

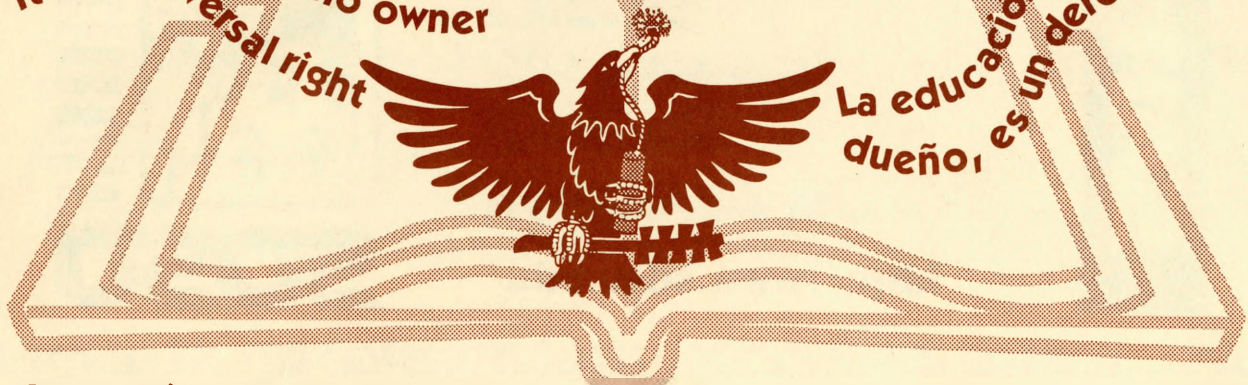
MEChA

26th Annual High School Conference



*Education has no owner
it is a universal right*

*La educación no tiene
dueño, es un derecho universal*



San Diego State University • November 16, 1996

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26th Annual High School Conference Program

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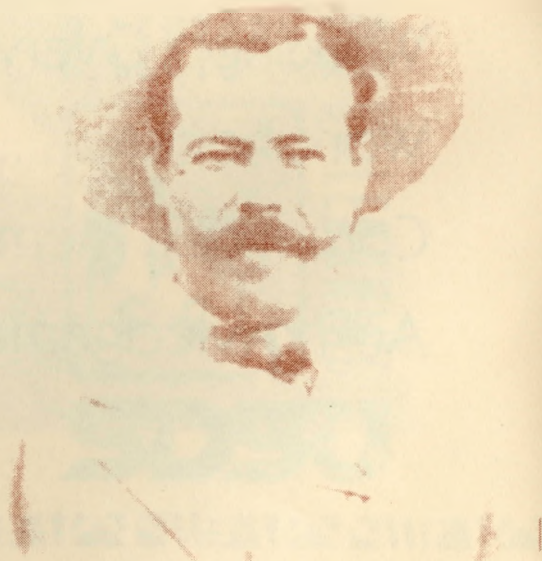
Bienvenidos

Compañeras y compañeros bienvenidos sean todos ustedes a esta conferencia que nos une por causas semejantes como son; una mejor educación para todos, un conocimiento mas profundo de nuestras raíces, unidad, y poder para luchar contra las injusticias y discriminación que confrontamos día tras día. Es un orgullo para nosotros los Mechistas saber que ustedes luchan por tomar la iniciativa para estudiar. El estudio es la base principal de nuestro futuro, y saber es tener poder. Por muchos años se nos ha ignorado en el sistema político. Afortunadamente las cosa ya estan cambiando rapidamente, y ¡Ya basta! Ahora es tiempo que nosotros contribuyamos en la formación de este país, y nadie ni nada nos va a prohibir que sigamos adelante.

Nuestros antepasados lucharón por obtener un mejor futuro para nosotros y no los podemos defraudar. Así es de que debemos echarle muchisimas ganas a nuestros estudios y a la vida. Valemos mucho y tenemos que luchar para sobrevivir y poder ser respetados en este ambiente multicultural. Compañeras, compañeros, nunca se den por vencidos, y no dejen que ninguna ley ni proposición obstruya su camino. Todos tenemos el derecho de progresar y obtener una educación, asi de que no se dejen derrotar tan facilmente y luchen por su futuro, y su gente, por que estas tierras pertenesen a nosotros y muy pronto cambiaremos la historia.

