Dear LLNCCC Hermanas/Sisters,

Over the course of the last few months, LLNCCC has reflected on the path forward. We are beginning with focusing on enhancing our organizational structure to better support the needs of our members, students and professionals. The current need within our LLNCCC community is very real and we are exploring different ways of providing support during this difficult time.

- If you are in a position to help, please consider making a special gift today. Your donation funds our student scholarships, Madrina awards, resources and other services that help empower Latinas through learning and leadership!

- If you are currently a California Community College student, please apply to our LLNCCC 2021 scholarship. The Latina Leadership Network of the California Community Colleges will be awarding two students from each Regional Area (North, Central and South), a total of six (6) student scholarships of $500 to students currently attending a California Community College. The deadline to apply for the LLNCCC scholarship is Friday, March 25, 2021. Apply today!

Throughout this crisis, our work continues on behalf of all of our programs. I can’t think of a greater time than now when our vision rings true: Imagine a world where all mujeres/women can achieve their potential and meet the ever-evolving challenges of our communities.

My heart and thoughts are with all of you.

Loyally,

[Signature]
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>College</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carla Molina</td>
<td>President, 2020-2022</td>
<td>Los Medanos College</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cmolina@lnccc.org">cmolina@lnccc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claudia Díaz</td>
<td>Treasurer, 2019-2021</td>
<td>Allan Hancock College</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cdiaz-pl@lnccc.org">cdiaz-pl@lnccc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Michelle Garcia</td>
<td>Recording Secretary, 2020-2022</td>
<td>Fullerton College</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mgarcia@lnccc.org">mgarcia@lnccc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margarita Baez</td>
<td>Vice President, North, 2019-2021</td>
<td>Canada College</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mbaez@lnccc.org">mbaez@lnccc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libbyer Martinez</td>
<td>Vice President, South, 2020-2021</td>
<td>Compton College</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lmartinez@lnccc.org">lmartinez@lnccc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yudi Lewis</td>
<td>Database Specialist, 2020-2022</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ylewis@lnccc.org">ylewis@lnccc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dayana Zepeda de Rosas</td>
<td>Esperanza Newsletter Editor, 2018-2020</td>
<td>Allan Hancock College</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dzepedaderosas@lnccc.org">dzepedaderosas@lnccc.org</a></td>
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<td>Vacant</td>
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<td>Student Vice President, Central</td>
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<td>Stephanie Ramos</td>
<td>Member-At-Large-North, 2020-2022</td>
<td>Ohlone College</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sramos2@lnccc.org">sramos2@lnccc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolores Cornejo</td>
<td>Historian, 2020-2022</td>
<td>Fullerton College</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dcornejo@lnccc.org">dcornejo@lnccc.org</a></td>
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The Latina Leadership Network of the California Community Colleges is committed to the philosophy of equal opportunity/equal access in all its activities. Thus, we are firmly committed to a policy of non-discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, creed, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, marital status, medical condition, sexual orientation, or veteran status in our activities. All members shall be treated with respect and enjoy all the rights and privileges of the Network.

Interested in starting an LLN chapter or becoming a member?

It's easy! Visit the website below, and complete the electronic application form that applies to you.

Member benefits include:
Access to the LLN Listserv, Esperanza Newsletter, and LLN activities

http://llnccc.org/membership/

Follow LLN online!
The Latina Leadership Network (LLNCCC) is pleased to announce the annual LLNCCC Scholarship. The Latina Leadership Network of the California Community Colleges will be awarding two students from each Regional Area (North, Central and South), a total of six (6) student scholarships of $500 to students currently attending a California Community College. The deadline to apply for the LLNCCC scholarship is Friday, March 25, 2021. Any application that is incomplete or does not include the requested information will be considered ineligible. Checks will be mailed to all recipients.

Visit our webpage to access our LLNCCC scholarship application:

https://llnccc.org/student-scholarships/
Cypress College Puente Program celebrates 25 years of success!

PUENTE CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS

Dr. Therese Mosqueda-Ponce

Dr. Therese Mosqueda-Ponce has a photograph of every PUENTE cohort that Cypress College has ever had. That’s twenty-five class pictures. The fashions and hairstyles have changed through the years, but the smiles have stayed the same: proud, sometimes a little nervous, but always radiating a sense that “we did it.”

Sentimentality is not the driving force behind “Dr. P’s” collecting habit, however. As she explains: “I was prompted to start this collection because I knew our Program made HISTORY at Cypress College because everyone was so against us at the beginning.”

