

## SPRING 2015 NEWSLETTER

### **Board members**

President	Geri Vargas
Vice President North	Vacant
Vice President, Central	Rosalinda Vierra
Vice President, South	Dolores Cornejo
Recording Secretary	Stephanie Ramos
Treasurer	Senorina Saldivar
Esperanza Editor	Dr. Monica Nolasco
Student Vice President, South	Anai Juarez
Student Vice President, Central	Nayeli Gonzalez
Student Vice President, North	Vacant
Data Specialist	Vacant
Conference Chair	Victoria Lugo
Conference Co-Chair	Alma Rodriguez
WebJefita & ListServe	Rocio Ruvalcava
Region 3 Representative	Vacant
Region 4 Representative	Hermelinda Rocha-Tabera
Region 5 Representative	Rosalinda Vierra
Region 6 Representative	Dr. Ana Gomez de Torres
Region 7 Representative	Carol Justiniano
Region 8 Representative	Dr. Lisa Rodriguez
Region 9 Representative	Eva Amezola
Region 10 Representative	Christina McKinney

### **LLN President's Welcome**

Queridas Hermanas/Dearest Sisters:

Welcome to the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Latina Leadership Network Conference! The last 28 years have been quite a journey. It has had its ups and downs but through it all, we have always united and continue to carry on the mission of the LLN.

For those of you who are new as well as those of you who have been faithful members for years, thank you for attending and participating in this annual conference. I'm confident you will make new friends and hopefully, some of you will find a mentor or a colleague in which to share ideas, and of course, network!

Today, I humbly share with you that I have met some wonderful, dynamic, and most importantly, inspirational women within the Community College family. I have been a member since I began to serve students in 2000. It was the dynamic women at my institution, MJC, Elisa and Felicia Osnaya, Gloria Placencia, and Martha Robles, just to name a few, that inspired me to get involved. At that time, I didn't realize how involved I would become. And 14 years later, I'm president, who knew? Because of LLN, I now sit on a few non-profit Boards in my community and without LLN and the mentoring I received, I would not have been as confident to sit on these Boards.

It warms my heart to see all the young women at all the conferences I've been to, who remind me of myself at their age, the difference is, I didn't have "back in the day" role models as you young women now have. So take advantage of it and I challenge all you professionals to take at least one student and mentor her for this academic year, 14-15. At next year's conference, we may "check-in" to see how many of you took this challenge and would love to hear your rewards. It is so self-rewarding, believe me!!

In closing, I hope you get out of this conference as much as I have throughout the years. Please enjoy and look around you and take back to your colleges as much information as you can and I would challenge each and every staff, faculty, and administrator to take a student "under your wing" and be their inspiration and motivation to further their educational journey.

VIVAS go out to:

- ✓ All the LLN Student Chapter Clubs!
- ✓ 2015 Conference Committee for their hard work!

Your LLN President-Geri Vargas  
Modesto Junior College

## **About the 2015 LLN Conference**

The annual Latina Leadership conference is designed to foster and mentor the relationship between students, administrators, trustees, faculty, and staff, which ultimately allows the students to feel more confident about their schoolwork, life plan, their success, improve their attitudes and commitment to learning, and help them develop more fully as a person. This will result in increased student awareness in the importance of taking on leadership roles in their college and increase students express a commitment to graduating from college, students maintaining a positive attitude about going to college, students understand the personal, professional, and societal benefits of completing a college degree, and access and exposure to local Latino professionals and college students. For staff, it allows the networking of professionals to share experiences and obstacles they have had to endure and eventually overcome growing within their own institutions which lacks people of color to include females. That is precisely why the LLN was founded in 1987.

## **2015 Conference- Pursuing Equity in the 21st Century**

Join us at the 28th Annual Latina Leadership Network Conference! Our theme is "*Latina Leadership: Pursuing Equity in the 21st Century*." We will discuss the impact that student equity funding will have on Latina students, how we are represented at the faculty, classified, and management levels at our colleges and work to develop strategies in addressing our underrepresentation. We need your participation in this critical conversation! Registration is limited to 200, so please register now.

**Conference Location:** Ventura College

**Conference Dates:** Thursday, March 26, 2015 – Saturday, March 28, 2015

### **Conference Registration Information:**

Cost for Faculty, Staff, Students is \$300.

Conference registration will include full 2015 conference attendance (March 26-28), all meals during the conference, and one year Latina Leadership Network membership.

[Click Here to Register!](#)

### **Hotel Information:**

Conference guests are invited to stay at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Ventura at a discounted rate! Conference guests can enjoy a two-night stay at the Crowne Plaza beachfront hotel for \$139 dollars per night (2 queen or 1 king bed). Each guest is also entitled to complimentary high speed internet access in all guest rooms and public areas. Complimentary parking is also available in the hotel lot (a \$12 per vehicle per day value) and the city lot neighboring the hotel (\$8 per vehicle per day value).

