Queridas Hermanas/Dear Sisters,

This year Latina Leadership Network celebrated 30 years of the organization’s dedication and commitment to promoting higher education and professional development of Latina students and employees of the California Community College system. The 30th Annual LLN Conference was hosted at Los Medanos College was tremendous experience for conference attendees.

The 2016-2017 LLN Executive Board worked diligently to revamp the structure of the Board positions and the Constitution and Bylaws to reflect the development and growth of the organization. In honor of the Founding Mothers, the Board discussed ways in which we could develop an opportunity to provide pathways for Latinas employed in the CCC to seek ways in which to advance into leadership roles on their respective campuses. Which led to the development of the workshop, “El Poder de la Mujer Latina: Ser Educada/The Power of Latinas: Being Educated” geared for employees to assist with developing the LLN Leadership Institute.

We are excited to be working on expanding the LLN organization in addition to the annual conference, LLN Leadership Institute and Webinar series. The webinar series will be an opportunity and platform for any LLN member that would like an opportunity to facilitate a webinar on programs, research, higher education and etc. If you are interested in the Leadership Institute and/or hosting a webinar please send your inquiries to: LatinaLeadershipNetwork-CCC@gmail.com. On behalf of LLN, I thank you for your support and hope to continue to grow the network of Latina throughout California.

Con Mucho Respecto, Amor y Cariño,

Dolores Cornejo, M.A. Ed.
President, Latina Leadership Network of the California Community Colleges
Leadership Institute

For Faculty, Staff, and Administrators: The goal of the leadership institute, “El Poder de la Mujer Latina: Ser Educada, includes providing an experience that is unapologetic about creating space to share, critically discuss, and integrate the intersectionality of our identities as a Latinx community that include, culture, gender identity and expression, education, leadership and much more. Participants will have the opportunity to connect, learn, and network with other professional staff, faculty, and administrators in the California Community College system; and will serve as the launch for the LLN Hermandad Mentoring program throughout the 2017-2018 year.

Presenters: Dr. Angelica Garcia, VPSS, Skyline College  
Dr. Martha Garcia, VPSS, Imperial Valley College  
Carla Rosas, Director of SSSP, Los Medanos College
Implicit Bias: Blind Spot and the Danger of the Single Story

This presentation will help us understand the meaning of implicit bias, blind spots, schemas, and the danger of the single story. The hope is to become more conscious of our own implicit biases as we interact with others and make conscious efforts to change and to open new spaces of hope with a genuine exchange. *Presenter: Dr. Ana M. Gómez de Torres, Associate Professor, Allan Hancock*

“Embracing Our Futures: The Resilience and Strengths of Latinas and Their Families”

Latina/o families are represented significantly in the fabric of U.S. culture. The demographics in recent decades speak loudly to the significance of Latinos/as shaping the present and future of all of our communities across our nation. Some families trace their histories in the U.S. several generations while some are growing new roots. While some of the youth and families of the future are pulled by potential opportunities others may be pushed by stressors challenging their definition of “home” as new immigrants or even as ongoing multigenerational American families. Recently immigrated Latino/a families may face additional stressors in current context. Ways these stressors impact lives and families and ways to effectively confront them for health and leadership opportunities to inspire others will be presented.

*Sex y La Virgen*

Give young women an understanding of how our society, history and mythology affect the way we view our feminine bodies. The purpose of the lecture is to explain and explore how best we can continue the journey towards higher education and completing career goals. *Presenter: Felicitas Nunez, Retired Registered Nurse, College of the Desert*
I Belong Here and so do you: A Multi-tiered Approach to Latina Empowerment and Success

