
ESPERANZA

Latina Leadership Network of the California Community Colleges

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President's Message

Queridas Hermanas/Dearest Sisters,

The time to celebrate the holidays has approached quickly! My wish is that you all find peace and joy during this season. As a new year approaches, let us keep our personal and professional goals at the forefront. Keep reaching, and remember---sometimes it takes someone to help us achieve those goals. We are not alone. Be true to your values, your hermanas and your faith. As you read our newsletter, I am certain you will find a connection to our stories. Enjoy a cup of "atole," "ponche" or eggnog; sit back, relax and enjoy our Esperanza!

I would like to start your New Year's resolutions by adding this one to your list: Attend the *Latina Leadership Network of the California Community Colleges 25th Annual Conference* on March 1-3, 2012, at the Renaissance Hotel in Downtown Long Beach California. Our theme this coming conference is **"Nuestro Camino--Pasado, Presente, Futuro."** Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año!

Eva Jimenez

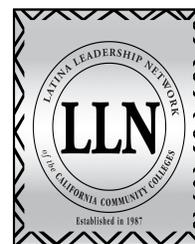
VIVAS go out to...

- LLN Student Clubs for all they do to share and support each other's journey
- Rosie Hernandez for starting the first Student Latina Leadership Network Chapter at Shasta College.
- Dolores Cornejo at Fullerton College who was recently awarded the Interim Director of the Transfer Center, Congratulations!
- 2012 Conference Planning Committee
- Heather Wylie at Shasta College for applying and receiving a \$1,000 grant from Wells Fargo Bank for the local chapter!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Message from the President & Vivas**
- 2 Recipe for Homemade Chorizo**
- 3 Thoughts on Culture & Education**
- 4 Thoughts on Self-Acceptance**
- 5 Colleges and Regions**

Visit our website for more information in exploring LLN's history, mission and past issues at Latina-leadership-network.org.



HOMEMADE CHORIZO, RECIPE BY A MEXICAN HOUSEWIFE
ARTICLE WRITTEN BY ISABEL MACIAS



When I was trying to think of a topic for an article I admit I was a little stumped. Eva suggested a recipe and immediately I thought of a recipe out of a cookbook I was given a number of years ago. Then I realized there was a story behind the recipe and the book. Several years ago my next door neighbor (thanks Diane, wherever you are) and I got to talking about Mexican food. I probably told her I'm not a very good cook, as the LLN Executive Board learned about me at one of our retreats. My neighbor decided to give me a copy of a Mexican recipe book. The book is not exactly a hard cover or even a paperback book that was published in the normal fashion, i.e. a publishing house. The author is Connie Cordova; she had the book printed in 1979 and it was her first printing. The recipes were obviously typed on a typewriter and the illustrations were done by the author or somebody she knew that had some artistic talent. The book is printed on 8-1/2 by 11 paper, folded in half and stapled in the middle. The cover reads, "Mexican Recipes by a Mexican Housewife." There are scriptures from the Bible throughout, so that is another clue about our author. I identified with the author in that her recipes are not always completely from scratch—sometimes she suggests the use of canned sauces and even specifies particular brands. She dedicated the book to her seven children. Here is the recipe Connie provided for Chorizo; I like it because you can pick lean meat and not end up with the greasy chorizo you buy in the store, no offense intended to the producers.

- 1 lb. of hamburger meat
- 1 lb. of pork sausage (I modify and use lean ground pork--Isabel)
- 4 cloves of garlic chopped (I recommend very finely chopped--Isabel)
- 1 minced onion
- 1 tablespoon of oregano
- ¼ cup of vinegar
- ¼ cup of Eagle Brand Chile
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- Salt to taste

Mix all ingredients and leave in refrigerator until ready to use. To seal in the aroma, put in closed container. Cook as you would hamburger meat. Delicious with chili beans and scrambled with eggs.

I would be remiss if I did not include the scripture at the foot of this page:

"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Proverbs 22:15

Connie, thank you for your wonderful contribution to the cooking world!



By Rosie Hernandez

“Never give up, always reach for what you want,” I never have forgotten these words. This phrase was repeatedly said to me by my mother. Her words are the core of the flame that burns in me to succeed and accomplish the goals I set for myself. I keep these words close to my heart and recite them to others in hope that it could light a flame of hope and strength in them like it did for me.

The thought of college was never in my mind. I thought of getting married, having children and having a reliable job meant a great life. Running into some hardships taught me the value of education. I am a proud Latina, wife, and mother of three. I am needed for support and guidance for my family. The best achievable way to do this is with an education. I am moving forward with great stress and long dreadful nights finishing homework, while my little son is calling out for me “mama, mama!” My price for education is the time lost with my family. My gain from education is the example I teach my family by, “Never give up! Always reach for what you want.



By Kate Mahar

Katie Mahar is not the typical name on the roster of the Latina Leadership Network. Katie Mahar is an Irish name and indicative of the culture in which I grew up. I was introduced to LLN last year when Shasta College hosted the north state conference in Redding, CA. Some dynamic and amazing women on our campus invited me to be a part of the planning for the event, but that was all I really knew about it. Helping to organize the event was a great challenge and incredibly rewarding. However, I was not fully indoctrinated into LLN until the morning of the conference. When the music started playing and people began arriving, I was moved to tears. Beautiful women of all ages- high school age to retirement- were hugging each other after long absences, and embracing by way of introduction. The joy in the room was beyond comprehension. What also surprised me was the way in which I was accepted into the group. As a non-Latina, I was curious about my place as a member of the organization. Preparing for the conference, my role was clear- help to organize, plan menus, solidify field trips. As the conference began, I wondered if I should be there. Was I an intruder into another group’s cultural event? As a middle class white girl, I am a member of the group that has led to many of the issues against which LLN was created to combat-including racism, oppression, and lack of opportunity. Was I a reminder of that to others? My concerns were eliminated as I was dragged into a Congo line and led around the room. Concern and awkwardness were immediately replaced by joy and connection.

