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OXNARD COLLEGE STUDENT DELILAH GARCIA PRESENTS "STORYTELLING" AT UC BERKELEY



College student Delilah Garcia credits English instructor Dr. Lynn Fauth with encouraging her to participate in the 2006 CAL Student Leadership Symposium

"I love storytelling," said Oxnard College student Delilah Garcia, who was able to demonstrate her skill in front of a packed Student Leadership Symposium held February 4, 2006, at the University of California, Berkeley.

In "Dichos de Mi Pueblo," or "Sayings From My Town," Garcia described a hardscrabble childhood in Mexico where she taught herself to read from her father's Bible. She eventually taught her brothers and sisters to read, a fact she was later reminded of by her older sister.

Years later, after coming to the United States and raising her own family, Garcia decided to get a formal education and began taking classes at Oxnard College. She had taken classes off-and-on for the past 25 years, earning an associates degree in child development, but then began volunteering at Oxnard-area schools, helping to teach reading and "challenging kids to learn."

Despite her confidence when working with younger students, Garcia admits she hasn't always been as self-confident as she would like. When she first enrolled in OC

English professor Lynn Fauth's writing class, she felt overwhelmed and confessed her anxiety about writing to Fauth. He responded, 'You're just as good as the other students,' she recalled with a smile, and he challenged her to overcome her fears and writer's block.

"Dr. Fauth is my inspiration," she said. When the opportunity to present her stories at UC Berkeley presented herself, he encouraged her to step forward.

"I realized that I could do it," said the mother of four grown children, including former Ventura County Community College Student Trustee Elizabeth Wolfel, who transferred to Berkeley two years ago and now majors in pre-med studies. "Dr. Fauth was the first person who convinced me that I was not inadequate."

She is convinced that many of the kids she tutored who were trouble-makers or "newcomers" — newly arrived in the U.S. with limited Spanish and limited English reading ability — act out because they, too, feel inadequate in school.

"Some of the Latino kids are so negative — 'no quiero...', 'no puedo...' the 'I don't want to, I can't do it,' attitude that takes some overcoming, she said.

Not one to give up, Garcia likes to challenge them "to do even better in school. All they need is to be motivated."

Her own future goals include earning bachelor's and master's degrees and becoming a historian. She is following up on a Smithsonian Institute research internship that will afford her the opportunity to fulfill her dream and publish her stories.

"I tell other students to keep going, to get that degree," said Garcia. "As long as the door is open to you there are no limits."

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Colleagues,
 As I approach the end of my tenure as your president, I want to express what a privilege it has been to lead and serve this incredible organization. I want to thank all of you for your support. Most importantly, I want to thank the board, and our executive team, for their energy and dedication to our organization. It is not easy to find the time to meet and plan; but when you believe in your mission, there is little choice but to do. Your board will continue

to bring you exciting and challenging leadership symposiums, to provide a venue through our AACC forums for difficult and timely dialogues, and to produce a new class of leaders through our NCCHC leadership fellows program. That is our commitment to you, no matter who is at the helm. But we need you to continue your support and to recruit your colleagues into our membership. Your membership does make a difference!

I want to encourage my fellow CEO's across the country to help us fulfill our mission by sponsoring aspiring leaders within your institutions to 2006-2007 NCCHC Leadership Program (application is enclosed). We have a responsibility to our institutions as well as this sector of higher education to develop those who will come after us to lead them. Especially, to develop Latino leadership that reflects our ever increasing student populations. Your budgets reflect your priorities-----please make one of those priorities, leadership development.

Now on behalf of the board of directors; I want to invite you to participate in the various NCCHC sponsored activities at the AACC Convention this April. Join us at our forum, our general membership meeting and of course our wonderful reception. The schedule of NCCHC convention activities is in this newsletter. We look forward to enjoying the comradery of many of you at AACC. See you in Long Beach, California!