PUENTE was born in California in 1981, when educators combined counseling and mentoring with English classes in an effort to increase retention, graduation, and transfer for Latinx students. PUENTE’s impact was such that 19-California community colleges had adopted it by 1989, and in 1992 North Orange Community College District offered it for the first time at Fullerton, sister school to Cypress College.

There was resistance to Puente at Cypress however. As Therese explains, in the early 1990s opposition to the PUENTE Program was such that the English Department refused to provide an English instructor – an essential component for the PUENTE model – while some instructors signed a petition stating that they would not teach in a PUENTE program. [1]

For more than three years, pro-PUENTE students at Cypress attended Board of Trustees meetings, held vigils, and lobbied faculty and administrators to implement PUENTE at Cypress. Their actions were led by the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlán (MEChA) and supported by Cypress employees, who formed the NOCCCD Latino Faculty and Staff Association. Such was the polarization, however, that it was not until Dr. Christine Johnson became the 8th President of Cypress College, and its first African American and first female president, that a new English instructor was hired and the impasse was broken.

As described by Dr. Mosqueda-Ponce, who has been Puente’s counselor since the program began at Cypress in 1996, the core anti-PUENTE arguments were that “Latino students felt insulted” by the program, which would both “exclude...non-Latino students,” and “attract more Latinos to the campus.”[2]

The first two of these fears proved to be baseless. The PUENTE program is open to students of all ethnicities, while applicant numbers – 96 applicants for the first 30-seat PUENTE cohort – suggest that students felt more empowered than insulted by the Program. Fear number three, however, did indeed come to pass; happily for Cypress College. For while Latinx people made up 7% of Cypress students in the pre-PUENTE mid-1990s, by 2018, they comprised 48.5% of the student body.

When asked which of the photographs in the collection is her favorite, Therese responded: “All of them are my favorites, but I think the first two classes, because this was going to make us a hit or a flop. Thank God we are a HIT!! Class 10 was when we started our road trips, class 15 was the class we had our Quinceañera...a big celebration with Aztec Dancers..., class 21 was when our mural was inducted in the Puente classroom, class 25 will be celebrating our 25th anniversary!”

“These pictures are desirable to me because it was through this program that I found my mission in life,” says Dr. Mosqueda-Ponce. As the program’s motto goes: “once a Puertista, always a Puertista.”

Many happy returns PUENTE!
MJC LLN 2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Congratulations!

LLN Scholarship Committee is proud to announce this year’s recipients for their strong dedication to their studies and commitment to community service:

Maritza Lopez
Nursing ADN
Class of 2021

Lucero Vargas-Mendoza
Sociology AAT
Transfer 2020

Nancy Carranza Ramirez
Political Science AAT
Transfer 2020

Vanessa Zavala
Nursing ADN
Class of 2020
MJC LLN GIVING DAY (will be ongoing)

MJC LLN is working with Modesto Junior College Foundation to raise money for this year’s Modesto Junior College Giving Day 2020! Would you please help us? Join our MJC team to help support our students.

Join us in reaching our $3,000 goal for MJC LLN Scholarships. Please visit our Team Page using the link below to donate: https://secure.qgiv.com/event/mjcgive/classification/258486/
On Friday, October 23 MJC counselor Ariana Gonzalez, was one of four local Latino leaders honored by Representative Josh Harder’s (CA 10) first Annual 2020 Latino Leadership Award ceremony, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Ariana is a passionate advocate for first generation and immigrant students in the Central Valley. In addition to her work as a counselor at MJC, Ariana is President of MJC Latina Leadership Network, Chair of the UndocuALLY Network, and co-founded MJC LGBTQ+ Advocates.

Ariana accepted her plaque and followed with the below speech:

"Today I was one of 4 people who received a Certificate of Congressional Recognition for my contribution to our community, Congressman Josh Harder’s Inaugural 2020 Central Valley Latino Leadership Award. I’m grateful to be able to serve and tonight’s honor was more meaningful because it was based on nominations from the community. I dedicate this honor to my parents Marta and Jose Luis who instilled in me the value of standing up for what is right even if it’s not easy or popular. 

‘Dime con quien andas y te dire quien eres (tell me who you hang out with and I will tell you who you are),’ is an expression my Grandma Pipi often sang to us growing up. Today’s leadership recognition is really for a team of people who work collaboratively.

