

# Chicana/o Studies

## Q-V0 Newsletter

FALL 2018

DECEMBER 2018

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Director's Note

Tenure Track Faculty  
Position

Oaxaca Study Abroad  
Program

Latino Public Forum

Cinco de Mayo Banquet

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CEP Graduate Interns

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



It is a pleasure to welcome all of our students back to another exciting academic year at the Chicana/o (Chicanx) Studies Program. It is an honor as a CEP alumnus to be serving as the Interim Director of the Chicana/o Studies and the College Assistant Migrant Program (CAMP). I took on this role on October 2, 2018 and the first priority of the Program is to continue creating a welcoming environment in which students feel a sense of belonging. Among the first directives I have issued as Director is to maintain the Program open during the Lunch hour beginning immediately to encourage our students to stop by and grab a bite whenever food is available, warm up their lunch, cook a meal or simply hangout at the

Dr. Maldonado Lounge. Moreover, I look forward to continue working with our university and community partners as well as the CEP alumni in strengthening our relationship and the foundation the program was built on. Additionally, a total of 3 computer work station hookups have been approved for installation along with three computers donated by the CSS that are operational NOW in the Dr. Maldonado Lounge.

### Noticias de CEP!

Provost Scott Gordon approved a long awaited Tenure Track line at the Associate/Assistant Professor rank for Chicano Studies

thanks to the advocacy of CSS Dean Jonathan Anderson.

Even though more resources are needed to have a fully functioning CEP; this action is consistent with the Strategic Plan of the University that will position our Program on the right track to become a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). The 6th Izkalli Calmecac Student Conference is being organized by MEChA in association with the Chicana/o Education Program and its campus partners to bring Latino high school students from rural communities across Washington State to EWU from April 19th-21st. Additionally, a Latino Public Forum is being planned for the 2019 Spring Quarter where Latina/o Leaders will come together to the EWU Campus to share their input on how EWU can achieve Hispanic Serving Institution Status on May 3rd, 2018. Additionally, a Cinco de Mayo Banquet will be held the same day as the Latino Forum to raise funds for the Dr. Carlos Maldonado Endowment. Stay tuned for future updates on these events. Finally, the CEP Program along with its university partners will be re-writing the CAMP grant for the next 5 year cycle.

The photo in this page features CEP Faculty & Staff from left to right; Dr. Norma Cardenas, Aurelia Murguia, Drs. Nydia Martinez and Martín Meráz García

## CEP Faculty & Community Engagement

The photo on the right features migrant workers in Mount Vernon, Washington; photo by Meraz Garcia, originally published by WSU Evergreen Student News paper (2005)



Our Faculty has been actively collaborating with our Spokane partners, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Nydia Martinez who has maintain strong working rela-

tionship with the Spokane Public Libraries and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. In fact CEP faculty participated in the Hispanic Heritage Month by imparting lectures and photo exhibits on topics such as “Migrant Labor in Washington State” by Dr. Martín Meráz García and “History of Day of the Dead,” by Dr. Nydia Martinez in September in the Spokane Public Libraries. Dr. Norma Cardenas was awarded a grant by the Mayor’s Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs

to bring Activist and co-author Virginia Grise of the Panza monologues for a public lecture in the Spokane Library. Additionally, our CEP Faculty and staff attended the Encanto Gala in October organized by the Chamber of Commerce to raise funds for Latino students in the Spokane community, many of whom attend EWU. This was possible thanks to the generous donation of the College of Social Science (CSS).

Study Abroad Program to cost students only \$1200 thanks to the contributions of generous donors; scholarships are also available to further differed the cost

## Study Abroad in Oaxaca by Dr. Nydia Martinez



Dr. Nydia A. Martinez, specializes in Latin American and Latino Histories and has been at EWU since 2015. Recently, Dr. Martinez collaborated with Spokane Public Libraries in the development of the Hispanic Heritage Month through the creation of two programs: Hispanic Heritage Month: History, Diversity, and Legacies and Coco: Film and Discussion of Día de los Muertos. Also, the construction of a Day of the Dead shrine and coordination of bilingual children’s story times with the assistance of EWU’s student organizations.

