President Maria Ramirez’s Message

Bienvenidas to an amazing network of Latina women.

Our unifying motivation is your success in education, employment, and life. We know the depth of your yearnings, your secret dreams and aspirations, your numerous untapped talents and abilities, your strengths and resilience, your deep faith and spirituality. How do we know? Our indigenous Mayan elders taught us, we are you—In Lak’ech’.

As we enter our 21st year, we find ourselves re-energized by the dynamic, new generation of Latina leaders, both employees and students in the community college system, who stepped up at the conclusion of our last conference, to join our circle/network and thereby strengthen our vision and commitment to a better future.

Our annual retreat for executive board members gave us the opportunity to bond as we revisited some of the founding principles of our organization, which are as timely today, as they were in 1987. Our retreat was facilitated by Dr. Yolanda Ronquillo. She utilized porvida teachings, which are referred to in our Plan of Action, towards culturally relevant paths to knowledge, leadership and balance.

So yes, there is much to do this upcoming year, but if the photos in this issue are any indication, we do love life, we love to laugh in spite of adversity, and we face these challenges with wit, renewed vitality and intelligence. As your President, I encourage you to help us expand the membership in your respective community colleges this year, so that our spring conference in Los Angeles in March of 2009 will have one of our largest attendance.

QUE VIVAN LAS MUJERES DE LATINA LEADERSHIP NETWORK!!!

Our Vision:

LLN envisions a strong network for Latinas within the California Community College system guided by diverse leadership at all levels that supports and fosters exemplary and equitable educational and employment opportunities.

Visit our website for more information at Latina-leadership-network.org
The theme of LLN’S 21st annual statewide conference, RESTORING the BALANCE-in our LIVES, our COMMUNITIES, and our WORLD, became a guiding force for the San Jose/Evergreen LLN planning committee. Energized by the strong support of their Chancellor, Rosa Perez, and followed by strategic sponsorships, State Chancellor Dr. Diane Woodruff, the first woman ever to head the office and premier Latina philanthropist, Carmen Castellano, served as speakers and presenters. The two day event was kicked off with a golf tournament and gala reception followed by the conference, and dance. Highlighting the conference were an all inspired group of Latinas who served as workshop presenters and role models in a variety of topics for the sizeable student population that attended. A unique feature to this year’s conference was the colorful registration bags provided to each attendee. The artistically constructed bolsas were a reflection of the solidarity our indigenous sisters in Ecuador have with their North American sisters.
Executive Board Retreat

The 30 member Executive Board of the Latina Leadership Network met for a weekend retreat at Asilomar on June 6-8, 2008. Considered a valuable "wonderful" and a "rejuvenating" experience, the following are some noted reflections of the retreat:

[The retreat] was inspirational, energetic and productive...I got back home with so much optimism of what we can accomplish in the coming year.

Most of all the experience gave me the courage and ganas to be able to ask for money for the organization, something I never considered EVER getting into.

So the process we went through in these two days infused me with the "poder que si puedo y lo haré!"

"As a Pocha, LLN has introduced many things to me...songs, philosophies, ceremonies--and let's not forget my debut of blowing la conch!"

"I really enjoyed...the corazón, riqueza y cariño de la cultura Mixteca...combined with strategic planning needed to move forward."

[The retreat] "brought home the message that everyone must begin by reflecting on one's self to clear the path for the future...there is a lot of pain in our world and we need to first recognize it, own it, and go on to put it in its place...we will always have to deal with obstruction, ignorance, and insecurity of others. Of course we try to educate ourselves and others so as to have a level playing field. However, we have our familia (some not blood related), our culture and some great history to support us along the way."

"As a "newbee" I was a bit nervous and unsure of the outcomes for the weekend. However, I quickly learned that part of the weekend was to serve the purpose of getting us all acquainted and to form "trust" with our own board...[the retreat and leadership style] was unique, energized and all about unity, which I appreciate and respect".

2008-09 Executive Board
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, Siskiyous, 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, Fullerton, 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