¡Que viva nuestra cultura!

Alberto Cisneros
Co-vice chair, SDSU M.E.Ch.A.
Co-chair, 26th Annual Chicano High
School Conference



Welcome

Let me welcome you to our 26th Annual M.E.Ch.A. High School Conference. I urge each and everyone of you to take this conference as an opportunity to learn about yourself and higher education. Every year our High School Conference is in jeopardy of not becoming a reality but every year we join together to fight for it to happen. I urge you to join the struggle and by being here you have taken that first step.

In these xenophobic times we need to, as a Raza, stand together strong. We will be confronted with the tide of brutality and racism that has risen and will continue to rise. Across the country, and especially along the U.S.-Mexico border, we will see that as a people we are no longer wanted here. California's Propositions 187 and 209, the attack against defenseless Mexican citizens this April 1 in Los Angeles County, the daily brutalization of our Raza, and having to serve as a nation's scapegoat have all but made it too clear of what we are up against. My only hope for this conference is that you will learn and be able to take it back to give to your parents, brothers, sisters, and community.



¡Que viva nuestra cultura!

Alberto Cisneros

Co-vice chair, SDSU M.E.Ch.A.

Co-chair, 26th Annual Chicano High School Conference

Declaracion de Intento

M.E.Ch.A. (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán) es una organización chicana que fue fundada a través de una conferencia que se tomó a cabo en la Universidad de Santa Barbara en el estado de California en abril de 1968. Raza estudiantil y miembros de la comunidad atendieron esta conferencia para atraer atención a las necesidades de los Mexicanos o Chicanos, en el sistema educacional y en la comunidad.

Cada letra en M.E.Ch.A. simboliza algo. Movimiento-significa que la organización está dedicada al movimiento y obtener determinación propia para nuestra gente. Estudiantil, significa la identificación de la organización como una organización estudiantil siendo parte del futuro de nuestra raza. En el corazón de M.E.Ch.A. se encuentra la palabra Chicano, primero se usaba esta palabra como negativo, ahora a tomado enfrente orgullo. En adoptar nuestra nueva identidad como Chicanos nosotros los estudiantes estamos comprometidos a devolver los barrios, las colonias, los campos y juntos combatiremos contra las fuerzas que mantienen a nuestra gente oprimida. Como último, los estudiantes afirmamos que somos parte de Aztlán, la tierra legendaria natal de los Aztecas, que se encuentran ahora en el suroeste de los Estados Unidos.

M.E.Ch.A. se originó en el suroeste pero rápidamente se a desparrramado por todos los Estados Unidos. Lo principal para M.E.Ch.A., en el movimiento Chicano es. 1). Ingresar mas estudiantes a sistema de educación avanzada y asistir cuando sea necesario para que estos estudiantes completen su educación. 2). Tomar parte en la dirección del movimiento hacia la determinación propia y asegurar que cada persona tenga control de su propio destino. 3). Tratar de guiar al estudiante Chicano para que esté mas enterado del sistema político nacional, estatal y en su comunidad como en su propia universidad o colegio. 4). Establecer relaciones con los barrios, asistiendo en todo lo que sea necesario para alcanzar la justicia y igualdad de nuestra gente. 5). Educar y movilizar a los jóvenes en nuestros barrios para que obtengan determinación propia y no destrucción propia. Somos de la comunidad y para la comunidad.