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 eligible 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 engage-

ment 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.

Furthermore, Dr. Martinez has presented her academic work at national as well as international conferences of Latin American Studies. Currently, she is working on an article titled: Two Visions of Identity: The Nuances of Race and Ethnicity that Shaped Chicana/o and Mexican Proclamations of Political Solidarity, 1960s and 1970s.



# Community Engagement: Dr. Norma Cardenas



The EWU Chicana and Chicano Studies Program received a \$1,500 grant from the City of Spokane for a public lecture by Virginia Grise at the Downtown Public Library. CHST is one of twelve grantees selected by the Mayor’s Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs and representatives of the City’s elected officials. Acclaimed activist and co-author of *The Panza Monologues*, Virginia Grise will deliver a public lecture at the Spokane

Downtown Library following a staged reading of *The Panza Monologues* by EWU students in the spring 2019. Her public lecture will draw from her most latest work, *Your Healing is Killing Me* (Inverse Press). The performance manifesto seeks to replace individual self-care with collective self-defense. She holds a MFA in Writing for Performance from the California Institute of the Arts. Her reading will combine scholarship, performance, and dialogue. For the last three years, students have performed *The Panza Monologues* for the EWU campus community. The annual production has grown each year and gained an enthusiastic following because it strongly resonates with the community. Students have mobilized their communal knowledge and culture for an invigorating performance. One student recently said: “I just wanted to congratulate you for *The Panza Monologues* performance and I hope that this will become an annual event. Even though I am graduating this year, I would like to come back to Eastern some-

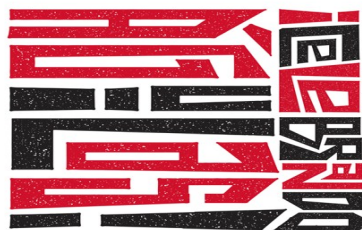
day and share my panza monologue. I strongly believe that events like these are vital to the community and they serve to heal the mind, body, and spirit. The events are free, open, and accessible to the public. The mission of the Chicana and Chicano Studies program is to provide culturally relevant education, in which collaborating organizations bring *The Panza Monologues* to new audiences. As an adaptable work, the piece bridges race, gender, sexuality, class, ability, political standpoint, and language to meet the needs of the community. The events are an opportunity to bring attention and give voice to the themes presented in the production such as hunger, poverty, reproductive justice, and food-related issues. <https://my.spokanecity.org/news/releases/2018/07/26/cultural-grant-recipients-chosen/>

## CEP Work Study Students by Artemio Valdez

Being apart of the Day of the Dead event and helping out with the Chicax Studies Program building the altar and editing the newsletter gave me a wonderful personal satisfaction. Being a part of the CEP work-study and working along great fellow work-study students makes it very fun and enjoyable to do these kinds of things. What I was amazed to see was how many other organizations were apart of this event and created their own personal altar that they felt best represented their

respected organizations. I look forward to helping out in future events.

Feature in this photo starting on the left is; Josue Gonzalez, Maria Gonzales, Veronica Ruiz, Letsy Gutierrez, Daisy Ibarra, Josiah Van Egdome & Artemio Valdez



## CEP, Multicultural Center, MEChA, NASA & CSS Partnerships

Although the time we had to plan cultural activities during the Fall quarter was short; we managed to pull off an outstanding Day of the Dead Celebration (November 1st) thanks to our partnership with Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana/Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA), the Multicultural Center and the College of Social Science (CSS). Student organizations and the campus community was invited to partake in this event by building altars commemorating their love ones who have past & attending presentations including one by Dr. Nydia

Martinez regarding the meaning of this cultural celebration; the rest enjoyed great Mexican food and traditional music by Mariachi Las Aguilas and EWU Ballet Folklorico de Aztlan. Moreover, our Program joined the Native American Student Association (NASA), MEChA and the Black Student Union (BSU) for a potluck in November 13th where everyone came together, share a meal and enjoyed each other's company before heading out for the holidays. Thank you Aurelia Murguia for the delicious cooking. By: Martín Meráz García



