

Comunidad

Los Rios Community College District Latinx/Chicanx Professional Affinity Group

Annual Newsletter

2019 - 2020 edition

Distributed May 4, 2020

La Historia

There has been a long history in the Los Rios Community College District of Latinx/Chicanx employees who have organized a support system for new and continuing professionals in the district. A sense of *familia* is critical for Latinx/Chicanx individuals to thrive in the large and complex institution of education, for professionals as much as students. Below is a brief history of the various versions of this support system that has established a foundation for Comunidad today. We have a current 2019-2020 roster of **624 members**.

- Early 2000's: Chicano/Latino Faculty and Staff Association (LRLFSA) formed at Sacramento City College
- 2013: District-wide Comunidad first met during UC Davis HSI (Hispanic Serving Institution) Summit

Mission and Vision

Vision: Comunidad de LRCCD strives to be at the forefront of research-informed, data-driven, and culturally relevant innovation to dismantle systems of oppression and build an environment that reflects the aspirations of our communities, colleges, and District.

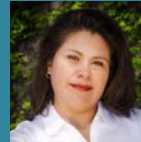
Mission: Comunidad de LRCCD is a culturally based professional network that serves to enhance professional opportunities, advocate for students, and create a safe and welcoming environment for the Latinx/Chicanx and undocumented communities.

Visit our new Los Rios Comunidad webpage:
employees.losrios.edu/comunidad

Comunidad Leadership 2019-2020



Mario Rodriguez,
ARC Co-Chair



Dr. Veronica Lopez,
ARC Co-Chair



Joann Ramirez,
CRC Chair



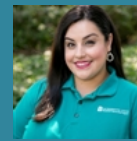
Andrea Fuertes,
FLC Chair



Dr. Lorena Jauregui,
SCC Chair



Horacio Corona Lira,
SCC Treasurer



Rosana Chavez-Hernandez,
SCC Secretary



Antonio López,
Comunidad Webmaster

Comunidad Activities 2019-2020

August 13-14, 2019

District Comunidad Retreat
Hosted at the SCC West Sac Center

September 2019

Campus Comunidad
General Meetings

September through October 2019

Latino Heritage Month
Hosted by each campus

October 15, 2019

District Comunidad General
Meeting
Hosted by Folsom Lake
College

November 9, 2019

COLEGAS Community College
Latinx Professionals Summit
Hosted by Santa Rosa Junior
College

December 11, 2019

District Comunidad Posada Social
Hosted by Sacramento City
College

February 2020

Campus Comunidad General
Meetings

April 2020

Campus Comunidad General
Meetings

April 24, 2020

ARC Comunidad Social - via Zoom
Hosted by American River
College



**Sacramento State
Chicanx/Latinx Recognition
Ceremony
May 2019**

Dr. Rick Ramirez, Counselor at American River College, was chosen by Sacramento State students to keynote the Spring 2019 Sacramento State Chicanx/Latinx Recognition Ceremony. Dr. Ramirez has served as a Lecturer for the CSUS Counselor Education Department for over 4 years. His passion is to serve students, and to mentor future college counselors.



**New RASA Center at
Sacramento City College**

Formed in Summer 2019, The Retention Advancement and Student Achievement (RASA) Center was formed to serve Latinx students, as well as other students of color. The center Coordinator is Sandra Guzman, who also serves as the Puente Project Coordinator/Counselor. Services at the RASA Center include peer mentorship, counseling and advising, a study space, a safe space, and a community space. Visit the RASA Center at SC-104.



**Summer Comunidad Retreat
August 13-14, 2019**

In August, Comunidad held a two-day retreat with 35 participants that included professional development workshops, community building activities, and identity exploration workshops. Guest speakers included Mellonie Richardson from Human Resources, Melissa Moreno from Woodland Community College, and facilitated discussions by Sandra Guzman (SCC) and Rick Ramirez (ARC). We also had a panel from our Los Rios District Office, including Chancellor Brian King and Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration, Mario Rodriguez. We look forward to continuing and strengthening this retreat tradition in the future.