POR LA RAZA HABLA EL ESPIRITU

M.E.Ch.A. de San Diego State University a cumplido con establecer various programas, unos de ellos siendo; el Chicano Library Collection que es una colección de literatura Chicana localizada en Love Library, la biblioteca de la universidad. M.E.Ch.A. tomo parte en ayudar a desarrollar el departamento de Chicano Studies (Estudios Chicanos) aquí en la universidad de San Diego. Otros de los programas mas significantes que M.E.Ch.A. a desarrollado son: la celebración de cultural del 16 de septiembre en la cual se llevan a cabo diversos programas y eventos culturales, la conferencia anual de las preparatorias, Cinco de Mayo, también se celebra con un gran festival, el mes de Latino Heritage (Antepasados Latinos) culminando con la ceremonia de la graduación Chicana. Toma la iniciativa para el futuro de tu raza, unete a M.E.Ch.A. Sin no existe una organización de M.E.Ch.A. en tu escuela, juntate con otros Chicanos y empieza una. Has que la flama de M.E.Ch.A. aparezca en tu escuela.

LA UNION HACE LA FUERZA

Statement of Purpose

M.E.Ch.A. (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán) is a Chicano organization which was founded at a conference held in Santa Barbara, California in April, 1968. Concerned RAZA and community members gathered at this conference to draw attention to the needs and concerns of Chicanos, both in the educational system and in the community.

Each word in M.E.Ch.A., symbolizes something. Movimiento, means that the organization is dedicated to the movement to gain self-determination for their people. Estudiantil, identifies the organization as a student group for we are part of our RAZA'S future. At the heart of the name is the use of the word CHICANO. At first seen as negative, now is taken as a badge of pride. In adopting their new identity, the students committed themselves to return to the barrios, colonias, or campos and together, struggle against the forces that keep our people oppressed. Lastly, the students affirmed that they were from Aztlán, the legendary birthplace of the Aztecs, which reputedly is today's southwest.

M.E.Ch.A. originated in the southwest, but quickly spread throughout the United States. M.E.Ch.A.'s primary role in the Chicano Movement are: 1) To increase the number of Chicano students in higher education and to ensure that all necessary assistance is offered for successful completion. 2) To take part in the direction of the movement towards Chicano self-determination or control over one's own destiny. 3) To socialize and politicize Chicano students on their particular campus, to the ideals of the movement. 4) To establish close working relation in the barrios, assisting in all that has to be done to reach justice and equality for our people. 5) To educate and mobilize barrio youth towards self-determination and not self-destruction. We are of the community and for the community.

POR LA RAZA HABLA EL ESPIRITU

San Diego State M.E.Ch.A.'s accomplishments include the establishment of the Chicano literary collection in Love Library and the development and promotion of the Chicano Studies Department. The major programs offered by SDSU M.E.Ch.A., are 16 de Septiembre cultural celebration, Annual High School Conference, Cinco de Mayo cultural celebration, Chicano/Latino Heritage Month and Chicano Graduation Ceremony.

Take charge of our RAZA'S future and join M.E.Ch.A. on your particular campus. If one does not exist, get together with other Chicanos on your campus and get the flame of M.E.Ch.A. started at your school.

LA UNION HACE LA FUERZA





Keynote Speaker Michele Serros

Michele Serros is a native of Oxnard, California and author of *Chicana Falsa* and *other stories of death identity and Oxnard*. Now in its third printing, this

volume of short stories and poems is a required text in many high school, college and university classrooms. In addition to contributing commentaries for NPR's *The California Capital Report*, Michele has been featured on PBS's *United States of Poetry* and live at Lollapalooza. A highly anthologized poet, Michele's work is also featured on recordings *L.A. Journal II* (New Alliance Records), *Gynomite* (Catasonic Records), and her first full length solo CD, *Stories from La Chicana Falsa* (Mercury/Mouth Almighty).

Currently residing in Los Angeles, Michele is a resident poet for PEN Center USA West and California Poets in the Schools where she is committed to teaching culturally diverse poetry and literature to students in both Los Angeles and Ventura County.