Last year’s LLN Conference provided incredible information about health, wellness, culture and history. However, the most important lesson that I learned is that LLN is not solely about ethnicity, color of skin or background. It is about a philosophy of interaction, connection, support for others, and celebration of diverse backgrounds- inclusion of all. The group was created to put forth and celebrate a way of treating each other that is not represented in our current “dominant” culture. As LLN President Eva Jimenez articulated, “LLN is not only for Latina’s it is for all people that support Latina’s and understand the beauty of the culture and all that we can learn from the experiences of others. We are here to advocate for others, share in celebrations and provide emotional support for other women as they tackle the challenges of family, community and career.”

I soon came to realize that my awkwardness about not being Latina was an insult to the very core of LLN. LLN truly embodies the words of our mission statement: support for Latinas at all levels in the California Community Colleges and promoting and maintaining La Cultura Latina and non-sexist familial values. I fully embrace those values, and therefore LLN fully embraces me- and my Irish roots. And, I am forever changed because of it!

The Pendulum of Life between Success and Happiness

Anonymous Writer

Throughout my life, I learned to recognize what was needed for success and happiness. Out of my immediate family members, only I have been successful at accomplishing the many goals I set to accomplish. I have learned that success does not come alone; it brings sacrifices, criticism, and requires self-discipline. Happiness comes from confidence within yourself based on your previous successes. Each day I value the lessons I learned at school and in my personal life. One of my strengths, which can also be a weakness, is trying to find solutions and giving helpful advice to the problems people share with me. Sometimes, people just want to unburden their issues and need a welcoming ear, not an opinion as to what they should do. These are some of the lessons I continue to find every day in my career and in my personal life.

My life has been filled with sad and tragic moments however the love of life, a positive attitude and my determination have been my biggest allies in being happy. I learned that dwelling in the past is a waste of time and squanders memories upon events that are best left forgiven, if not forgotten. Life is beautiful if you allow yourself to admire the beauty that surrounds you! How many times have we heard someone say “stop and smell the roses”? The older I get, the less silly this thought seems to me and the more I appreciate the simplest of things in nature around me; like the songs of birds, the beauty of flowers or just the sweet sounds of a child’s voice.

As the youngest sibling on my mother’s side, I received a lot of attention, praise and was pampered by my mamita (great-grandmother). I was a young child when my mother died; mamita raised us and taught us great family values. Even after her death, she has been and continues to be the pillar of strength in my life. Later on, the birth of my son gave me happiness beyond my wildest dreams. He continues to be the shining star in my life. I ask myself, “Why am I so fortunate?” The answer my friend is “La felicidad empieza contigo mismo” (happiness begins with you).

COLLEGES AND REGIONS

REGION 1 - (NORTH) Cabrillo, Cañada, College of San Mateo, DeAnza, Evergreen Valley, Foothill, Gavilan, Hartnell, Mission, Monterey Peninsula, Ohlone, San José City, Skyline, West Valley

REGION 2 - (NORTH) Butte, Feather River, Lassen, Shasta, Siskiyou, Yuba, Woodland

REGIONS 3 - (NORTH) Chabot, City College of San Francisco, College of Alameda, Contra Costa, Diablo Valley, Laney, Las Positas, Los Medanos, Marin, Mendocino, Merritt, Napa Valley, Redwoods, Santa Rosa, Solano, Vista

REGION 4 - (NORTH) American River, Cosumnes River, Lake Central, Tahoe, Sacramento City, Sierra

REGION 5 - (CENTRAL) Bakersfield, Cerro Coso, Columbia, Fresno, Merced, Modesto, Reedley, Porterville, San Joaquin Delta, College of the Sequoias, Taft, West Hills

REGION 6 - (CENTRAL) Allan Hancock, Antelope Valley, College of the Canyons, Cuesta, Moorpark, Oxnard, Santa Barbara City, Ventura

REGION 7 - (SOUTH) Los Angeles Community College District: Administrative Offices, East Los Angeles, Los Angeles City, Los Angeles Harbor, Los Angeles Mission, Los Angeles Pierce, Los Angeles Southwest, Los Angeles Trade-Technical, Los Angeles Valley, West Los Angeles

REGION 8 - (SOUTH) Coastline, Cypress, Fullerton, Golden West, Irvine Valley, Orange Coast, Saddleback, Santa Ana, Santiago Canyon

REGION 9 - (SOUTH) Cerritos, Citrus, Compton, El Camino, Glendale, Long Beach City, Mt. San Antonio, Pasadena City, Rio Hondo, Santa Monica

REGION 10 - (SOUTH) Barstow, Chaffey, College of the Desert, Crafton Hills, Mt. San Jacinto, Palo Verde, Riverside, San Bernardino Valley, Victor Valley

REGION 11 - (SOUTH) Cuyamaca, Grossmont, Imperial Valley, Mira Costa, Palomar, San Diego City, San Diego Mesa, San Diego Miramar, Southwestern

