



Events Planned to Celebrate Legacy of Cesar Chavez

Camarillo, Calif., March 8, 2007 -- The Office of Service Learning and Civic Engagement at California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI), in co-sponsorship with many campus and community organizations, is hosting a week-long celebration to honor Cesar E. Chavez's legacy of service to humanity. Events reflecting Chavez's core values are scheduled for Monday, March 26, through Thursday, March 29, at locations throughout the community and on the campus of CSUCI. The Cesar Chavez Day holiday is observed on Saturday, March 31.

Central to this celebration is a traveling art exhibit featuring a CSUCI service learning project that captures the oral histories of several families who recently moved into the Villa Cesar Chavez Apartments. The establishment of the housing complex resulted from a 1996 civil rights case involving evicted Ventura County farm workers and substandard housing.

Throughout the week of March 26 to 29, the exhibit will be on display at the Cafe on A/Acuna Art Gallery; on the campus of CSUCI; and at the Villa Cesar Chavez Apartments in Oxnard. University officials, community members, students and faculty will use this week-long celebration to promote educational opportunities and Chavez's core values of: community, knowledge, determination, service to others, as well as Chavez's dream for a better life for the underserved and disenfranchised in our society.

A list of event times, dates, and descriptions are listed below. For more information about the week-long celebration honoring Chavez visit http://www.csuci.edu/servicelearning/News_and_Events.htm or contact Pilar Pacheco, assistant director for the Office of Service Learning and Civic Engagement, 805-437-8851 or pilar.pacheco@csuci.edu.

March 26 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Community reception celebrating the unveiling of the traveling Villa Cesar Chavez Narratives Service Learning exhibit and existing Farm Worker Art Show titled: "From These Hands: A Tribute." Hosted at Cafe on A/Acuna Art Gallery, 438 South A Street, in downtown Oxnard. Music will be performed by Gil Valencia and Friends, and Xavier Montes.

March 27 from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

"Cesar Chavez's Early Connection to Ventura County," presented by Frank Barajas, assistant professor of history at California State University Channel Islands, on the campus of CSUCI in Malibu Hall 140. The Villa Cesar Chavez Narratives Service Learning Exhibit will be on display.

March 28 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

University celebration honoring Ms. Barbara Macri-Ortiz, an attorney who represented the farm workers in the 1996 civil rights case that resulted in the development of the Villa Cesar Chavez Apartments. The reception for the unveiling of the traveling Villa Cesar Chavez Narratives Service Learning Exhibit will include guest speaker Luis J. Rodriguez, a leading Chicano writer and international bestselling author, and recognition for the families, students, and faculty that participated in the project. The event will be held on the campus of CSUCI in Malibu Hall 100. Parking will be available in Lot A10.

March 29 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

A celebration for the community of Villa Cesar Chavez with several activities planned including: art projects and story telling for children, ballet folklorico performances presented by Inlakech, a film about Chavez's legacy, and presentations about pursuing college education. The Villa Cesar Chavez Narratives Service Learning Exhibit will be on display in the community room. The Villa Cesar Chavez Apartments are located at 381 E. Hueneme Road in Oxnard.