El Plan Espiritual de Aztlán

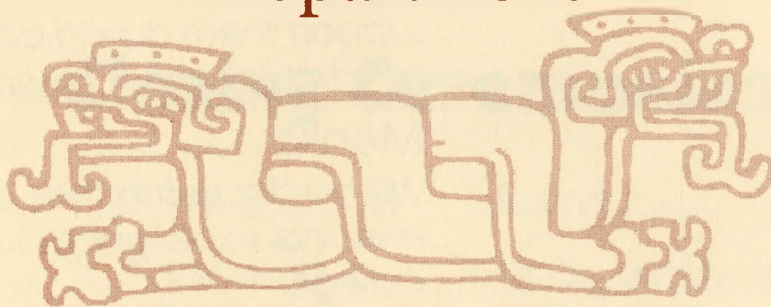
In the spirit of a new people that is conscious not only of its proud historical heritage but also of the brutal "gringo" invasion of our territories, we, the Chicano inhabitants and civilizers for the northern land of Aztlán, from whence came our forefathers, reclaiming the land of their birth and concentrating the determination of our people of the sun, declare that the call of our blood is our power, our responsibility and our destiny.

We are free and sovereign to determine those tasks which are justly called for by our hands, our land, the sweat of our brows and by our hearts. Aztlán belongs to those who plant seeds, water the fields and gather the crops and not the foreign Europeans. We do not recognize capricious frontiers on the bronze continents.

Brotherhood/Sisterhood unite us, and love for our brothers/sisters make us a people whose time has come and whose struggles against the foreigners "gabacho" who exploits our riches and destroyed our culture. With our heart in our hands, and our hands in the soil, we declare the independence of our mestizo nation. We are a bronze people with a bronze culture. Before the world, before all of North America, before all our brothers/sisters in the bronze continent, we are a nation, we are a union of free pueblos, we are Aztlán.



The Mexican American Studies Department



Congratulates!

all Mechistas on their 26th Annual
High School Conference



Parent Conference

(Aztec Center)

10:00 AM-11:00 AM Workshop I

Gus Chavez from S.O.S. (Student Outreach Services)

Will be discussing E.O.P., Financial Aid, and College Admissions requirements.

11:00 PM-12:00 PM Workshop II

Panel of parents:

Bea Fernandez
Maria Escobedo
Lizeth Simonson

Will be discussing how parents can help their son/daughters during high school and how they can support them during college.

and students: Nikki Ramos Menlio

Will be discussing their own personal experience during college.

12:00 PM-1:30 PM Lunch

Agenda

Opening Ceremonies

8:45 AM-8:55 AM	Opening/Blessing by Elder
8:55 AM-9:05 AM	Welcome by Chairs
9:05 AM-9:35 AM	Keynote Speaker
9:50 AM-9:45 AM	Announcements
10:00 AM-11:00 AM	Workshop Session I
11:00 PM-12:00 PM	Lunch
12:00 AM-1:30 PM	Workshop Session II
1:30 PM-2:30 PM	Workshop Session III

Closing Ceremonies

2:35 PM-3:35 PM	Closing
3:35 PM-4:00 PM	Bus Departure Info.
4:00 PM-5:00 PM	Entertainment



Workshop Overview

Presented at all 3 sessions (Workshops Session I,II,III)

- AH 2106 Barrio Unity
- AH 2114 College Admissions and Financial Aid
- AH 2112 Health and Sexuality
- AH 2123 Chicano Art •
- AH 2126 M.E.Ch.A. 101
- AH 2132 Identity and Labels •
- AH 2131 Chicano Movement; A History
- TBA Student Panel
- AH 2108 La Chicana

Presented in only 2 sessions (Workshops Session I and II)

- AH 2127 Izcalli "Raza" School
- AH 2130 Chicano Literature
- AH2109 Central (Mandatory)
- AH2128 Advisors Workshop (Mandatory)
- AH 2131 The Cosmic Race •
- AH2129 Chicano/a Youth Leadership Camp

Presented only once

- AH2133 Chicanas in the Movement
- AH 2134 M.E.Ch.A. Chairs and Presidents (I) Mandatory
- AH2129 "¿Que es M.E.Ch.A.?" (III)

AH: Adams Humanities • **AC:** Aztec Center
All changes to be announced the day of

Workshops

Health & Sexuality

This workshop is to educate our young Chicano students on the danger of HIV & STD's and to teach prevention methods through social skills training. We ask that upper-class high school students attend.

