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# ESPERANZA

Latina Leadership Network of the California Community Colleges

Volume 24 Issue 1

Fall 2011

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## President Eva Jimenez Message

Queridas Hermanas/Dearest Sisters,

Welcome to the beginning of our 25<sup>th</sup> year and 24<sup>th</sup> volume of Esperanza!

On July 8<sup>th</sup> I had the privilege of hosting the Executive Team retreat in beautiful Mt. Shasta, California (picture to the right). We have an amazing team leading our organization this year. During our retreat we engaged in the formal process of re-writing and re-visiting our Plan of Action, Constitution and By-laws, proposed budget and goal setting. We also had the time to reflect, renew, connect and learn about the new and the old faces in the room.



It was during a writing workshop, led by Maria Elena Fernandez, from College of the Siskiyous, when I looked around the room and really embraced the beauty of our “sisterhood.” As we shared our creative writings related to the theme of “I am from...” each one of us listened with intensity, nodded our heads, smiled, and shed a common tear. It was during those moments when I was reminded why I chose to volunteer my time for five years to serve on this board. The reason was obvious...nowhere else, no one else no place else could I sit with a group of women who open their hearts, thoughts, souls, secrets and feel safe, feel understood, feel like we can share in this journey of life together. This experience alone makes the many hours, weeks, and years of being with the Latina Leadership Network a blessing in my life.

As you read through these amazing articles, know that each of these ladies brings a unique style to our organization. Our individual history of “I am from...” makes our collective organization powerful, impressive and important to all women on this earth.

So please, take a moment to sit and enjoy our stories. VIVA!!!

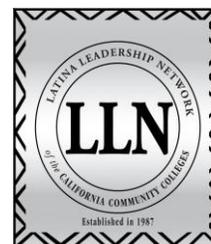
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### Important Dates:

Save the date for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the LLN Conference March 22-24 in Long Beach at the Renaissance Hotel.

Visit our website for more information in exploring LLN's history, mission and past issues at [Latina-leadership-network.org](http://Latina-leadership-network.org).





## Reflections of the 2011 LLN Conference

by Dr. Lucha Ortega Co-chair

“Que VIVA the Latina Leadership Network!” the chant I vividly remember as part of the 24th Annual Conference of the Latina Leadership Network of the California Community Colleges, which took place during March 2011 in Redding, CA. As I heard the chant, my mind traveled to March of the year before in Visalia, hearing the excitement of Region 1 as we next were to host all our sisters, for the first time in the history of LLN, in the far north.

That’s not to say that we did not have some hiccups along the way. Unfortunately, we learned that several of our sisters most likely would not be attending due to the huge budget cuts and layoffs their districts were facing. By December we panicked because we only had less than a dozen registrants. Our fear was that we would not meet our target of 200 to break even and the organization. Simply put we would not have the funds to offset outgoing costs such as the hotel expense in advance. After conferring with the LLN Executive Board, its membership left the decision up to Region 1. We convened and realized that the LLN organization was at a critical crossroad. So we challenged ourselves rallying in favor to create a successful conference but also to leave the organization in a much better place monetarily. We set a goal to increase revenues by \$20,000. Thanks to donations, fundraising and membership support, we came close, meeting \$19,000 of our \$20,000 goal.

As you can see, “con ganas y con LLN Si Se Puede! Region 1 thanks you for your attendance and support in creating a 24<sup>th</sup> conference success! And I invite you to chant with us again in March of 2012 for our 25<sup>th</sup> LLN Conference; “Que VIVA the Latina Leadership Network!”



I am from red clay by Heather Wylie



It is just below the surface of my skin. It makes dark red crescents under my fingernails. The small cracks in the soles of my feet are stained its dark amber color. I am from red clay. I know that now.

It made the best dirt pies, wet and sticky between my small hands. Patted down into perfect circles, the surface slick and smooth. Gently we would place them in the sunny spot, one next to the other, next to the other. It wouldn't take long; the sun was hot, the air refused to move. Perfect little pies.

I turned 13. Poverty is shame. Those kids who slunk down in their seats as the school bus passed the "cheese line" in the park taught me that. I am to be ashamed. Red clay is shame. I start to scrub, to scrape, to scratch it off. I am clean. I am not from red clay.

I succeed. I "go far". I "rise above". I make them proud. I reach higher, run faster, see - I am not from red clay.

I break. Crushed. I can't breathe. My palms are cold on the kitchen floor, it hurts my knees. My head is too heavy. I am lost. I am not here.

And then I see.

The sliver of red. Just barely. Barely there. I stare – hard. The red clay is there. A shadow in the palm of my hand, behind the blue in my eyes, underneath the sound my voice makes when I cry. I grab the drawer handle with both hands. Pull myself up. I stand. My knees are weak but I am standing. Strong. Found. I curl my toes and I feel it.

I am from red clay.

## Vivas!

**Rosie Hernandez**, Student VP North, submitting constitution and bylaws for our NEW and first ever student LLN Chapter at Shasta College!

**Idalia Huckman**, was elected to serve as Vice President Education within one of our local Toastmasters chapters (TAN-Toast at Noon).

**Kate Mahar**, Grant writer-extraordinaire, submitting and being awarded a TRIO grant at Shasta College for 1.2 million dollars over a five year period.

### Are you Alive Today?

#### If so, share in.....

The satisfaction of a simple smile

Fresh air

Sharing the earth with other people of a different color

Being despised....or truly loved

Gifts that you can't repay

Doggie kisses

Warm sand or cool grass between your toes

Babies under the age of one

The power of making a choice

Enjoy.

Anonymous

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



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