

# Chicana/o/x Studies

## Q-V0 Newsletter

WINTER QUARTER

MARCH 2019

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Director's Note

Tenure Track  
Faculty Position  
updates

Oaxaca Study  
Abroad Pro-  
gram update

Inaugural EWU  
Cinco de Mayo  
Latino Forum &  
Fundraising  
Diner

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Highlights

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## Director's Note: Martín Meráz García, Ph.D.

Winter quarter has been an exhilarating roller coaster ride for Chicana/o/x Studies; our Program has been working on multiple projects including a Chicana/o/x Studies tenure track search that Provost Scott Gordon approved last year, an Inaugural EWU Cinco de Mayo Latino Forum, Re-writing the grant for the College Assistant Migrant Program (CAMP), the Izkalli Calmecac Student Conference and engaging the Chicana/o Latino alumni to secure funding for a Chicana/o Studies Endowment that will provide scholarships for Latina/o/x students.

Additionally, our Chicana/o Studies faculty have been busy mentoring students who are minoring in our program with a total of 7 students accepted to present their research at the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico in April 3-6. These students are; Elsa Chavez, Esperanza Bradley, Sarahi Gutierrez and Horacio

Perez who are being mentored by Dr. Norma Cardenas. Additionally, Angelica Garcia-Macias, Maria Rivera and Josiah Van Egdome are being mentored by Dr. Martin Meráz García. All of these students are able to attend these conferences thanks to the financial support of the College of Social Science, the Provost Office and Chicana/o/x Studies; our students are thankful for their support.

### Update on T/TT Faculty Position

The top finalist will be conducting on campus interviews the 2nd week of April and hope to have the new faculty on board shortly thereafter.

### Student High Lights

**Sarahi Gutierrez** was awarded the Frederick Cervantes Award; **Angelica Garcia-Macias** was accepted into the prestigious MIT (Michigan Institute of Technology) and Purdue University Summer Research Programs; **Josiah Van Egdome** was accepted to three Ph.D. Political Science

Programs fully funded including American University, Syracuse University and Washington State University. Mr. Van Egdome was also accepted to several Masters Program with funding including University of Chicago (see their column in this newsletter for more information).

### Forum Updates

The platform/infrastructure for the Latino Forum, Dinner & Dance for Friday, May 3rd is fully in place with speakers and entertainers. Both presenters and forum participants can now register by clicking on this link: <https://sites.ewu.edu/latinoforum/>

We are thankful to the **Inaugural EWU Cinco de Mayo Latino Forum Committee**: Victor Rodriguez; Lupe Cannon, Jennifer Núñez, Dr. Christina Torres Garcia, Vanessa Delgado, Marilyn Dreis, Maria Reayna & Drs. Norma Cardenas, Nydia Martinez, Martín Meráz García; Aurelia Murguía, Liliana Diaz-Moore & Vanessa Delgado.

## CEP Work Study Students by Maria Gonzalez

The photo on the right features Maria Gonzalez, one of our Chicana/o/x work study students majoring in Psychology; she organized a workshop on mental health this quarter

CAPS presentation for the Chicano/a department was an excellent opportunity to help me get to know how to organize an event. This was a great opportunity for our staff to get to know some of the basics about the depression, distress, and few misconceptions that they had. We got the opportunity to ask a few questions.

The most important part about this presentation was that it thought us that it was okay to talk about our mental health. Even if at home our parents did not really talk about the mental health because we come from a culture that is not very open about mental health, it is important to be aware of the resources that we have and to seek for help when we need it.



The Study Abroad Program is now open for registration; students interested can contact Dr. Martinez at nmartinez9@ewu.edu or contact her 509-359-6088

## Study Abroad in Oaxaca Update by Dr. Nydia Martinez



Dr. Nydia A. Martinez, specializes in Latin American and Latino Histories and has been at EWU since 2015. Dr. Martinez's current research focuses on the ways that identity, specifically race and ethnicity functioned as part of the "new" leftist political expressions of collaboration and fraternity be-

tween Mexican urban students and Chicana/os in the 1960s and 1970s. She is presenting her research at The Southwest Council of Latin American Studies conference in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico and at the annual conference of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies in Oaxaca City, Mexico. Also, Dr. Martinez is the main faculty leader and designer of the 2019 Study Abroad Summer Program in Oaxaca City, Mexico (June, 24th– July 28th, 2019). This is a unique five-week academic program that will take up to 15 eli-

gible undergraduate students to the beautiful and safe Mexican colonial city of Oaxaca. The selected students will have the opportunity to take language classes (Spanish or Zapotec) at the University of Oaxaca; receive history and culture classes from Dr. Nydia A. Martinez; carry out a community engagement project teaching English as a second language under the guidance of Dr. Gina M. Petrie from ESLG; visit and interact with various indigenous communities; and live with a Mexican family for the duration of the program.