Dr. Maria M. Vallejo
 President - NCCHC

WELCOME NEW CEO'S

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 President
 Colorado Northwestern
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Carol Ann Brown
 President
 Eastfield College, TX

Quinton Bullock
 Provost
 Virginia Beach Campus of
 Tidewater Community
 College, VA

Dr. Rosa Flores Carlson
 President
 Porterville College, CA

Dr. Leo Chavez
 Superintendent/Presidents
 Sierra College, CA

Richard Fonte
 President
 College of Lake County, IL

Robert Garber
 President
 LA Pierce College, CA

Eileen Holden
 President
 Polk Community
 College, FL

Rose Johnson
 President
 Haywood Community
 College, NC

Thomas Klincar
 President
 Community College
 of the Air Force, AL

David McClain
 President
 University of Hawaii
 Campus System, HI

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 James A. Rodes
 State College, OH

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 Manchester, NH

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 New York-Potsdam, NY

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Jesse Smith
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 Jones County Community
 College, MS

Cheryl Thompson-Stacy
 President
 Eastern Shore Community
 College, VA

Dr. Chui Tsang
 Superintendent/Presidents
 Santa Monica College, CA

Mark Zacovic
 Superintendent/Presidents
 Mt. San Jacinto College, CA

AN INVITATION TO LEADERSHIP

The National Community College Hispanic Council Board of Directors invites applications for the 2006-2007 NCCHC Leadership Fellows Program, conducted by NCCHC in collaboration with North Carolina State University, Department of Adult and Higher Education. The purpose of the program is to provide a keenly focused professional development experience for Hispanic administrators who aspire to upper-level administration or a community college presidency.

For additional information and an application go to: www.ncchc.com. Should you have any questions about the program please contact Dr. Lelia Gonzalez Sullivan at 919-513-4870

NEWS UPDATES

■ “RADICAL FLEXIBILITY AND STUDENT SUCCESS: An Interview with Dr. Homero Lopez” was included in the Jan/Feb 2006 issue of EDUCAUSE. If you haven’t yet seen it, go to <http://www.educause.edu/email/er/erm061.html> to download a copy.

■ Dr. Adriana Barrera was recently appointed as the Senior Vice Chancellor for the LACCD system. She is the first Latina to hold the second highest position in our system. As LACCD, along with Miami Dade CC and Maricopa is one of the largest cc systems in the country this is a significant accomplishment. Dr. Barrera is from Texas and prior to her appointment had served as President of Los Angeles Mission College for five years. LACCD has nine colleges and Latino enrollment is well over 50%.

■ Judith Cardenas, Fellows ‘05, was recently named Interim President of Lansing Community College in Michigan.

■ Dr. Maria Vallejo, PBCC’s Lake Worth provost, is one of three individuals who was recognized at the Feb. 17 installation reception of the ASPIRA of Florida, Inc. Board of Directors at the Westin Diplomat Resort & Spa. Vallejo was honored for her strong support for ASPIRA, an organization that fosters the social advancement of Puerto Rican/Latino and other minority youth to pursue educational excellence through leadership development programs that emphasize commitment to the community. Others recognized were Lori C. Moseley, mayor of Miramar, Fla., and Dr. Gustavo “Gus” Roig of Florida International University’s College of Engineering.

■ San Diego, CA Mayor Jerry Sanders has appointed Ted Martinez Jr., former president of two community colleges, to serve as the head of the City’s recently created department of Customer and Neighborhood Services. In his position, Dr. Martinez will oversee the City’s park and recreation and library departments. He will also oversee newly created divisions dedicated to customer services, community services and arts and culture. Ted will be missed in NCCHC but we wish him well!

■ Maria Fraser-Molina, Fellows 03-04, received the 2005 Instructional Leadership Award from the National Council of Instructional Administrators, a council of AACC.

■ Cindy Castañeda, PhD, Fellows ‘05, has accepted a position as Dean of Ethnic Studies and Community Outreach, Richland College. It is a new position that will have some instructional dean duties as well as some student services responsibilities. She is excited about the new opportunity and expressed that the NCCHC Fellows program helped her to become more focused and intentional about her professional development.