2008-2009 Executive LLN Board

President
Maria Ramirez
Ohlone College

Student Vice President North
Rebeca Villafana
Cabrillo College

Student Vice President Central
Mariel Mascorro
Cuesta College

Student Vice President South
Danna Tejada-Appointed
Cuesta College

Treasurer
Glenda Moscoso
Cuesta College

Development Officer
Nina Michel Genera

Region 1 Representative
Christina Marsh
Evergreen Valley College

Region 1 Alternate
Alicia Sustaita-Parsons
De Anza College

Region 2 Representative
Olga Arenivar
Los Medanos College

Region 2 Alternate
Vacant

Region 3 Representative
Monica Nolasco
Madera CCC and StateCCD

Region 3 Alternate
Estrella Nanez
Modesto Junior College

Region 4 Representative
Vanessa Valverde
East Los Angeles College

Region 4 Alternate
Vacant

Region 5 Representative
Cynthia Arellano Lavariere
cerritos college

Region 5 Alternate
Lisette Rhi
Rio Hondo College

Region 6 Representative
Cynthia Arellano Lavariere
cerritos college

Region 6 Alternate
Vacant

Region 7 Representative
Cynthia Arellano Lavariere
cerritos college

Region 7 Alternate
Vacant

Region 8 Representative
Cynthia Arellano Lavariere
cerritos college

Region 8 Alternate
Vacant

Region 9 Representative
Cynthia Arellano Lavariere
cerritos college

Region 9 Alternate
Vacant

Region Representatives 10 – 11
Vacant

President - Elect / VP South
Maria Ramirez
Ohlone College

Vice President Central
Martha Robles
Modesto Junior College

Vice President North
Carmen Pereida
De Anza College

Vice President South
Kendra Maestas
Fullerton College

Esperanza Editor
Carol Justino
Los Angeles CCD

Corresponding Secretary
Irene Gutierrez
San Jose Evergreen

Recording Secretary
Stephanie Ramos
Ohlone College

Conference Chair
Diane Gamboa
Los Angeles CCD

Database Officer
Isabel Macias
San Jose City College

Region 2 Alternate
Luz O. Moreno and Eva Jimenez
Shasta College

Region 3 Alternate
Vacant

Region 4 Alternate
Vacant

Region 5 Alternate
Vacant

Region 6 Alternate
Vacant

Region 7 Alternate
Vacant

Region 8 Alternate
Vacant

Region 9 Alternate
Vacant
President Maria Ramirez’s Message
Greetings Queridas Hermanas/Dearest Sisters,

Our 22nd conference is scheduled for March 6-7, 2009 at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Hollywood. To better prepare for this event, we must reflect and evaluate the progress of our organization by looking at where we are and where we need to go. First and foremost, LLN seeks equity. Equity means equality of access to opportunities for employment and advancement and authentic learning that is inclusive and relevant to Latinas from all of our diverse backgrounds. We seek these advances for Latinas who are currently employed in the California community college system and we seek them for all the Latinas who come to our community colleges as students. Equity in employment and educational opportunities has been and continues to be a primary goal of LLN.

A shining example of LLN equity in action is that right now on our board, we have 4 members who are pursuing their doctorates. They are both students and employees. They have their masters, yet most need mentors, staff development opportunities to get the experiences needed to go for high level positions. They are Latinas who care not only about their own advancement, but the advancement of their community. They are highly motivated and seeking opportunities to show they not only have the potential but all the necessary skills and requirements to be well prepared leaders in the educational arena. Women like these, plus the many unnamed Latinas employed throughout the system serve as living role models for Latina students who have for the most part not seen or been exposed to Latinas in educational careers, let alone the possibilities that can be theirs if they follow their dreams.

LLN promotes a historical perspective grounded in our roots to this hemisphere, going back millennia that honor and value the feminine and the power of women’s councils and circles. This directly contradicts the stereotypical and narrow roles Latinas and non-Latinas are still taught is our “traditional culture”. Today, in the US, we have a woman running for Vice-President and almost nominated a woman candidate for President. Yet, right here to the south of this hemisphere, there are currently Latinas elected and serving as Presidents of their nations. Perception about our abilities, perceptions about the role of machismo, and our culture seem to be bigger obstacles to our success than the reality of our proven ability to lead constructively.

Locally, we have the wonderful example of Rosa Perez, Chancellor of the San-Jose/Evergreen College District, Latina extraordinaire, who knows who she is, where she comes from, maintains the best of her cultura, and is an Educator for all people. She is not an isolated case; we have so many talented Latinas in our midst, a virtual untapped ocean. Now more than ever, it seems that we need support from the top down, Chancellors, CEO’s of colleges who are our allies and supporters need to let VP’s and Deans, and other supervisors know that mentoring, and providing staff with release time for professional growth opportunities is a form of equity. Such activities strengthen the college’s mission not only for their students but for their staff. For Latinas, our strong visibility in the system is intrinsically linked to our students and their success. In Lak’Ech, we are one, Tu Eres Mi Otra Yo.

Important Dates:
Visit our website for more information regarding the 22nd annual LLN Conference from March 6-7, 2009 in Los Angeles at Latina-leadership-network.org.

Also, look for the Student scholarship, Madrina and Employee Grant applications for 2009 and deadline information. AB-540 students encouraged to apply.
At LLN’s annual retreat, the executive body with the guidance of Dr. Yolanda Ronquillo developed the organization’s strategic plan with our intention to increase group unity, visibility and revitalization of our 21 year old network. In accordance with this plan, Maria Ramirez, LLN President, Dr. Nina Genera, Development Officer, Carmen Pereida, VP of the North, and Alicia Sustaita-Parsons, Region One Alternate, met with Dr. Diane Woodruff, State Chancellor of the California Community Colleges on July 24, 2008. Our intent was twofold; first to thank Dr. Woodruff for her support at our past conference and secondly to seek her advice on building a collaborative, working relationship with the new State Chancellor. At the time, it was our understanding that Dr. Woodruff’s tenure would be over at the end of July, 2008.

We found Dr. Woodruff to be a person who is down to earth; she is very intelligent and easy to talk to, and she speaks from the heart. Dr. Woodruff gave us ideas and suggestions on how to support the mission and vision of the LLN. Our discussion lead to issues that included supporting the efforts of the LLN through its conferences, the recognition and support needed for our community, and strategies and techniques that open educational and professional pathways for the advancement of Latinas (staff and students) within the Community College system.

It is rare and uplifting to have an ally like Dr. Woodruff who is more than willing to share her knowledge of how "the system works". We found that Dr. Woodruff believes in supporting historically underrepresented groups. The message she conveyed to us reinforced our "In Lak'ech" and "Si Se Puede" attitude.