## Faculty Mentoring & (NACCS): Dr. Norma Cardenas



Sarahi Gutierrez, (picture on the lower right column) a senior Chicana Studies minor and Political Science major, was awarded the Cervantes Premio by the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies. Her paper, "Cultural Appropriation of Chola Culture in Asian Communities," was judged on its contribution to the field of

Chicana and Chicano Studies, strength of scholarship, and originality. She will be recognized at this year's conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico in April 3-6, 2019. She will receive a monetary honorarium of \$350, present her paper at the annual meeting, and the opportunity to submit her paper for publication review in the NACCS proceedings.

The award is named for Frederick A. Cervantes, one of the first Chicano political scientists and a pioneer in the development of Chicano Studies. The award honors him for his scholarly work and for his commitment to students and student research.

Horacio Perez, Sarahi Gutierrez, Esperanza Bradley, and Elsa Chavez are featured on the photo below.



We are so proud of our Chicana Studies students who will present their research at the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies in Albuquerque in the spring. The conference theme is "Indigenous Knowledge, Resistance, Love, and Land: Lecciones for our Children, for our Future." In the panel organized by Dr. Norma Cardenas, students merge Chicana studies and food studies and provide a space for exploring and researching Chicana/Latina communities.

### **Chicana Studies Meets Food Studies: Resistance and Solidarity in Restaurants, Language, and Food Movements in a Neoliberal Climate**

Chavez, Elsa. "Chaska or Esquites: Food Linguistic Borders and Negotiations in the U.S."

Bradley, Esperanza. "Ni de aqui, ni de alla: Home is where the Food is."

Gutierrez, Sarahi. "The Promise of the Farmworker Movement: The U.S. Alternative Food Movement and its Neoliberal Agenda."

Perez, Horacio. "Tropical Salvadorian Restaurant: How War, Violence, Faith y Comida Shaped an Entrepreneur."





## Inaugural EWU Cinco de Mayo Latino Forum Keynote Speakers



Rodolfo Arévalo, PhD, was named the 25th president of Eastern Washington University Jan. 9, 2006; he was the first Latino President at a four-year college or university in the state of Washington. He began his tenure April 1, 2006, and was formally invested by the university April 19, 2007; concluding his term at EWU in December 2014 after announcing his retirement earlier that year.

In 2015, Eastern Washington University board of trustees unanimously voted to name Dr. Rodolfo Arévalo **EWU President Emeritus**. He is the fifth EWU president to be given emeritus status, which is typically awarded upon retirement to recognize honorable service to a university. Upon his

arrival at EWU, Arévalo stressed that fostering a growth in a diverse student body at the university would be a paramount personal goal. His commitment to that goal has resulted in Eastern's ethnic student diversity increasing from 14.9 percent when he arrived to more than 25 percent the year he departed. Additionally, Eastern typically has the highest total percentage of Latino students of any public university in the state. Arévalo was also very passionate about providing opportunities for EWU students to study abroad and for the university to host students from different countries and cultures. He made trips to Mexico, Japan, China and other countries in Asia to develop and formalize articulation and transfer agreements with foreign universities.



Dr. Gina Ann Garcia is an assistant professor in the Department of Administrative and Policy Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, where she teaches masters and doctoral students pursuing degrees in higher education and student affairs. Her research centers on issues of equity and diversity in higher education with an emphasis on three core areas: Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs; postsecondary institutions that enroll at least 25% Latinx undergraduate students), Latinx college students, and race and racism in higher education.

Dr. Garcia has made numerous presentations at national conferences, including the American Educational Research Association (AERA),

Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE), and AC-PA College Student Educators International, and co-authored multiple publications in top journals including *American Educational Research Journal*, *The Review of Higher Education*, and *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*. She is the principal investigator for the *Midwest HSI Study*, partially funded by Penn's Center for Minority Serving Institutions and supported by postdoctoral fellowships from the Ford Foundation and a National Academy of Education/Spencer postdoctoral fellowship. For more information about our Forum keynote speakers click on this link: <https://sites.ewu.edu/latinoforum/keynote-speakers/>.



