive knowledge. The intent is to empower students and youth to take back their history through self-determination (via oral history interviews of the heart and soul of the movimiento) rekindling and keeping alive the spirit of radical praxis, struggle and liberation.

*Reclaiming El Rebozo y La Faja*

RoomSession(s): 4, 5

This workshop will be a hands-on learning of the rebozo and faja as part of a medicinal instrument of traditional Mexican medicina. Participants will learn how to use it for protection, and stress reduction. Everyone should bring either a rebozo, a faja, a long yarn belt, shawl or a long piece of sturdy material.

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## WORKSHOPS: NUESTRO FUTURO

### The Future of Danza

Session(s): 4

Learn how the preservation for our future generations relies on the responsibilities, commitments, and obligations of danzantes.

### Getting Into College Fundamentals

Session(s): 1, 2, 3

This presentation will provide students with an overview of how to plan and then apply for College and Financial Aid. Students will be given a timeline to use as a resource. We will also discuss college resources available to student. We want to have students be aware of all the possibilities and some requirements to help them succeed in their higher education goals.

### Abolish Columbus Day!

Session(s): 1, 2,

Through grassroots efforts, the movement to abolish Columbus Day has informed a new generation to decolonize and transform Columbus Day. To eradicate this racist holiday changes are needed in legislation and, education; from Washington to the streets.

### From the Fields to the Table: The Struggle for Dignity and Food

Session(s): 1, 3

This participatory workshop will explore the Coalition of Immokalee Worker's (CIW) campaign against McDonald's and the crucial role that students and youth have to play in it. We will discuss aspects of the Student Farmworker Alliance 's (SFA) and CIW's unique organizing philosophies, on-the-ground concrete victories, and current campaign and strategies to confront the Golden Arches. Because the MEChA Nationals will be taking place in Denver, the workshop will also involve discussion about Chipotle, based in Denver. Solidarity from MEChistAs across the country has always been very important and will continue to be.

### Mujer 2. Mujer

Session(s): 3, 5

Empowering Mujeres to know their bodies. We will discuss everything from STD/STI's to HIV/AIDS along with birth control, safe sex and womyn's health. Join us in our discussion and share your stories with us. Men are encouraged to attend.

### Making Sure Our Schools Respect Labor Rights

Session(s): 1, 4

As students, we have a lot of power on our campus to work in solidarity with workers and ensure that our schools respect workers rights. Find out how you can get involved in this!

### *Economic Justice and Worker's Rights in the US*

Session(s): 1

Ever wonder why the over 45 million workers, who want to form a union, can't seem to get one? In this workshop we will find out more about the concerted attack against workers' rights to organize and the union-busting industry. We'll talk about the ramifications of students and workers being denied a voice at work and how students can play an active role in ensuring that the right to organize is respected.

### *SPEAKING OUT: English-Only in Utah*

Session(s): 1, 2

Examine the English only law within the state of Utah, related to bilingual education. Explain the role of Jackson Elementary Adelante program, a bilingual/bicultural education program, and how they surpassed this obstacle. This workshop will also discuss English-only laws that also affect the rest of the United States.

### *21<sup>st</sup> Century Preparation*

Session(s): 2, 3

The presenter will provide a historical overview of Raza in the United States, their current political, economic and educational status, their contributions to the development of the United States and what is necessary to succeed and survive in the 21st Century.

### *Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery*

Session(s): 1, 2,3

This workshop will examine the issue human trafficking and modern-day slavery at an international and national level. It will cover the legal definition of human trafficking, as well as its various forms, elements, common myths, statistics, and factors contributing to the trafficking of persons. Additional topics will include “pimp control”, and examining the characteristics of victims and traffickers. Finally this workshop will discuss how human trafficking affects the Raza community and what is being done to combat the issue.

### *Reclaiming Our Spirit from La Virgen de Guadalupe*

Session(s): 1, 3

To reclaim our spirit, we must first be critical of ourselves and our heritage. We must decipher what is culture, what is tradition or mere habit and what is the indiscriminant indoctrination. Within the Mexican and Chicana/o community, there is no larger culprit of spiritual conquest than the Catholic Church and no greater instrument of control than the symbol of “La Virgen de Guadalupe”. This presentation rebukes, debunks and exposes the official Catholic Church’s (City of Mexico Vasilica) version of the story of La Virgen de Guadalupe and presents the task to retake the spiritual life voided to a degree, but which was never made extinct.

### *#HIV/AIDS 101*

Session(s): 1, 2,3,4,5

This workshop will cover the basics of HIV and ways the people can protect themselves from getting HIV/AIDS. The workshop will also include demonstrations of safer sex products and an in-depth discussion on how HIV/AIDS affects all demographics of people.

### *GrassRoots Organizing Weekend (GROW): Introduction to Direct Action Organizing*

Session(s): 2

This workshop is part 1 of a series of workshops and activities designed to teach participants the concepts of Direct Action Organizing. What is Direct Action Organizing? What are the steps to Direct Action Organizing? What are the different ways/methods of organizing? Is any one method the best way to organize? Come to this workshop and find out how to bring a GROW training to your campus.

### *South Central Farmers, La Lucha Sique*

Session(s): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Aqui estamos y no nos vamos! It's been 4 years and neither the farmers, nor the community are going to rest until victory is proclaimed. They are not going to break our spirits. We're a Non-Profit organization fighting for environmental Justice in under-represented communities. La Lucha Sique! Save the South Central Farm.

### *Helping Raza Youth Become Entrepreneurs*

Session(s): 5

Participants will learn how entrepreneurship can be an alternative in their long term career plan and how to prepare for the transition. In addition, they will learn how to create plans for business and life in order to become effective community and business leaders!