As Latinas, we sometimes face lack of employment opportunities and this can discourage us from trying. In preparing for advancement, we forget, or don't know how to groom ourselves for professional growth. Dr. Woodruff gave us key strategies for upward mobility and inspired us to share her insights with all of you. Below is a summary of the ideas and activities that she believes are vital for successful preparation or careers within the educational systems.

**Strategies for Upward Mobility**

- Inform your supervisor of your desire to move upwards and volunteer on special projects along with your supervisor and ask for feedback about your performance
- Work hard within your current position and go beyond your job description
- Ask for suggestions from supervisor on how to approach other people in power
- Attend the leadership conference and trainings - even if you have to pay for it out of your own pocket
- Look for internships using current connections
- Participate on accreditation committees
- See what the rotary club and other various associations have to offer
- Ask questions and remember, your approach is important
- Any conversation with colleagues may be considered an informal interview
- Offer to volunteer to help others and/or in other areas
- Get involved in task force and/or various committees
- Identify the position you want then speak with the person in charge and inform her/him of your intent
- Ask the following questions:
  - What is the education needed for the position?
  - What is the experience needed for the position?
- Get mentors to guide you
- Use intuition
- Find those who want to help you reach your goals
- Let go of those who do not have your best interest at heart
- Take advantage of leadership opportunities
- Find your voice - Kaleidoscope - project what you want
- Do affirmations and visualization

Continue to page 3
• Write a daily journal and include ideas like:
  "I see myself as …"
  "I am getting ready for …"
• Put a picture of yourself in the mirror and write under it what you want to be
  (Remember, the mind will do that which you may think you cannot do)
• Don't let negative messages get you down
• Take what you have learned, and use it
• Be a mentor to someone else

The Approach
• Validate your supervisor's position (or person in charge of the position you want)
• Use professional language
• Be conscientious of your verbal and non-verbal communication
• Use "I" statements

Remember, we all benefit when we work together!

On Philanthropy and More
By Carmen Castellano, President
Castellano Family Foundation

On March 14th of this year, I was fortunate and honored to participate as a workshop presenter at the 21st annual Latina Leadership Conference held in San Jose. My presentation was on a topic that is very dear to my heart—Philanthropy. As the President of the Castellano Family Foundation, our mission is to provide funds to “organizations, primarily in the Santa Clara County community, promoting the arts, Latino culture, Latino leadership, the educational pursuits of Latino students, and special interests of the Trustees.”

In keeping with that mission, we are often asked to make public presentations, and thus my presence at the LLN Conference. The workshop included an overview of how different types of foundations operate. And information on how the Castellano Family Foundation determines what kinds of organizations to support, what criteria we use to determine who receives a grant, and what a grant request looks like. It was heartwarming to witness such an interest in this topic—we had a full house, standing room only.

While preparing for the “You Too Can Be a Philanthropist” workshop, I considered how my talk could have a greater and more lasting impact than the one-hour of information I would impart. So I decided to offer participants who attended the workshop an opportunity to submit a grant proposal to the Castellano Family Foundation. We received quite a few very worthwhile proposals. From these, the following were funded: See right side of this page.

I want to thank all of the conference participants who submitted a grant proposal. I thoroughly enjoyed my time and participation at the conference. I urge all of you to think of philanthropy as a reachable and meaningful goal worthy of life-long participation and enjoyment.

Note: We are hoping to have Carmen present again in 2009. Come prepared with your ideas for grants.

Project Roar, Yerba Buena High School - $5,000
Submitted by Valentin Garcia
A Yerba Buena High School pilot transition program designed for incoming, at-risk Latino male ninth graders, which assists students with English, math, and group dynamic skills, and challenges them to start preparing for their future education.

Evergreen Valley College, AB 540 - $2,500
Submitted by Angelina Duarte
A program designed to assist Evergreen Valley College AB 540 students (immigrant students who are pursuing legal residency) with financial, enrollment, retention, mentoring, and support services.

Modesto Junior College Hispanic Education Conference
$5,000
Submitted by Felicia Osnaya
A program designed to do outreach and motivate high school students to continue their education and identify career goals which features keynote speakers, workshops, entertainment, and other activities.

Total Funds Distributed $12,500
From C’s & D’s to PH.D.

Dr. Jennifer Jovel’s Story

By Nina Genera

It’s the first week of classes, fall, 1995, and student appointments are back to back, every half hour, mostly filled with brand new first generation college students, who wait until the last minute to enroll in classes, and in most cases, have no idea of what their goals are. I think every California Community College Counselor can identify with this scenario.

I will never forget the day that Enrique Vera showed up for his appointment and brought a friend with him for support. After helping him with his classes, I turned to the quietly shy young lady and asked her what courses she wanted to take. She adamantly informed me that she was just accompanying her friend to his appointment, and had absolutely no plans of going to college herself. I persistently asked her why she didn’t want to try a class or two, and she informed me that she had never been a good student throughout her 12 years of schooling, had barely graduated from high school, and not only, was tired of school, but hated it. After engaging her in conversation, digging deeper and cajoling her to take a couple of Chicano Studies classes, along with a Study Skills class I was teaching, Jennifer Jovel walked out of my office with a full time load. (Needless to say, my appointments were all backed up!)