CCD TAILORS SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS TO HIGH SCHOOL AUDIENCE

Colorado ranks near the bottom of the 50 states for sending its own high school students to college. Nearly half of minority high school students in Colorado drop out before graduation.

To reverse this Colorado Paradox and close the achievement gap for low-income, minority high school students, Community College of Denver works closely with Denver Public Schools toward the shared goals of increasing high school retention, graduation and college-going persistence.

In the past three years, CCD and DPS have partnered to open Career Education Center (CEC) Middle College of Denver and Southwest Early College (SEC). Students at both high schools take college classes as early as their sophomore year, graduate with a high school diploma and an associate’s degree and then transfer to a four-year college or university as juniors.

Through private funding, about 50 seniors in the College Now program at the historically low-performing Abraham Lincoln High School – where 83 percent are Latino and 72 percent eligible for free and reduced lunch – are delaying graduation until they complete their first year of college at CCD.

Colorado’s Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act (PSEO) ensures that school districts pay for public high school students who are 16 years and older to take up to two classes per semester at any of the state’s public colleges or universities. Just four years ago, CCD’s PSEO program had about 40 students. In 2005, that number jumped to 652 students who completed more than 1,000 credit hours of course work.

CCD’s Bridge-to-Achievement Labs in three Denver high schools are an effort to ensure that DPS students graduate and are prepared to enter college. The labs provide college-readiness assessment tests, accelerated remedial classes that prepare students for college and give them a sense of their own potential for success.

CCD uses successful retention tools, including “intrusive advising” by educational case managers, advisers, faculty and peer mentors. When students fall behind, somebody contacts them to find out why and then connects those students with tutoring or community resources to keep them in school.

As it expands its outreach to high school students, CCD tailors the services that have been successful with older students to the younger crowd with two distinct purposes: 1) to retain, graduate and transfer these students and 2) demonstrate to a new generation of low-income, minority and first-generation students that college is not only a possibility, but a very attainable goal for them.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Tracy Newell

As a member of NCCHC you are part of the nation’s premier organization for preparation and support of Hispanic leaders in America’s community colleges.

In order for this organization to remain strong and continue to prosper we need to hear from you. Please take a few minutes between now and May 15th to let us know:

- What you think of the website (www.ncchc.com) and what changes/improvements you would recommend. Include the types of items that would draw you to the site on a regular basis.
- What type of articles and information you appreciate most in the Visión newsletter and what you would like to see in the future. Be specific about what you would like included.
- The type of topics you would like to see presented at the 2006 NCCHC Leadership Symposium, September 21-23 in San Jose, CA. What would motivate you to register?
- Whether you are actively using the listserv and how it could be more helpful to you.
- Anything else you would like to share with us. After all, this is YOUR organization and we want to be sure it is serving YOUR needs.

11th Annual NCCHC Leadership Symposium

A Call to Action: Leadership Con Ganas!

San Jose, CA

Hosts: San Jose/Evergreen CCD
with College of Alameda &
San Joaquin Delta College

Hotel Information: The Fairmont San Jose
170 Market Street • San Jose, CA 95113
(800) 346-5550 • Conference Rate: \$149
(single/double) plus 10% tax

Go to www.ncchc.com for further information
(including Call for Proposals and Sponsor
Opportunities) and updates



September 21-23, 2006

Tentative Agenda

Thursday, September 21

2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Symposium Registration Open
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Opening Reception

Friday, September 22

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Registration Continues
8:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. Welcome Address
8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Opening Session Keynote
9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions
10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
12:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lunch and Keynote
2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Networking Reception
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. 2006 Awards Banquet/Fellows Graduation

Saturday, September 23

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Registration Continues
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. General Session - Panel Discussion
9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions
10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
12:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lunch and Closing Speaker

For more information, contact MeetingWise (Laura) • (310) 531-5081 • admin@ncchc.com