Hotel Reservations:

[https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome\\_ei\\_new&eventID=12823616](https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=12823616)

For additional questions and information, please contact:

Alma A. Rodriguez, Conference Co-Chair  
Ventura College  
Phone: 8052896360  
Email: arodriguez@vcccd.edu

**LLN Conference 2015-Keynote Speaker:**

Maricela Morales - Grateful to her Mexican immigrant parents, Maricela was raised in Ventura County, attended Fillmore public schools and went on to earn a BA in Human Biology at Stanford University and an MA in Counseling (Depth) Psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute.

Responding to the need for public officials that prioritize social, economic and environmental justice, Maricela worked with the community to be the first Latina elected to the Port Hueneme City Council in 2002. By 2007 she became the city's first Latina Mayor.

Her commitment to work collaboratively on issues of local, regional and state concern has been recognized by the California Association of Leadership Programs, National Women's Political Caucus of Ventura County, Pacific Coast Business Times 40 Under 40, Soroptomist Club of Oxnard, and the Ventura County Leadership Academy.

Maricela began with CAUSE (Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy) as a volunteer with the Ventura County Living Wage Coalition. She came on as staff in 2001, the same year CAUSE began and obtained the organization's 501c3 status. Since 2001, Morales has worked on a variety of issues ranging from living wage, health coverage for the uninsured, women's economic justice, green economy and local hire projects.

**A Call for 2016 Latina Leadership Conference host location**

We invite you to submit a proposal to host the 2016 Latina Leadership Network Conference. This is a great opportunity for your college to display their commitment to the Latina Leadership and professional development. Please submit your written proposal by March 19, 2015 to Geri Vargas. Announcement of the winning proposal will be made at the 2015 Leadership Conference in Ventura, California.

**CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHT:**

*A Tribute to Michele Serros.*

### **Madrina Award**

The Latina Leadership Network Madrina and Region of the Year Award is given in recognition of the region that has provided the most extensive and motivational activities that foster networking, mentoring, educational and professional development opportunities for Latinas throughout the year. The Executive Board further acknowledges the organizational and personal efforts of the Region Representative(s) in bringing forth the mission and goals of the Latina Leadership Network. Please visit the website for more information and application.

### **Student Scholarships- Apply Now!**

The Latina Leadership Network of the California Community Colleges (LLN) will be awarding four (4) student scholarships of \$500 to Latina students currently attending California Community Colleges. LLN Scholarship recipients will be honored at the 28th Annual Latina Leadership Network Conference at the Ventura Community College during the conference – March 26-28, 2015 [LLN 2015 Student Scholarship Application](#)

### **2015-2016 vacant- Executive Board Positions:**

The following positions are open for appointment/election at the 2015 conference. Elections will take place on Friday, March 27, 2015 at the evening meeting. Although it's a very rewarding opportunity it does require a 1 year commitment, with 1 conference call a month, and 2 face-to-face meetings per year. Interested candidates can submit their name at the event.

Vice President-North

Esperanza (2 year appointed position)

Webjefitia (2 year appointed position)

Region 1 Representative

Region 2 Representative

Region 3 Representative

Region 5 Representative

Region 6 Representative

Region 8 Representative

Student VP- North

Student VP-Central

Student VP-South

### **Other LLN News!**

Dr. Francisco Rodriguez' investiture will take place on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. on the campus of East Los Angeles College. The Latina Leadership Network of the California Community Colleges is proud of this most significant event!

## VIVAS!

- ✓ All the LLN Student Chapter Clubs!
- ✓ 2015 Conference Committee for their hard work!
- ✓ Norma L. Valdez
- ✓ Kelley Ramos

## Viva! 2015 San Miguel Writers' Conference "Writing Contest" Winners-Norma L. Valdez

*P'al Norte* and *Unaccompanied*.

### UNACCOMPANIED

Everything is happening now. Everything is present tense. The horses. The running. The losing. This operation is a well-oiled machine. All is slow motion until dusk. After dusk come the icy furrows. Overnight temperatures the kind of cold that enters marrow. There is so much winter in the eyes. From here the only lights: the moon and Chula Vista. After the ice, the running. Ravine. Huizache. Thorns. The hiding. A Cadillac. There is a gun in the glove compartment. There are two boys in the trunk. Two other boys contort their bodies on the back seat floor, legs entwined. Face down. Face down. He is the one balled on the front passenger floor because he is the smallest. He is bones and destiny.