If rags to riches has a parallel in academia, it could be personified by Jennifer Jovel, who went from being a student who just got by in high school, to the proud woman who just earned her Ph.D. in Education from Stanford University this past June. After facing many struggles in high school, Jennifer graduated from Kennedy High School in Fremont, earned her A.A. degree from Ohlone College, her B.A. degree in Social Work from U.C. Berkeley, her M.A. degree in Counseling from San Jose State University, another M.A. degree in Sociology from Stanford University along with her Ph.D. in Education, all of them with highest honors, maintaining a 4.00 G.P.A. throughout her entire college and university career. All this was accomplished by a girl who said she didn’t do well in high school, failed Algebra three times and only knew that college was too expensive for her to think about.

“I had no goals and didn’t even know what I wanted to do with my life after I graduated from high school,” says Dr. Jovel. “I was the first one in my family to go to college and my three brothers and I were raised by a single mom who worked hard to make sure we had the necessities.” Jennifer reflects that as she walked out of the Counseling office with a full time load, she remembers it being the first time that someone took an interest in her future. There were few guidance counselors at Kennedy High School because of budget cuts.

Once she was at Ohlone, she felt intimidated by the academic system, not knowing how to study or how to apply for financial aid and other scholarships. However, she remembers acquiring much of this information from the Study Skills class she was enrolled in, and developing her self-esteem and self-confidence through her Chicano Studies courses. Jennifer attended her first LLN Conference in Spring 1997, where she remembers being awestruck and influenced by so many professional Latinas in Education.

Throughout her college career, she funded her studies with financial aid and scholarships, but also did a lot of babysitting and other dead-end jobs to save her money. She realized from that work experience that she wanted a meaningful career interacting and helping people, specifically in teaching or counseling.

Although Dr. Jovel’s Ph.D. from Stanford gives her the opportunity to teach at a prestigious ivy league university or work for a national educational research institute, Jennifer’s heart is in her community. She has been teaching Chicano Studies courses, La Chicana and Chicano Culture, at Ohlone College, where her academic life was born. This last March, Dr. Jovel was able to bring the young women from her classes to our last LLN Conference in San Jose, this time, as their professor and mentor.

Dr. Jovel’s story epitomizes the mission and goals of our Latina Leadership Network. Jennifer’s perseverance, determination, and strength have taken her full circle. She is passionate about teaching/counseling community college students, where she will be able to give back to students who mirror her high school experience, and prod them...maybe even gently coerce them a little...into taking the challenge she once took, 13 years ago and hopefully following in her footsteps.

CONGRATULATIONS DR. JOVEL AND WELCOME TO OUR RANKS!
Region 2 Brings the Shasta LLN Chapter to life!

Finding the balance, that was my journey. For seven years I had looked for a connection to my culture, core values, language, my identity, and to simply be understood. It became a concern when I found myself completely assimilated to the “mainstream culture” and I felt more Anglo than Mexican. How did this happen? Oh yes, when I looked around the grocery store, the mall, the gas station, and at my colleagues and couldn’t find someone who looked anything like me. As the saying goes, I couldn’t beat them, so I joined them!

I was introduced to the possibility of attending a Latina Leadership Network Conference. What? A place where I would be surrounded by women who not only looked like me, but also shared a similar culture, language, and rhythm in their souls. I was excited, but also nervous when I arrived. I felt awkward, almost like a fish out of water when I first sat in a very big room full of women with brown skin and black hair. I almost felt as if everyone knew I was more Anglo than Mexican. I felt like crawling into a shell as I ate my breakfast. Here I was, finally surrounded by my own, yet felt more lost than ever. It was evident this would not be a typical conference when our opening session began with music and a Community College Chancellor was dancing to Cuban salsa. As I stood, danced and clapped my hands I could feel my guard coming down and warming up to what was a familiar feeling. After spending the next few days in workshops, meeting and greeting incredible, talented and spirited women, I found a new charge in my life. I began to reconnect with a part of me that was lost for many years; my soul was no longer dormant.

I returned to Northern California, determined and on a mission. Joining forces with Luz Moreno, another young professional woman like myself, we made the decision to begin our very own journey here at Shasta College.

Six months later in a far away land north of the State’s Capitol our new LLN Chapter is alive. The newly formed Chapter brings together Latina comadres from Tehama, Shasta, Trinity and Butte counties. The Chapter currently has 15 members and is looking to grow by the end of the academic year. It is with spirit, energy, and shared goals that our “sisterhood” has taken life. We Latinas being the minority, in every sense of the word, have found in the North State a unity which gives us strength and encouragement to push forward. We are helping each other grow and also looking to our fellow LLN members throughout the State to nurture our souls and our blood. A heartfelt Thank you to Maria Ramirez, our Comandante, and Nancy Retes, our Region Representative for their vision and their continued support. Que Vivan!

Vivas!

- Viva to Brenda Arteaga Reynoso, Ohlone College Counselor, and to all her Puentistas!!!
- Viva to Colleen Triesch for walking new AB-540 student/parents to resources at LBCC!!!
- Viva to Dr. Jennifer Jovel for her academic accomplishments!!! VIVA!!!
- Viva to Maria Ramirez, LLN President and Ohlone College Counselor will be performing Chicana Her story at Butte College during the October Diversity Days. Que Viva la Jefa!!
President Martha Robles’s Message

Queridas Hermanas,

It's hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us and the new year is just around the corner. The year is rapidly coming to a close and the coming months will be very busy for many of us as we continue to move through each day during these difficult economic times. We, as educators, need to stay positive, remain supportive and continue to encourage our students during these trying times. Over twenty-three years ago, the founders of the Latina Leadership Network had a vision, to search for educational opportunities, mentor, reach out and discover endless possibilities. Despite the many challenges the LLN founding mothers and its members faced, they maintained a strong focus on their vision. Like the founding women, your current leaders, whether on campus leading a local chapter or on the board; are maintaining the invigorating spirit we know.