Considering the conference theme which is based on legacy and leadership, this session will showcase the successes of the Student Diversity Success Initiative (SDSI), which is a life skills and mentorship program geared toward serving our predominantly Latino/a students holistically while creating a culture of belonging on campus, and promoting responsibility for one another. Utilizing a student-guided approach, students are empowered to identify barriers to their success and are given the opportunity to engage in mentoring sessions and self-reflection that enable them to construct a plan for overcoming roadblocks. Once students have a solid pathway to follow, they are encouraged to reach back and assist their peers in the same kind of development. Although a family type atmosphere may not be necessary for some students, research shows that students who come from underrepresented communities at times lack the necessary navigational capital to create campus connections. Our program offers strategies for creating partnerships with our students, empowering them to strive for success through the idea of transferable skills and promotion of cultural wealth (leading in your own way). Presenters: Michelle M. Garcia, Manager, Student Diversity Success Initiative, Fullerton College Dr. Olivia Veloz, Director, Academic Support Center, Fullerton College Krystal Cendejas, University Peer Mentor, California State University, Fullerton Clarissa Leyva, Student Ambassador, California State University, Fullerton

Choosing the Right Leadership Style to Support Your Goals

Choosing the right leadership style to support your goals: Learn how to select a leadership style that will help you excel in the classroom, negotiate more effectively, improve networking skills, and how to successfully lead others. Participants will learn about several leadership styles and how developing and strengthening their leaderships skills will assist them with
accomplishing short term and long term goals. *Presenter: Steven Freeman Jr, Asst Director EOPS & CARE, Los Medanos College*

**Ay que platicar (let’s talk)**
We are all building our own legacy and leaving our stamp on higher education. How are we doing this? What are our struggles? In what ways do we work to improve ourselves? *Presenters: Vanessa Martinez & Diana Cobian*

**Owning Your Authenticity**
Through an interactive exercise and real life examples via storytelling and pictures, we will discuss the various obstacles that may impede the progression of becoming a successful college leader in higher education while discussing positive ways to cope and find a community. Topics included but not limited to are race, gender, disability, shame, authenticity,

**LATINA LEADERSHIP NETWORK OF THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES 2017 - 2018 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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- Dr. Martha Garcia, Member-At-Large South
LLN Conference Keynote Speakers:

Sonia Hassey is President and Founder of "Destiny Women Global", a leadership program of Women Inspired Network Inc. In addition, she has recently founded, a non-profit," Destiny Women Global Foundation for young women to equip them for success, through professional and personal development. She empowers many women to become heart-driven leaders. She is a dynamic speaker with motivating messages, full of enthusiasm and heart, she has been inspiring audiences for years. She is known as a woman who is on a mission to see others experience the greatness that is in everyone. Sonia is a Certified Life purpose Coach from Dream University, a Dale Carnegie graduate and co-author of the book "Catch Your Star," and upcoming author of "Butt Naked Leadership", which tells her own inspiring story of how she dramatically overcame negative thinking that had kept her from living the adventures she had always dreamed of and what inspired her to become a heart driven leader. Sonia stays active bringing heart-centered leadership to her community, as well as The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Contra Costa County, supporting women through Destiny Women Global. Her biggest "Why" are her two amazing daughters Yesenia and Hannah, who are world changers in their own right.

Elizabeth Costanza has 15 years of experience providing student service in higher education at community colleges. Elizabeth is a Los Medanos College and Saint Mary’s alumnus, and earned her Masters of Science degree in Counseling with an emphasis in college counseling (2009) from San Francisco State University. Being a first generation college student from a small rural town within California’s beautiful Central Valley was not easy. Throughout her childhood, she faced many hardships due to her parents being immigrants to this country. As a child, she had to work on the dairy farm and watch her parents work tirelessly under the hot sun picking food from the fields as a way to provide for the family. At 17, she took it upon herself to enroll in community college, not knowing it would change her life forever. Her counselor, Laura Subia, taught her the value of education and the importance of pursuing a degree. Elizabeth knew that one day she wanted to be just like Laura when she grew up, and so she did. As a leader and mentor, Elizabeth has had the opportunity to become the Puente Counselor/Coordinator, EOPS/CARE Counselor, General Counselor and now the Foster Youth Counselor/Coordinator for Los Medanos College. As a former alumnus, Elizabeth is humbled to come back to the very same community to provide guidance, opportunity, and to continue to build a legacy for Latina students.
**Guest of Honor**