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*Dulce Gutierrez, feature on this photo has been on the forefront advocating for and creating awareness on issues faced by marginalized groups on the EWU Campus and Spokane community including issue of immigration and access to education for Chicana/x/o students*

## A Note From CEP Alumni Dulce Gutierrez Vasquez, MA



Saludos! My name is Dulce Gutierrez Vasquez and while at Eastern I double majored in Race and Culture Studies and Anthropology and minored in Africana Studies, Chicana/o Studies, and Spanish. Classes like Survey of Chicano Literature, Social Movement and Activism, and Chicano History helped me develop the vocabulary and theories to describe my experiences as an immigrant living between two worlds. Exposure to authors like Sandra Cisneros, Gloria Anzaldúa, and Cherrie Moraga also helped solidify and validate my experience as a queer Chicana. It was life changing to see so many written works on experiences that I had previously thought were isolating or too foreign for the mainstream narrative.

As a student, the Chicana/o Studies Program allowed me to explore the beginning of my research interests while also teaching me important lessons outside the classroom. It wasn't enough to learn about ac-

tivism, I also became involved in it with organizations like M.E.C.H.A., Eagle Pride, and the Multicultural Coalition. While holding leadership positions in these groups I often found myself seeking mentorship in Monroe 203 during the most stressful moments. This is what sets CHST apart from any other departments. I felt cared about as a scholar, an immigrant, an activist, and as an individual. While in high school, I was told that there was no point for an undocumented immigrant to go to college. I made the mistake of believing this for the longest time. It was under the mentorship of Dr. Norma Cárdenas that I began to see my worth. Through her support I was able to attend conferences such as the Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social conference in New Mexico, the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies conference in California, and even EWU's Research and Creative Works Symposium. Before CHST, I never would have imagined that an undocumented girl from Leavenworth, WA would have anything worthwhile to say. Even after graduating she has continued to mentor me and even encouraged me to apply for an internship with the Smithsonian after I attended a CHST alumni panel. Her dedication to students made it so she was one of the first I told when I finally received my permanent residency.



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## CEP/McNair; Josiah Van Egdom Accepted in 3 Ph.D. Programs

As a student in the Chicana Education Program and minoring in Chicana Studies, I found mentorship and guidance from professor and department chair Dr. Meráz García. Recently I have applied to graduate schools and have been accepted into two Master's programs, University of Chicago and Oregon State University, and three Ph.D. programs, Syracuse University, American University and Washington State University. This wouldn't have been possible without the research and mentorship that I received from the faculty in the CEP. The goal is to eventually obtain my Ph.D. and become a professor in order to disseminate invaluable

knowledge as well as continuing with my research in Central America and with the indigenous population.

The Chicana Education Program has impacted me greatly. I would encourage individuals that identify outside of the Latinx population to be a part of this program as it will allow them to grow from the material, the students, and mostly the dedicated faculty. I don't identify as a Latino, yet I have always felt welcomed by everyone in the program and that I had something to add as a unique perspective to salient issues and topics covered in classes. I felt that the students in class, including myself, gained from exchanging our unique and distinct

perspectives on some of the most important issues. Thank you again to the program that had a huge part to play in my recent successes as a student and a researcher. I hope others will find the same value that I found in engaging with the CEP.



## Latino Forum Keynote Speaker & CEP Alumni Cuauhtémoc Mexica, PhD



C.T. Mexica has a doctorate in comparative literature from the

University of Washington (2015). He is currently a postdoctoral researcher at Arizona State University's School of Social Transformation. While at UW he received a distinguished Bonderman Travel Fellowship (2008) that allowed him "to wander and wonder" overseas for a year and in 2015 the UW Graduate School selected him as the sole Scholar-Citizen (Graduate

School Medal) for integrating his academic expertise and social awareness in a way that demonstrates active civic engagement and a capacity to promote political, cultural and social change. C.T.'s research is centered on the literature of crime, confessions, and confinement and on theories of tragedy, transformation, and

transition. C.T. was recently chosen as an inaugural (2018-2019) Art For Justice Fellow to write a literary memoir about the human toll of mass incarceration through the nexus of literature, art, and justice.



## CEP/McNair; Angélica García-Macias Accepted at MIT Summer Program

I am at a loss of words from how ecstatic I am to be accepted into the MIT and Purdue University Research Programs. I think a lot of scholars forget their worth within their academic career, these opportunities do validate our *esfuerzos* to combat the imposter syndrome. I am looking forward to immersing myself in a new project, relating to my major political science. This opportunity will allow me to build up my skills as

a researcher trying to expand knowledge within the Latinx community. Most of all, this opportunity is so valuable to me as it represents the importance of community and diversity. Thanks to McNair Scholars Program, Chicax Studies my peers and mentors who have contributed to my academic growth; this has been a journey of communal development. Thank you!