On behalf of the Executive Board, we would like to recognize and thank you for your participation in the 2009 Annual Conference, which was held in Los Angeles. We greatly appreciate that you so generously contributed your time to assemble and network. We recognize that your attendance was the key to a successful event.

As this edition of the Esperanza reaches the LLN membership, our Annual Conference is in the full planning stage as with the conference committee has been in action. The 2010 annual conference will be held in Visalia March 11 – 13, 2010. A great thank you goes to President Dr. Bill Scroggins and College of the Sequoias for their support and commitment to host the 23rd annual conference. The theme for the conference is “The Evolution of the Latina Woman – La Evolución de la Mujer Latina” The conference will kick off with a reception Thursday night and will continue Friday with keynote speakers, workshops, a conference dinner and our traditional fiesta. The conference will conclude on Saturday with a keynote speaker and brunch.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have worked over the last year to keep the organization functioning on a business level: the region representatives, the conference committee, the officers, and most importantly the members. Thanks to each of you for all that you contribute. Whether you are a student, staff member, faculty or administrator you are in a position to affect the lives of others. With all of you working together, we can achieve anything we set out to do. We are quite an organization! I also want to acknowledge the current Board as they embody the energy, courage and excitement of our founding mothers.

As we continue to evolve and grow, we want to ensure that we are serving you, our members. I intend to do my best as LLN President and am honored to lead this organization. We hope that we are bringing you what you need as a professional, if not, please let us know! I can be contacted at (209) 575-6641 or roblesm@mjc.edu. If you have ideas about subject matters you would like to see covered in the Esperanza newsletter contact Colleen Triesch at cdancer43@yahoo.com.

A Special THANK YOU to Shasta College

On behalf of the LLN Executive Board, I would like to extend a special thank you to all of the Shasta College Faculty, Staff and Administrators for hosting our board meeting on Saturday, October 17, 2009. You so graciously opened up your college campus as well as your homes, welcomed us all in and made us feel very comfortable, just as if we were at home. We truly enjoyed ourselves in the city of Redding and especially while on your beautiful and very serene college campus. We cannot thank you enough for the hospitality and kindness that you showed us. It was appreciated more than you will ever know. Thank you so much!
The Case of a Farm Worker
by Lucha Ortega

How many of you have been exposed to farm labor under extreme heat?

On Friday, July 31, 2009 an article titled “Suit: Labor rights violated” in my local newspaper caught my eye and I proceeded to read it. According to the article, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is suing the State of California to “protect farm workers from heat illness and death.” I was shocked to read that farm workers’ basic rights to shade and rest whenever they feel ill continue to be violated—even after California mandated these rights into law in 2005.

As I finished reading the article, I was left thinking that for as much gain as we have made to ensure the protection of basic human rights, much remains to be done for farm workers who by picking fruits and vegetables help put food on our table.

As a mature professional woman now working in education, I can’t help but think of “hermanas” in the Latina Leadership Network whose family members continue to work under dire working conditions while holding on to “la esperanza” of succeeding one day in abandoning poverty through the path of obtaining a formal education.

For Claudia
by Candace Byrne

This week in one of my classes, I used an assignment written years ago by a young Mexicana student. Claudia was from Nayarit, and she had come to the US to stay with her American husband’s mother because her husband wanted her to improve her English. She wrote about her grandfather and repeated a story about witches he had often told. Just as I am, my students are always impressed by Claudia’s work. Her grandfather’s story was clearly written in her first draft. In the later drafts her grandfather’s way of storytelling and Claudia’s love of her grandfather came to life.

I’ve lost track of Claudia, and a recent report by the National Women’s Law Center and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund reminds me why. This semester, I’ve lost a Native American student whose mother needs counseling and who is the one who can drive her mother to these appointments. A sister of a former Puente student tells me that her older sister has two babies—in three years—and a no good husband who abuses her. I’ve seen two of our former Puente students working at the taco truck, that one of their sisters owns. Both students waiting for admission to the College’s impacted nursing program and both of them are undocumented. They wait despite their fears that they will never be able to practice nursing, as RN licensing requires US documentation. They wait for the Dream Act.

Listening to Latinas: Barriers to High School Graduation may focus on high school Latinas, but we in the colleges can learn from it. Here at Shasta College, with las hermanas in the Latina Leadership Network, I can do much more than bring Claudia’s revisions into my classes. Check out the report: http://maldef.org/assets/pdf/ListeningtoLatinas.pdf. It provides a blueprint for our work in LLN.

Vivas!