## MEChA: Dia de Los Muertos/Day of the Dead by: Remijio Mendoza



MEChA's Annual Day of the Dead Event was a wonderful success, drawing in students, staff, and faculty from an array of identities, fields, and walks of life. The very essence of Dia de los Muertos was present at the event, a celebration of life and remembering all those that we have lost. From the amazing food, paid for by Chicano Ed, to the Mariachi, paid for by the College of Social Sciences, to the very space used, paid for by the Multicultural Center. The event demonstrat-

ed the importance and power of unity. However, donations were not the only signs of unity, every altar brought attention to issues related to that specific group and gave guests a chance to recognize and acknowledge the challenges faced by a variety of diverse groups. The event even had speeches from professors, such as Dr. Garcia, the new director of Chicano Education, who discussed his new position and the plan for the future of Chicano Education,

and Dr. Martinez, who gave a beautiful presentation on the true meaning and practices of Day of the Dead as it is celebrated in Mexico. Along with the altars, presentations, food, and music, the event featured traditional folk dancing, courtesy of the Ballet Folklorico de Aztlan.



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## CEP/McNair Scholar Angélica García-Macias



Hello, my name is Angélica García-Macias, a McNair Scholar studying Pre-Law and a Chicana Studies minor. The beginning of November, I had the opportunity to attend the Pacific Northwest Political Science Association Conference in Bend, Oregon. During this conference, I presented my research I had developed with the assistance of Dr. Martín Meráz García

I was able to attend with the financial support of the Chicana Studies department and the Associated Students of Eastern Washington University. It was my first time presenting and attending a conference, yet was able to make connections with institutions across the nation. The panel I was a part of was titled Policy Implication of Racialized Political Rhetoric, where we talked about the issue of race and ethnicity within our society, public and political institutions. This conference needs the presence of more People of Color (POC) to diversify the thoughts and perspectives

represented in the conference. It's a great space to promote research and graduate studies. It's a great conference to attend, present, network and sharpen your presentations skills.



The top Photo on the right features Angelica Garcia-Macias Presenting her research paper at the Pacific Northwest Political Science Association's Annual Conference in Bend, Oregon on November 9th; the lower right image is Josiah Van Egdome also Presenting in the same conference on November 10th 2018

## CEP/McNair Scholar Josiah Van Egdome



Hello, my name is Josiah Van Egdome and I am currently majoring in Political Science with a minor in Chicana Studies and Accounting. Being a McNair Scholar as well as a mentee of Dr. Meráz García has allowed me to create my own original research in several areas,

including the project I presented at the Pacific Northwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting: Recordando los Mayas: Contributions of Indigenous Women in Guatemala. This opportunity to attend the PNWPSA conference has given me the chance to meet faculty members from all over the Pacific

Northwest and beyond as well as learning about different areas of interest and exciting research ideas. I was part of a panel of five, including myself and four professors, discussing peace and conflict in today's world. I would highly recommend anyone who's thinking about graduate school or has an interest in research and expanding their academic profile, they should consider attending this conference or others like it with the help of the amazing resources we have here at Eastern Washington University. Thank you to the Chicana program as well as ASEWU for helping to fund my travel to the conference in Oregon. A huge thank you to the McNair Scholars program and my mentor, Dr. Meráz García.

## Meet CEP Graduate Intern Darlene Maria



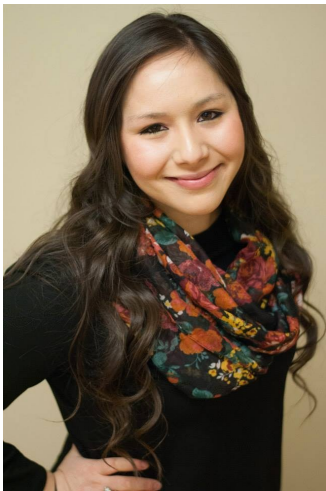
My name is Darlene Maria and I was born in Phoenix, AZ but lived most of my childhood in Sonora, Mexico. At the age of 10, I came back to the United States with my father and lived in the states of California and Florida for a few years. In 2005, Connell, WA became my