Thank you to Community College Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley for his brave leadership in advocating for our Immigrant Community. To our community partners at the United Farm Worker Foundation: Paloma Contreras and Sofia Corona who provide free immigration legal services to MJC students and employees; to our partners Abraham Bedoy and Allison Davenport at the Immigrant Legal Resources Center who organize and connect students to experts across the state. Thank you to my colleagues at MJC who have created innovative ways to keep the college doors open in a virtual space and continue to inspire hope during these very challenging times. Social justice is reached through social action. In our work through the Latina Leadership Network, MJC Undocually, and the LGBTQ+ Advocates, we are committed to dismantling systems of inequality, imagining possibilities and working to help students reach their full potential through education. Que vivan los que luchan por la justicia! (Long live those who fight for justice!) The other local Latino leaders honored included: Yamilet Valladolid of Golden Valley Health Centers and Marvin Jacobo of City Ministry Network. Rep. Harder also awarded a “Rising Latino Leader” award to Polet Hernandez, Dreamers Project Coordinator at Stanislaus State."
MJC LLN Hosts Virtual LatinX Leadership Series for Students

MJC Latina Leadership Network hosted its first Leadership Academy funded by the Norman Civility grant through the MJC Foundation.

This six-week virtual LatinX Leadership Series empowered students on how to serve in leadership roles, engage in political spheres of community, and (re)Connect with cultura. LatinX Leadership Series provided a space for students to learn more about Identity, development of leadership skills, the importance of political and civic engagement, and contributing to the community through service.

MJC LLN is invited students to develop and learn how to deconstruct racist systemic structures, integrate ancestral knowledge, and be connected to a strong circle of peers and community mentors.

Every week students met with community leaders like Pablo Rodriguez, CNC Executive Founding Director who shared the importance of completing the Census. Students grew their network by meeting with Abraham Bedoy from the Immigrant Legal Resources Center who shared Know Your Rights information. Paloma Contreras Attorney with United Farmworkers introduced herself to students and shared free Immigration Legal Services. Students had the opportunity to engage with Melissa Santos, District Representative for Congressman Josh Harder, and learn about the resources and opportunities for support available through our Congressman’s office.

Each week featured a community mentor who inspired students to recognize the importance of their narrative, shared how to advocate for their personal and community needs, grounded students in teachings of the four directions, and showed students how to tend to their mental health and overall well-being. The series was hosted as a way to civically engage students to be informed and own their individual and collective power.

One participant shared “It all was just something I have never experienced!”. After the Mental Health talk with Dr. Cheryl Williams-Jackson and Michelle Moreno, MSW one student stated, “my heart needed that”. The virtual gathering was a healing space where students and mentors were reenergized for the days ahead.

MJC LLN Annual Día de los Muertos Celebration

For this year’s Annual Día de los Muertos Celebration MJC Latina Leadership Network invited members to participate in a virtual altar in remembrance of deceased loved ones. May the legacy of our loved ones, teachers and freedom fighters live forever in our hearts, memory, and actions. Link to virtual altar: https://youtu.be/4KA7I4pzVLk
1. Put an oven rack in the middle of the oven and preheat to 350 degrees F.
2. Coat a Bundt pan with a little butter, then coat the bottom with 1/4 cup cajeta and put it in a large roasting pan. (The roasting pan will serve as a water bath during baking.)
3. For the cake: Add the butter and sugar to a bowl and using an electric hand mixer or stand mixer, beat until light and fluffy, then beat in the egg. Sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda and cocoa in a medium bowl. Beat 1/3 of the flour mixture, and 1/2 of the buttermilk into the egg mixture. Repeat, ending with the flour mixture. Blend until well incorporated.
4. For the flan: In a blender, combine the evaporated milk, condensed milk, cream cheese, eggs and vanilla. Blend on high for 30 seconds.
5. Scoop the cake batter into the prepared Bundt pan and spreading evenly. Slowly pour the flan mixture over the cake batter. Cover with foil and add about 1-inch of hot water to the roasting pan.
6. Carefully slide the pan into the oven, and bake 1 hour, until the surface of the cake is firm to the touch, or an inserted toothpick comes out clean. When cake is done, remove from the water bath and cool completely to room temperature, about 1 hour.
7. Invert a large, rimmed serving platter over the Bundt pan, grasp tightly together, jiggle a little and flip over. Remove the pan and scrape any remaining cajeta from the pan onto the cake, garnish with chopped pecans and serve!

**COOKS NOTES**

The batters may appear to mix when you pour them into the pan, but they completely separate while baking, with the flan ending up on the bottom when it's inverted. I like eating it warm, but traditionally, it is chilled 24 hours before serving. Flan is a rich, creamy, cooked egg custard. It is often flavored with vanilla and baked in a water bath to retain its delicacy. Cajeta is a thick and creamy spread or paste made with caramelized sugar and milk. It is used as a desert on its own or as a topping. Also known as "dolce de leche," it is sold in many supermarkets, Latin specialty markets or online. It can be substituted with a thick caramel sauce.

https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/marcela-valladolid/chocoflan-recipe-1949457