Olga Arenivar, Founding Mother of LLN, was born in Durango, Mexico. During her 40 years as a college educator she taught Speech Communication & many other courses including Yoga. She served as Chair of Speech Department, Coordinator of Staff Development, and project administrator, was a founding Member of Los Medanos College and worked to initiate a cross cultural curriculum of inclusion for GE courses. She has received numerous awards e.g. Los Medanos College nominee for the Hayward Award for Excellence, Contra Costa Community Colleges District Diversity Award, Cesar Chavez. She initiated The Raza Caucus to expand diversity in the National Speech Communication Association. Initiated the start of Puente at LMC, Director for Advance Program For Latinos. Olga retired but continues to be a life long learner.

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**¡Viva La mujer!**

- **Viva!!** Stephanie Ramos received an award for her TEN years of service and dedication at Ohlone College as a counselor and the Transfer Director! Congratulations, Stephanie!!

- **Viva!!** Dolores Cornejo was nominated by her students and colleagues for her advocacy and dedication to foster youth students by the John Burton Advocates for Youth 2017 College Hero Award. She was presented this award at the 2017 graduation celebration held at UCSD by former CA Senator John Burton.

- **Maria Elena Ramirez**, former LLN President and long time member will be taking her storytelling performance, “CHICANA HERstory: You’ve heard History and now hear hers.” She will be traveling to Toronto, Canada in late July 2017 to perform to the World Indigenous People’s Conference on
IEPI Invites LLN
The Latina Leadership Network was invited to participate in an Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI) sponsored advisory committee for the purpose of facilitating a system-wide change leadership initiative. Dr. Angélica Garcia is nominated to represent the LLN.

About the IEPI:
Last year, IEPI conducted two visioning workshops to identify system-level needs for leadership development. An assessment of existing leadership development approaches across the system found that current efforts focus primarily on orienting new leaders in the functional aspects of their positions. While these efforts are important, workshop participants agreed that there is much to be gained from system-wide conversations that explore leadership competencies needed to move the system forward. At the same time, other system-wide initiatives have highlighted demands for deep and far-reaching strategic change management. This advisory committee will focus on exploring approaches and convening conversations that address our shared need for change leadership.

Congratulations Cuesta College LLN Chapter
Cuesta College experienced a 43% increase in Latino/a student enrollment over the last 6 years, which resulted in designation as a Hispanic-Serving Institution in 2016. Serving a diverse student population means more than tracking enrollment. Most importantly, it means providing students equal opportunities to succeed. The Cuesta College Chapter of the Latina Leadership Network (LLN), currently led by Danna Tejada-Baquero, offered the ideas and actions needed to welcome and support this growing group of students. Six years ago, LLN created Edúcate-Sí Se Puede, which has reached nearly 2,000 local high school students. Juniors and seniors come to a college campus, many for the first time, to hear from inspiring Latino/a leaders and to learn about opportunities for higher education. In 2017, the event broke attendance records with nearly 500 participants. Once these students enroll at Cuesta, members of LLN become advocates and mentors, especially for low-income, first generation, English as a Second Language and DACA students. Under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, qualifying undocumented youth are eligible for a path to citizenship that requires completion of a college degree or military service. Due in part to a symposium for immigrant families co-hosted by LLN in 2016, more than 550 DACA students are pursuing this dream at Cuesta College. Support of these students has grown to include their own club, Dreamers United, and ally training programs. LLN members find many ways to mentor students including a new summer outdoor leadership adventure and accompanying them to professional conferences like the statewide LLN event. To build campus-wide support, LLN works with other clubs to host activities that celebrate Latin culture like Cinco de Mayo. The Cuesta Chapter LLN has received state-level honors including three region of the year awards and two Madrina Awards presented to Glenda Moscoso and Janet Flores.