☆ Viva to our new Financial Aid Director Nohemy Ormela at Cuesta College!
☆ Viva to our former director Robin Crawford for her 30+ years of service to Cuesta College!
☆ Viva to all Latinas who have endured these tough times by hanging in there to continue their education!
☆ Viva to Martha Robles for passing the Written Qualifying Exams for her doctorate!
☆ Viva to Region 2 for hosting the LLN Executive Board meeting at Shasta College in Redding, California. A “first” for the North State!
☆ Viva to Debra Cruz, Citrus College, received her Master’s degree in Educational Counseling from the University at La Verne earlier this year!
☆ Viva to Nohelia Canales and Vendessa Valverde for earning Tenure at East Los Angeles College! What a way to begin the New Year! These Latina professors are providing positive role models for Latina community college student.
President Maria Ramirez’s Message (in photo with Rigoberta Menchu Nobel Peace Prize winner and Mayan Human Rights Activist)

Queridas Hermanas/Dearest Sisters,

I leave my position as President with the same attitude as when I started. Adelante, Onward Mujeres! What a year, for our organization, for our state, and for our nation. Hope and change, is being countered by the largest global economic calamity ever, not the least is an estimated $1billion in cuts to the community college system alone. This means dismantling whole programs, hiring freezes, eliminating many classified and faculty positions, tuition increases, reduced financial assistance. There are far less sponsors and donors supporting LLN. Fears of foreclosures are gripping both students and staff due to ballooning mortgages.

Now more than ever, we need to remember our great resiliency as a people, our determination and courage individually and collectively, in order to come through these times not only intact, but stronger. As Latinas, we know hard times, and because of that history, we know we will not only survive but we will thrive. We will have our sacred dreams fulfilled, and maintain balance in our lives. In the face of these challenging times, I encourage you all to read the writings of Rigoberta Menchu for inspiration and inner fortitude.

Our theme for this year’s conference, In LakEch, We Are One, taps into a deep ancestral artery that throbs inside of each of our hearts to remind us of a connected and integral way of life. As a sisterhood of Latina women, we know we are not alone, we are one with each other, and all creation. Our foremothers kept the council fires burning through their circles. We still feel this empowerment whenever we gather in groups, and so at our statewide conference we need to continue to feed the council fire, and then take that flame with us when we return to our homes, our schools, our communities. Our sisterhood is powerful! LLN’s founding mothers formed that circle 22 years ago and that power continues to draw in Latinas every year--each of you is a part of that circle, feel it, draw on it, nurture it, strengthen it.

Hold tight to our resiliency, our ability to rebound and resist, as we brace for more hard times. We must keep on, and stay strong. If you are an employee of the community college system, do your job as best you can, even if the work load has tripled, but not at the expense of jeopardizing your health. If you are a student, don’t drop out, even if you have to take only one or two classes, stay focused, stay healthy, be true to yourself, know you are not alone. All of us need to actively seek out and maintain a support system. Remember to look up into the beauty of the night sky, or let the warmth of the sun embrace you or take a peaceful walk as a reminder of our connectedness. Call on Mother Nature’s great and powerful support system. We haven’t come this far to lose our hope now, Adelante Mujeres! Always Onward!

Important Dates:

Visit our website for more information in exploring LLN’s history, mission and past issues at Latina-leadership-network.org.
“The more you struggle in life the more you appreciate your accomplishments,” said Erica Castillas, a student from Ohlone College, explaining her experience in attending last year’s 21st annual Latina Leadership Network Conference held in March in San Jose. Every year the Latina Leadership Network conference committee organizes workshops and presenters to inform Latinas of all ages how to start reforming the balance in their life, the community and the world. Included in this cultural celebration of food, music, teatro and dance are groups of Latinas from around the state coming together to better understand the benefits of higher education.

“Before I went to the Latina Leadership Conference I was thinking about dropping out of school,” she said sadly, recalling how she and her family are struggling to pay for college. “I was thinking about working full time to help my family. Paying for my units and school supplies is becoming too expensive for me,” she said. Castillas hopes to become a registered nurse.

Judge Katherine Lucero was one on the many inspirational speakers at the 21st annual conference, “She inspired me to keep my mind on positive thoughts about completing college in order to achieve my academic goals. After hearing Judge Lucero’s story: “I feel more confident about myself,” said Castillas. “I realized that I’m not alone in my struggles”. Now I see my struggles as investments, I know they will pay off.” If there was a secret to the strength of a Latina leader it would consist of three ingredients: heart, discipline and credentials, explained Lucero, “You have to have perseverance, hope, and faith. If you know you’re doing the right thing you can keep going,” said Lucero as she closed her speech with words of hope. “She inspired me to continue in my education,” Erica said. “Being able to see a powerful Latina in front of me made it real.”

To maintain a hopeful sense of the future was the clear objective that all the speakers confirmed. Latinas of all ages came together to witness and participate in sharing their struggles and how they were able to overcome very difficult situations. It was a time to raise Latinas consciousness of the obstacles that confront young Latinas and to emphasize the importance of education.

“It exceeded my expectations,” said Ana Rodriguez another student from Ohlone College, “There was one workshop in particular that really helped me cope with my stress with college and with my family,” Ana shared that “the workshop helped me to deal with my stress in a positive manner.” “I feel proud to be a Latina after hearing powerful stories; I feel like I can make it too,” Ana said enthusiastically. “The whole experience was life changing for me, I really think differently now.”

As a young Latina, I also had the opportunity to experience this motivating convention. I will always admire Dolores Huerta’s strength and courage, for her testimony showed the value of persistence. She spoke about believing in ourselves, but being focused on the needs of others.

I learned from each workshop and presenter how to be more conscious about how society can work against me. But now that I have witnessed truly inspirational stories, I am more determined to pursue my educational goals in order that I become successful. “Do what you fear but have no fear.”