**NCCHC Leadership Symposium
September 12-14, 2019**

The National Community College Hispanic Council (NCCHC) hosted its 23rd annual leadership symposium in Scottsdale, AZ, and several Comunidad members attended. This symposium, along with the competitive NCCHC Fellows Program, are reputable opportunities for Latinx community college professionals to train toward advancing their careers in community college administration. Los Rios has three fellows: Michael Gutierrez, President of SCC; Dr. Lorena Jauregui, MESA Coordinator at SCC; and Dr. Monica Pactol, VPI at FLC.

**Author Reyna Grande keynotes
ARC Spring Convocation**

American River College hosted renowned Mexican-American author Reyna Grande at Spring 2020 Convocation. Grande is best known for her novels, *The Distance Between Us* and *Across a Hundred Mountains*. She has earned multiple awards for her writing, including the "International Literacy Association Children's Book Award" and the "Honor Book Award for the Americas Award". Grande returned on May 6, 2020 for a virtual book discussion.



COLEGAS Summit November 9, 2019

COLEGAS is a statewide CA community college network that strives to foster and empower Latinx professionals through mentorship, networking, and professional development. The November 2019 summit took place at Santa Rosa Junior College, and a group of Comunidad members from Los Rios Community College District participated. It was an excellent networking opportunity for both professional development, as well as cultural and emotional connection.



Comunidad Presentation for LRMA December 17, 2019

Comunidad campus leads and board members from each campus served on a panel for the Los Rios Managers Association (LRMA) workshop themed "Employee Resource Groups: Inclusion and Celebration." Topics included campus highlights and the great work Comunidad does to serve students as a collective. Comunidad members also shared personal testimonies on the importance of this affinity group as a professional, social and personal retention tool for many Chicana/Latinx Los Rios Employees. Comunidad is a familia at Los Rios and how many of us keep each other inspired and motivated to do the work that we love most.



"Honrando a Nuestros Estudiantes" event cancelled

The Los Rios Community College District made the difficult decision of canceling all commencement ceremonies and cultural celebrations due to the COVID 19 pandemic. As we wrap up the academic year, campuses are finding creative alternative ways of celebrating students. ARC will be hosting a virtual Latinx student celebration on May 21, 2020. The SCC RASA Center will be hosting a virtual celebration on May 22, 2020.



Recent Graduates

Congratulations to the Latinx/Chicanx colleagues who completed a degree 2019-2020.

America Rust, SCC, MS in Counseling from CSUS
Crystal Hernandez, SCC, M.S. in Counseling from CSUS
Erica Zamora, SCC, MA in Higher Education from USF
Hector Gamero Jauregui, SCC, Ph.D. in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from UCD
Horacio Corona-Lira, SCC, MPPA from CSUS
Jose Camacho, SCC, BS in Electrical Engineering from UCD
Karina Corona, SCC, BA in Child Development, minor in Counseling from CSUS
Liliana Mendoza, SCC, MS in Counseling from CSUS
Martha Lievanos, ARC, MS in Counseling from CSUS
Susana Barraza, SCC, BA in Economics, minor in Business Administration from CSUS
Tania Hernandez, SCC, MS in Counseling from CSUS
Zulema Padilla, ARC, BA in Child Development, minor in Counseling from CSUS

Recent Retirements

Congratulations to the Latinx/Chicanx colleagues who retired from our district in 2019-2020.

Ramona Cobian, CalWORKS SSSP, Sacramento City College, 40 years
Rosamaria Tanghetti, History Faculty, Sacramento City College, 12 years

Recent Hires and Promotions

A big welcome and congratulations to the Latinx/Chicanx colleagues who were hired or promoted into full-time positions in 2019-2020.

Adan Chaidez, SCC Counseling Faculty
Francisco Chima Sanchez, ARC Math Faculty
Gabriela Diaz, SCC Admin Assistant for AVP Student Services
Haynalka Caton, SCC Math Faculty
Jacqueline Oñate-Vargas, SCC Counseling Faculty
Jesus Romero, SCC Math Faculty
Mario Rodriguez, ARC SPA Center for Leadership & Development
Mario Rodriguez, LRCCD Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration
Melissa Sanchez, FLC Financial Aid Clerk II El Dorado Center
Oscar Mendoza Plascencia, CRC Student Life Supervisor
Rebeca Rodriguez, SCC Admin Assistant in Math, Statistics, Engineering Division
Stephanie Cortez, SCC Instructional Assistant in Learning Resource Center
Yulissa Rocha, ARC Success Coach SPA in Achieve