**Photo by Rosa M. Valdez**

**Norma Liliana Valdez** is an alumna of the VONA/Voices Writing Workshop, the Writing Program at UC Berkeley Extension, and a 2014 Hedgebrook writer-in-residence. Her poems have appeared in *Calyx Journal*, *The Acentos Review*, *As It Ought To Be*, *La Bloga*, *Dismantle: An Anthology of Writing from the VONA/Voices Writing Workshop* and received honorable mention by the 2013 San Miguel Writers'

Conference. Additional work is forthcoming in *Poetry of Resistance: A Multicultural Anthology in Response to Arizona SB 1070, Xenophobia and Injustice* by University of Arizona Press. She lives and works in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Norma served on the LLN Committee for the LLN's Quinceañera.

<http://creativecrossroadsofamericas.org/unaccompanied-norma-liliana-valdez/>

### **Viva! Kelly Ramos- of Contra Costa College was selected as the Districtwide Classified Employee of the Year!**

Kelly Ramos has been selected as the Districtwide Classified Employee of the Year!

“Of course this is no surprise to those of us who work with Kelly and have experienced her utmost professionalism, seen the caring nature in which she serves our students, and have been affected in some way by her general brilliance.” said CCC President, Mojdeh Mehdizadeh. Congratulations Kelly Ramos!

## **REGION NEWS**

### *Region 5*

**Modesto Junior College-**The Modesto Junior College annual tamales fundraiser was a huge success, with almost 200 dozen tamales sold. With the help of the Modesto Moose Lodge, who allowed the MJC LLN to use their facility, equipped with 2 stoves in their commercial kitchen at no cost over 40 students, staff, faculty and administrators all came together and spent a Saturday doing a holiday tradition. All profits from this event will go directly to student scholarships.

### *Region 6 News*

**Allan Hancock College-** Congratulations to the 6 students and 2 staff members from Allan Hancock College who have been approved to participate in the LLN Conference. The participants thank their Vice President of Student Services, Nohemy Ornelas, for supporting them on their attendance to the conference with the help of Student Equity Funds.

### *Region 9 News*

**NORCO College -**Congratulations to NORCO College on being granted approval to have an LLN club in the Norco College campus. They report that 9 young amazing women are doing a great job and spreading the word across their college campus. Region 9 thanks the Vice President of Student Services office for their support of this club on campus. The Vice President's office helping is support LLN conference attendance.

## UPCOMING LLN EVENTS:

March 7, 2015	LLN meeting
March 26, 2015	LLN meeting at Ventura College
March 28, 2015	LLN meeting at conference site

### Colleges and Regions

**Region 1** - (North) Butte, College of the Redwoods, College of the Siskiyous, Feather River, Lassen, Shasta

**Region 2** - (NORTH) American River, Cosumnes River, Folsom Lake, Lake Tahoe Community, Mendocino, Napa Valley, Sacramento City, Sierra, Solano Community, Woodland Community, Yuba

**Region 3** - (North) Berkeley City, Cañada, City College of San Francisco, College of Alameda, College of Marin, College of San Mateo, Contra Costa, Diablo Valley, Laney, Los Medanos, Merritt, Santa Rosa Junior, Skyline

**Region 4** - (North) Cabrillo, Chabot, De Anza, Evergreen Valley, Foothill, Gavilan, Hartnell, Las Positas, Mission, Monterey Peninsula, Ohlone, San José City, West Valley

**Region 5** - (Central) Bakersfield, College of the Sequoias, Columbia, Fresno City, Merced, Modesto Junior, Porterville, Reedley, San Joaquin Delta, West Hills-Coalinga, West Hills-Lemoore,

**Region 6** - (Central) Allan Hancock, Antelope Valley, College of the Canyons, Cuesta, Moorpark, Oxnard, Santa Barbara City, Taft, Ventura

**Region 7** - (South) Compton Community, East Los Angeles, El Camino, Glendale Community, Los Angeles City, Los Angeles Community College District: Administrative Offices, Los Angeles Harbor, Los Angeles Mission, Los Angeles Pierce, Los Angeles Southwest, Los Angeles Trade-Technical, Los Angeles Valley, Pasadena City, Santa Monica, West Los Angeles

**Region 8** - (South) Cerritos, Citrus Community, Coastline Community, Cypress, Fullerton, Golden West, Irvine Valley, Long Beach City, Mt. San Antonio, Orange Coast, Rio Hondo, Saddleback, Santa Ana, Santiago Canyon

**Region 9** - (South) Barstow, Cerro Coso Community, Chaffey, College of the Desert, Copper Mountain, Crafton Hills, Mt. San Jacinto, Moreno Valley, Norco, Palo Verde, Riverside Community, San Bernardino Valley, Victor Valley

**Region 10** - (South) Cuyamaca, Grossmont, Imperial Valley, MiraCosta, Palomar, San Diego City, San Diego Mesa, San Diego Miramar, Southwestern

## State map