“…If you know you’re doing the right thing you can keep going.”
Message from LLN President-Elect,

Marlene de Leon

I take great pride and am truly honored and humbled to step into my role as the 2009-2010 LLN President. Serving as an Executive Board member since 2004, I have had the privilege of belonging to a sisterhood and have gained friendships that have both personally and professionally inspired and touched my life. I now know the true meaning of “Comadre”.

I have worked at Palomar College for 24 years, both as a part-time faculty in the Dance department and as full-time classified staff in the Educational Television department. I bring my experience from serving as President of the Directors of Educational Technology/California Higher Education (DETCHE), member of several statewide committees, Advisory Board member for the National Indian Justice Center, Self Study Accreditation Co-Chair, and local professional development committees. I value the diversity of talents among sister Latinas and accept the responsibility to utilize the wealth of experience to continue the legacy that past LLN presidents have left in overcoming struggles in moving our organization forward. One of my goals this coming year is to develop strategies that support the active involvement of Latinas in our organization when facing budget cuts and economical hardships in our personal and professional life.

"Not only can Latinas do, but we do it with pride for our cultura, we do it with spiritual energy and we do it with the Latina brand of enthusiasm."

Vivas!

- Viva to Felicia Osnaya upon her retirement after 35 years of service at Modesto Junior College and 12 years of service to the LLN of the CCC (to both the campus chapter and the Statewide Organization). Felicia became active with LLN in 1995 when MJC formed its local LLN Chapter. She brought the statewide Network into the digital age when she created and maintained an effective database – the original database guru! Felicia has announced her retirement, and we could not be more excited and happy for her. She leaves behind very large shoes to fill - her absence will surely create a large void at MJC.
- Viva to Maria Ramirez as LLN president honoree of the 2009 International Association for Women of Color Day, at the annual Women of Color Day Event in Sacramento.
- Viva to Martha Robles (Modesto JC) and Eva Jimenez (Shasta College) who were selected to attend the 1st CSSO or CIO Leadership Institute. These are Chief Student Service Officers and Chief Instructional Officers respectively. To attend the institute persons are nominated by their administration who selects individuals whom have demonstrated potential for advancement to positions of CSSOs or CIOs.
- Viva to Dr. Azari, former Vice Chancellor for SCCCD, who was appointed the new Fresno City College President. The State Center Community College District Board announced her appointment in December, 2008. The campus newspaper quoted the District Chancellor, Dr. Tom Crow as saying, “Dr. Azari has a strong track record of success, well earned success, and I think she is a perfect fit for the position.”
- Viva to Darlene Montes, on her promotion to Executive Assistant to the President, Los Angeles Mission College.
- Viva to Glenda Moscoso for becoming tenured at Cuesta College and for all her valuable contributions as treasurer to LLN.
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

Colleen Triesch
3925 Linden Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90807

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED Mailing Address
Street Number and Name
City, State 98765-4321
President Martha Robles’s Message

Bienvenidas!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2011 Latina Leadership Network of the California Community Colleges Conference. The conference theme, *Latinas in Motion con Corazón*, represents the commitment and devotion of the Latina women who have worked diligently to bring you this exciting conference. Undoubtedly these are challenging times for community colleges. We find that we can’t turn on the television or our computer and not hear about the dire economy of our state. As we approach the coming year, we will experience movement and change within our institutions. As Latinas “*in motion*” we need to look to each other (our network) for support to dig deep into our corazón for the strength to continue to make a difference in the lives of others by getting involved, providing support to our students, and being creative and innovative during these difficult times.

I believe the conference offers valuable workshops, networking sessions and speakers to rejuvenate, re-energize and prepare us to confront the challenges ahead. More importantly, we want you to see LLN as the organization that best serves your interests and needs. In addition to an excellent program, the conference provides an exciting environment to meet your peers from across the state, build relationships, and exchange lessons learned.

¡Disfruten la conferencia!

*Martha Robles*

President, 2009-2011

---

**Important Dates:**
Visit our website for more information exploring LLN's history, mission and past issues at:

Latina-Leadership-network.org
**VP Corner, North**  
**Eva Jimenez**  
**Latina Leadership Network, President- Elect**  
**Shasta College**

**News from the North:**

We can't believe the time is here! A year ago our Region One Chapter traveled to Visalia for the 23rd LLN Annual Conference. We had an incredible time! We gained, grew and took away from the conference our individual experiences. Committing to hosting the 24th Annual conference was not taken lightly, as we considered how far, far, far north most would need to travel. However, we were inspired by our Statewide Executive Board to bring our Latina’s to Redding, Ca.

It has been twelve months of planning, coordinating, creating and promoting our upcoming conference. On March 11th and 12th our Region welcomes all our Latina Leadership Network amigas. We are thrilled to have had the opportunity to showcase our beautiful North state and to bring together an experience that will touch el corazón de la mujer!