## Latino Forum Keynote Speaker & CEP Alumni Elena Calderon, MA



Elena Calderon is a first-generation Latina college graduate. She earned her Master of Science in Communication Studies degree and Bachelor of Science in Community Health degree from Eastern Washington University. While in the Communication Studies program, Elena's research focused on the experiences of undocumented students at EWU and their experiences

with Washington State policies and national legislation such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Being a DACA recipient herself, Elena has come to understand the experiences and implications that come with being undocumented while pursuing a higher education. Currently, Elena is an Academic Success Specialist at Arizona State University within the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering. Elena is part of the Freshman Academic Success Team and focuses on the experiences of first-year college students. One of her goals is to pursue a doctorate degree in higher education and conduct research on the experiences of first-

generation college students and find solutions to increase retention among this community. Elena's leadership experiences include co-teaching a student success course for ASU students, working as a graduate instructor for the Communication Studies department at EWU, working as the Academic Initiatives Coordinator with the Department of Housing and Residential Life at EWU, leading the first "Day Of The Dreams" event at EWU, serving as a Lideres Summit Staff member in 2014 with the National Council of La Raza, serv-

ing as an ambassador with the Latino/an Educational Achievement Project, sitting on the College Success Foundation Alumni Board, serving as a leader for New Student Orientation at EWU, and earning the title of Ms. Eastern Homecoming Queen in 2011. Elena was able to find a community of leaders, advocates, and mentors within Eastern Washington University who helped shape her into the strong, resilient Latina she is today.

## College Assistant Migrant Program (CAMP) Activities & Events by Jennifer J. Núñez, MA



To kick off the week, we wanted to bring back to the campus community a figure who presided over the College Assistance Migrant program at EWU while serving as CEP/CAMP Director. Dr. Jerry Garcia, who is currently a VP of Educational Services at Sea Mar Community Health Clinics presented the work of labor leaders who have advocated for the rights of migrant workers in the state of WA. As a historian Dr. Jerry Garcia provided the wider EWU campus community the context of the work that was and is currently being done to support local agricultural and migrant workers the State of Washington. His presentation provided the foundation for the awareness we wanted to create at the EWU campus regarding the rights of farm workers in Washington State.

**Sea Mar Community Health Center Internships:** Sea Mar Community Health Center is an organization that provides quality, comprehensive health, human, housing, and educational and cultural services to diverse communities, specializing in services to Latinos in Washington State. With the support of Sea Mar, EWU offers 6 paid/housed internships each summer.

**Cesar Chavez Blood Drive:** In partnership with Vitalant, CAMP hosted a one-day blood drive on March 5th. As part of a national campaign to bring awareness in the month of March. Our collaboration with Vitalant allowed us to get the EWU campus involved in blood donations throughout Campus.

**Documentary “Nuestra Historia” /”Our story”:** In this video, Brenda Gutierrez depicts the experiences and opinions of migrant students and dispels assumptions held by the broader community at EWU.

**The Face of Migrant Labor in Washington:** Dr. Martín Meráz García’s talk on March, 6th, focused on his photo exhibit capturing the ethical, moral, and legal decadence our country is willing to endure for the sake of cheap fruits and vegetables and large profit margins for shareholders and corporate owners. Presently, the working and living conditions of migrant camps in the U.S. have improved little; more importantly one of the many questions asked is to what extent do we continue to exploit child labor (as revealed in these photographs) for the sake of getting inexpensive fruits and vegetables that are part of our daily diets.

**Knowledge in the Crop:** Informative facts collected by EWU CAMP students on Washington Crops and agricultural workers were disseminated throughout the EWU Campus community on March, 7th. These facts include information on the apple industry’s workforce that our very own EWU/CAMP students in the Royal City have been a part of. The intention behind this activity is to share a crop, and fact about agricultural and migrant work to educate and promote our program, our students (who distributed them) and the purpose behind our work.

**Fruits of the Harvest:** CAMP Students distributed notes of appreciation to faculty/ staff from their hometowns and EWU Campus who have made an educational impact in their lives. Student led initiative to show appreciation for various individuals. As part of the current cohort, they are creating connections and learning to share their story and gratitude.



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### **Chicana/o/x Studies Program**

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**The Chicana and Chicano Studies Program offers a Chicano studies academic minor designed to provide all students, regardless of ethnicity, a comprehensive understanding and appreciation of the Chicano/Latino community and relevant issues. The Chicano Education Program has a dual mission at Eastern Washington University. The Program's first mission is to actively contribute towards enhancing the opportunity and participation of Chicanos/Latinos in higher education. This mission is achieved by actively recruiting and supporting Chicano/Latino Students to have a positive and successful academic career. A parallel CEP mission is to contribute to EWU's goal towards addressing diversity by providing all students regardless of ethnicity, with a Chicano Studies curriculum leading to a comprehensive understanding and appreciation of the Chicano/Latino community and relevant issues. It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.**