Presenter: Student Health Services
Facilitator: Issac Gonzalez, SDSU Student & Mechista

M.E.Ch.A. 101

M.E.Ch.A. has different meanings to people. Here we break down the acronyms and the meanings behind each letter. The History of M.E.Ch.A. and why it is so important for our young Raza.

Presenter: Cesar Fernandez, SDSU Student & Mechista, Central Secretary

Identities and Labels

Our Raza is unique in that we are given so many different "titles" in society such as Chicano, Latino, Hispanic, and Mexican American. Have you ever wondered what each meant and which label best fits you? Here's your chance to find out.

Presenter: Ramon "Monchis" Muñoz, SDSU Student & Mechista

Chicano Movement; A History

The Chicano Movement is the History of our gente. It's why M.E.Ch.A. was created and it is why we continue to struggle today. You can learn about your parents' struggles and the challenges you are preparing yourself to overcome.

Presenters: Dr. Rene Nuñez, MAS Professor at SDSU

The Cosmic Race

Learn about the mix cultures that run in our blood. We are Mestizos, people of many cultures such as Indigenous (Indian) blood, Spaniard, French, German and even African blood. Learn about your African roots that are also part of being a Chicano.

Presenter: Profesora Grisela Butter, MAS Professor at SDSU
Facilitator: Ricardo Lara, A.S. Rep. for SDSU M.E.Ch.A.



Workshops (continued)

Chicanas in the Movement

Women have always played a vital role in our History. They have been overlooked in the History books time and time again. Today we acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of La Chicana MUJER as the mother, heart and soul of the movement.

Presenter: Profesora Adelaida del Castillo, MAS Professor at SDSU

M.E.Ch.A. Chairs and Presidents

This is a mandatory one session workshop for all Presidents and Chairs of High School and Junior Highs. The leadership in M.E.Ch.A. at times can be very difficult or very enjoyable. Here we will meet as the leaders of M.E.Ch.A. to discuss about problems, solutions, and different issues we have to deal with as Chairs and Presidents.

Presenter: Marcela Ayala, Chair at SDSU M.E.Ch.A.

“¿Que es M.E.Ch.A.?”

Si tu eres un estudiante y te preguntas, “¿Que es M.E.Ch.A.?” Este Panel te ayudara a entender la Historia de M.E.Ch.A., la razon por

cual existe hoy, y porque es importante como estudiante que sepas como ser un Mechista fuerte y noble.

Presentadora: Marcela Ayala; Presidenta de SDSU M.E.Ch.A.

La Chicana

La mujer es la fuerza de nuestra gente. La mujer tambien es la razon de nuestro movimiento. Hoy platicamos de como es ser una mujer en un mundo machista, y en muchas ocasiones contra la mujer.

Presentadores: Norma Sandoval, SDSU Graduate y Mechista

Chicano Literature

Our culture is full of many powerful writers that speak about the struggles and triumphs of our people. Writers such as Sandra Cisneros, Luis Rodriguez, Rudy Acuña and Victor Villaseñor speak about our lives through their words. Learn today about all the Chicano books and literature that you can use to empower yourself as a Chicano.

Presenter: Leilani Grajeda-Higley, MAS Professor at SDSU



Workshops (continued)

Barrio Unity

Barrio Unity will face the issues which separate Chicano communities and our barrios. Our purpose is to show you the strength and power we hold as a barrio, and to show you that you can control the path of your life.

Presenter: Roberto (Beto) Carrillo

College Admissions and Financial Aid

This workshop is to provide useful information to students regarding preparation and how to gain information you will need upon entering college. We will also discuss financial assistance for education. If you are not sure of where you will be attending college, or not sure if you can afford college, please attend this workshop.