_Eva Jimenez_  
Vice President, North

**VP Corner, South**  
**Dr. Cynthia Arellano-Lavariere**  
**Latina Leadership Network, Vice President**  
**Cerritos College**

**News from the South:**

It is time to celebrate the virtues that make Latina Leaders so influential and relevant in our society. The Latina Leadership Network in the South will host a 5 part “La Cultural Latina” series of events, in honor of the upcoming LLN 25th Anniversary year. Each event will highlight the goals of the LLN Mission and encourage present and future Latina Leader’s to “Live the Solution”. Each event will also feature mini-workshops, speaking engagements, and networking opportunities as preview of the **“SAVE THE DATE”**

25th Anniversary Latina Leadership Network Conference  
_to be held in Long Beach, California on_  
_March 15-17, 2012_
“La Cultural Latina” – LLN Series
Hosted by Cerritos College
Part I

Event Date: May 20, 2011 (Tentatively held)
Event Venue: Bokaos Aveda Salon – Pasadena, CA
Event Time: 7p-12a (Tentatively held)
Entrance Price: $25.00 at door / $20.00 pre-sale

Guests will receive:
- Complimentary Open Champagne Bar
- Complimentary Appetizers – first come/first serve
- Complimentary Diet Coke and Illy Coffee
- Complimentary select Salon services (TBD)
- Complimentary “Thank You” Gift Bag

Event will include:
- Special Guest Speakers
- Mini- Workshops (ex. Professionals to review resumes, portfolios, etc.)
- Networking Opportunities
- Information about 2012 Conference
- Media Wall and event photographer
- Entertainment
- Much more!

Sincerely,

Dr. Cynthia Arellano Lavariere
Vice President, South
A while back I volunteered to write an article for La Esperanza as one of the goals I set for the first year of my term as LLN Region 4 Representative. Since then, things have changed and I dropped my original idea for a story that I felt was more important to tell.

As LLN members we work very hard to develop leadership skills in our Latina students. We mentor them at the colleges, we work with them at the chapter level, we bring them to our conferences, and we set aside funds to award them scholarships. Then two years go by and they transfer to the four year institutions and the next thing you know they are graduating and starting their careers.

What happens next? They come back to us! Many times it is in the form of a guest speaker at the conference where we hear the story of their struggles to complete their education and we leave the conference inspired and with "mas gana sque nunca" to continue our work. Sometimes our former students become faculty members or counselors at our campuses.

This is the story of Kelly Fletes. Kelly was a student at Monterey Peninsula College when she first became involved with the LLN. Now Kelly is the EOPS Counselor at Monterey Peninsula College and, you guessed it, she is mentoring the Latina students on campus.

As is often the case with LLN, the conference instills a lot of personal excitement and the participants go back to their respective campuses desirous of starting their own chapter. The MPC group was no exception. Eva Ochoa is a former MPC student and phenomenal Latina who attended the conference last year and is still active in the MPC LLN chapter. Eva has dedicated a lot of time to outreach and promoting the MPC LLN chapter and mentoring students. Yuliana Vasquez is another MPC LLN chapter member being mentored by Kelly and was awarded an LLN scholarship at last year’s conference.

Enter the region. Three LLN members from two different chapters went to MPC to lend a helping hand as MPC’s new LLN chapter got started. On September 29, 2010, Stephanie Ramos (Ohlone), Irene Gutierrez (San Jose/Evergreen) and Isabel Macias (San Jose City College) met with the chapter for a “How to Start an LLN Chapter” session.

On November 10, 2010, the LLN at Monterey Peninsula College held a chapter event, "Vida Nueva, Zapotec Women’s Weaving Exhibition." This is just the beginning. With LLN, the possibilities are endless.

Isabel Macias
LLN Region 4 Representative
¡Vivas!

- ¡Viva! to Martha Robles, who was promoted to Dean of Matriculation at Modesto Community College.
- ¡Viva! to Santa Ana College, LLN Student Club Chapter, for collaborating with the EOPS Club and hosting the first "Student Leadership Summit: Empowering Future Leaders. Your event inspired many students in Region 8!!! Way to fundraise and put together a great event and wonderful speakers.
- ¡Viva! to Rocio Rubalcava, Region 7 Representativa, for hosting the LLN Executive Board Meeting at Los Angeles Harbor College, in August of 2010. A special ¡Viva! to Rocio’s mother, who made a delicious lunch of chile relleno casserole, rice, beans and other wonderful treats.
- ¡Viva! to Los Angeles Harbor College LLN’s Student Club, who participated in a clothing collection drive to help Shared Bread in Redondo Beach, CA, a shelter for the homeless. They collected enough clothes to help 100 homeless people. They will also be participating in a Prom Dress Drive to collect dresses for low income students, who would not otherwise be able to afford attending this time honored tradition. To see their other activities like them on Facebook: Latina Leadership Network Student Club, LAHC.

Save the Date

24th Annual Latina Leadership Network of the California Community Colleges Conference

Latinas in Motion – con Corazón!
March 10-12, 2011
Holiday Inn
Redding, California

For information, contact Dr. Lucha Ortega at (530) 242-7620 or e-mail: forteta@shastacollege.edu

For conference and hotel reservations visit: www.regonline.com/2011 latina leadership network conference

Shasta College www.shastacollege.edu


President Eva Jimenez Message

Queridas Hermanas/Dearest Sisters,

Welcome to the beginning of our 25th year and 24th volume of Esperanza!

On July 8th 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!!!

Important Dates:

Save the date for the 25th anniversary of the LLN Conference March 22-24 at 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.
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 24th conference success! And I invite you to chant with us again in March of 2012 for our 25th 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, Siskiyous, 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

Colleen Triesch
3925 Linden Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90807

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
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!

Visit our website for more information in exploring LLN’s history, mission and past issues at Latina-leadership-network.org.
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, Siskiyous, Yuba, Woodland
REGION 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
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 28th 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 Placensia, 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

For additional questions and information, please contact:
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, Soroptimist 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 in 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

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 2nd 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’

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