### *#HIV/AIDS in the Raza Community*

Session(s): 3, 5

This workshop will focus on the barriers of the prevention and awareness of HIV/AIDS in the Chican@ community. Through a discussion that will look at health disparities, preventative measures and ways to create community action around this epidemic.

### *The D.R.E.A.M. Act Revised*

Session(s): 1

The current immigration reform that will be posed by Congress is a comprehensive, complex, and broad proposition. The D.R.E.A.M. Act will be part of this immigration reform package, but should it be? This workshop will explain the D.R.E.A.M. Act in its most recent form outside of the immigration package. There will also be a discussion on what steps to take towards the D.R.E.A.M. Act, such as introducing the act separately from the immigration package, modifying the pre-requisites to cover a larger population, and possibly omitting requirements that may be unnecessary.

### Organizing La Raza in our Barrios

Session(s): 1, 4

Join an intense training and overview on organizing our barrios. You will learn a tactical blend of community, political, and union organizing models to mobilize & empower a new movement.

### The Future of Danza

Session(s): 4

Learn how the preservation for our future generations relies on the responsibilities, commitments, and obligations of danzantes.

### Coalition/Alliance Building

Session(s): 5

The importance of working with non-MEChistA groups and “how to” make positive systemic changes, which should be reflected in higher recruitment, retention, and graduation rates among students of color.

### Youth Organizing for Educational Justice

Session(s): 1, 5

Jovenes Unidos organizers will share organizing lessons on to build power for educational justice with low-income high school students of color.

### Mexican Social Movements Study Abroad Program - Binational Lessons for community-student-grassroots alliances

Session(s): 2, 3, 4, 5

The Mexico Solidarity Network Study Abroad Program will give you an in-depth understanding of the context and dynamics of today's most important Mexican social movements, including the Zapatistas, campesino movements, women's organizations, El Barzón, ex-Braceros, workers struggling for democratic unions, and altermundistas. Learn the important lessons for international solidarity work and grassroots organizing on both sides of the border. The program is a life-changing experience, opening our eyes and hearts to the depth and breadth of Mexico's social movements, and the potential for profound social change, South and North.

### Protegiendo Las Indocumentadas y Los Indocumentados: Asuntos de Inmigracion

Session(s): 4, 5

A bilingual workshop from a practicing immigration attorney covering the main issues that affect the undocumented workers in our community: driver's licenses, contact with police, bank/loan/tax issues, higher education, options for legalization, dispelling the myths, etc. *Una presentacion por un abogado licenciado en el area de inmigracion sobre los asuntos que afectan los jovenes y los trabajadores indocumentados en la comunidad como licencias de manejo, contacto con la policia, asuntos bancarios/hipotecarios/impuestos, opciones para legalizacion, delineando los mitos de la realidad, etcetera.*

### *Chicana/os Through Education*

Session(s): 5

A solutions approach to the educational problems of standardization; high-stakes testing; accountability; politics and profit; and school funding inequities. You will find both the inspiration and the tools to promote a meaningful, challenging, and personalized learning experience for Chicana/os.

### *Peace and Dignity Journeys 2008*

Session(s): 4, 5

This workshop will focus on the upcoming Peace and Dignity Journeys 2008. This is informational and emphasis on how MEChistAs can participate both consciously and physically. The route of the Peace and Dignity Journeys starts in both Alaska and Tierra del Fuego, and culminating in Panama. The vision is rooted in the Prophecy of the Eagle and the Condor. This prophecy was envisioned by our Native ancestors. The ancestors envisioned a re-unification of all Nations through a journey of the human spirit.

### *Raza, Are you Ready?*

Session(s): 5

As MEChistAs you have learned great skills which employers and Institutions of higher education are looking for. Those late nights making flyers or the occasional protest did not magically happen overnight. It is essential to learn to market yourself and all those great skills! Whether you're looking for a job after graduation, internships, scholarships or applying to Professional schools there is always something new to learn. This workshop is aimed at teaching students to improve their resumes' learn about great internship and job opportunities as well as prepare themselves for graduation. Even if you've started this process and feel like you have mastered your resume, please join in sharing your experience with fellow MEChistas. \*Please if applicable bring resumes

### *Our Dreams, Our Rights: Students & Workers Demanding a Better Future in 2007*

Session(s): 4,5

Want to learn the latest from the student frontlines on worker's rights, campus organizing, and student-worker solidarity here in the U.S., as well as abroad? From McDonalds to Coca-Cola, Campus Codes of Conduct to the Employee Free Choice Act, students are taking on the fight and doing their part to bring an end to the "corporitization" of our campuses and communities. All year long, through events such as the National Student Labor Week of Action and the U.S. Social Forum, students will be making their voices heard! Come learn more about ways to get you and your campus involved, as well as learn about these exciting local and national events.

### *M.E.Ch.A. 201: Refining M.E.Ch.A.*

Session(s): 4

While M.E.Ch.A. 101 workshops provide information as to what M.E.Ch.A. is, how it began, and what the founding documents are; this seminar workshop will explore what M.E.Ch.A means to the individual and possible directions to take beyond the Planes.

### *Nuestro Futuro; Control Your Destiny*

Session(s): 4

The *Chic* Chicana Youth Leadership Development program prepares Chicana/o high school students for the future by increasing their self-confidence through an hour-long motivational workshop. Students will discuss scenarios which depict the consequences of life and the ability to control their future. This workshop is one part of a ten week, 25 year leadership program in the Denver Metro area that has successfully graduated over 950 students. The workshop presenter is a former MEChA Chair of the 60's, community activist and successful business women.