Presenter: Jaime Chavez of Student Outreach Services at SDSU

Izcalli "Raza" School

Izcalli represents an effort to empower and educate our youth from a Chicano perspective. We realize that true community empowerment is born from knowledge of our cultura, thus Izcalli is dedicating to the creation of a Chicano school. We are continuously recruiting and

reaching out to RAZA who wants to participate in the project and the actual development of the school.

Presenters: Members of Izcalli

Student Panel

Listen to personal experiences of Mechistas at San Diego State. A variety of students from different home towns share their stories and views on what college life is like.

Presenters: Susana Hernandez, Yanira Muñiz, and Jose Andrade; SDSU Mechistas



Workshops (continued)

Central (Mandatory)

Central is the general body consisting of representatives from every M.E.Ch.A. Chapter in San Diego. Central meets bi-weekly to network and make unified decisions as a county. It is important that all M.E.Ch.A. Chapters in San Diego attend (especially High Schools). It is mandatory that every High School present today sends at least one representative to these two session workshops.

Presenters: Cristina Nuñez, internal chair of Central; Elizabeth Chair, External Chair of Central

Advisors Workshop

(Mandatory)

The purpose of this workshop is to form a Network between the M.E.Ch.A. advisors throughout San Diego high schools. It's encouraged to share different opinions, suggestions or problems advisors may have in regards to their chapter. It will be a mandatory 2 session workshop for all advisors to attend.

Presenter: Professor Jesus Nieto, Education SDSU M.E.Ch.A. Advisor

Chicano/a Youth Leadership Camp

Chicano/a Youth Leadership Camp is a summer program geared at promoting leadership skills and bringing awareness to high school students with leadership potential. It is an intensive 5-day, live-in camp at the San Diego State campus that promotes discussion on topics that affect Chicano/as, such as carnalismo, self-determination, gender roles, machismo, sexuality, higher education, racism, and informative discussion on Chicano/a history. This is also a chance for students to networks and form friendships with other students form all across the San Diego area.

Presenters: CYLC Steering Committee with a panel of past CYLC participants Facilitator: Arturo Cervantes M.E.Ch.A. Campus Relations Coordinator

**14**

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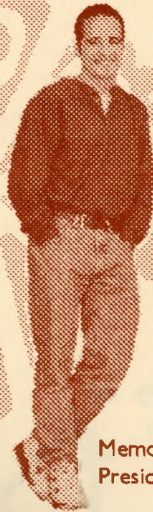
Fundraising

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Gloria Chaidez
Anita Morales

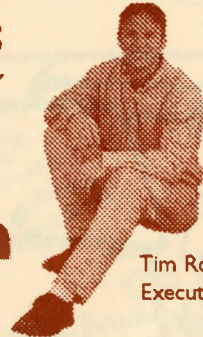


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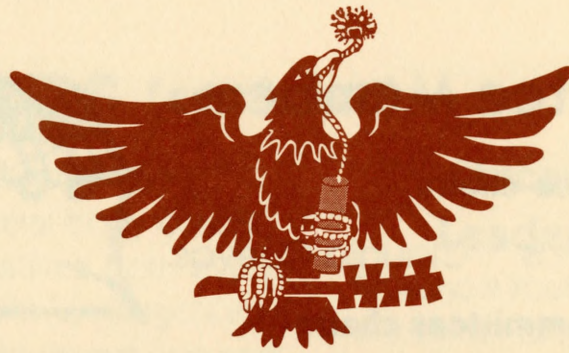


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Pozos Creative Communications

Teatro Izcalli Sin Verguenzas

Susana Hernández

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MAAS

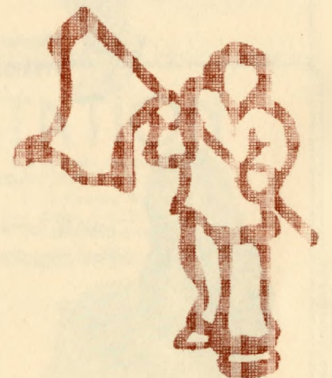
Jane Duma, Conference Blessing Elder

Committee Chair

Mechistas

M.E.Ch.A. Central

Valentino's Restaurant



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