new home but moved to Pasco, WA after high school. I attended Columbia Basin College (CBC) in Pasco where I completed my Associates of Arts and Sciences degree. After graduating from CBC in 2013, I transferred to Eastern Washington University (EWU) and graduated in Spring of 2015 with a bachelor's degree in social work. Upon completion of my bachelor's degree, I decided to take two years off from school and worked in the mental health field. I am currently a graduate student here at EWU and I am working on my master's degree in adult education. Once I complete my master's degree, I plan on working with students in higher education. I am excited to start my internship with the Chicana/o

studies program where I hope to grow both personally and professionally. Through this internship opportunity, I hope to gain experience working with students both in and outside the classroom. Lastly, I hope to gain skills that will help me become a more effective future educator.



## A Note from CEP Alumni & Ph.D. Student Amy Núñez



As a fourth year PhD student in Education Policy Studies at Indiana University Bloomington, it is humbling to be able to reflect on how my experiences in Chicana/o Studies courses and MEChA played a role in where my educational pathway has led me today. As an undergraduate student who was majoring in Elementary Education and minoring in Chicana/o Studies at EWU, I was captivated by these courses that highlighted the

historical contributions of Latinas/os in the U.S. and that exposed the stark inequalities within the U.S. political system, the U.S. educational system, and beyond. The knowledge that I gained in these courses greatly influenced my decision to apply for the McNair Scholars Program and pursue graduate school. These courses also provided a foundation for my current research interests, which aim to explore the educational experiences of Chicana/o and Latina/o students in the U.S. and how we can better meet the needs of this population. As a student in Chicana/o Studies, I also had the opportunity to travel and present at several conferences including the NACCS Pacific Northwest Fall Regional Conference at Evergreen State College and the Pacific Northwest Political Science Association Conference in Portland, Oregon. The critical thinking, conference presentation, research and writing skills that I gained in my Chicana/o Studies courses have been essential to my academic experiences in graduate school. For

example, in the last two years, I had the opportunity to publish two manuscripts, "The Perceptions of College among Latina/o Elementary Students," and "In-State Tuition for Undocumented Students: A Policy Analysis." Both of these studies stem from work that I began at EWU as a novice researcher. I have also continued presenting at conferences as a graduate student at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in New York and the Diversity Challenge Conference in Boston, MA. I greatly attribute my publications and conference presentations to the critically oriented foundation that I received in my Chicana/o Studies courses, MEChA, and the McNair Scholars Program at EWU. The power of community and activism were vital lessons that I learned from professors and students at EWU and that I have carried with me to

IUB. The support, guidance, and mentorship that I received from my EWU community, including MEChA students, the McNair Scholars Program, and Dr. Martín Meráz García was instrumental in my ability to successfully matriculate in a doctoral program. Alongside my community at EWU, I was also able to engage in meaningful experiences such as organizing the Izcalli Calmecac Student Conference for over 250 students, rallying for a comprehensive immigration reform on the streets of Spokane, and promoting political involvement and higher education among Latina/o students at the Latino Educational Achievement Project (LEAP) Conference. All of these experiences ultimately taught me how to become a scholar activist by challenging the status quo and advocating for educational policies geared toward social justice.

## Meet CEP Graduate Intern Jonathan Juárez



My name is Jonatan Juárez. I was born in Ciudad Guzmán Jalisco, Mexico but lived most of my childhood in Tuxpan—a small town in Jalisco, Mexico. At the age of 10, my family and I came to the United States in

hopes of obtaining a better life and for the past 15 years, Pasco, Washington has been my home. After graduating high school, I enrolled at Columbia Basin College (CBC) where I obtained an Associates of Arts and Sciences degree in 2013. I then transferred to Eastern Washington University (EWU) and graduated in Winter of 2016 with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and a minor in sociology. Following the completion of my bachelor's degree, I took two years off from school and worked as a paraeducator at a middle school in Kennewick, Washington. I am currently a graduate student in the Education Department at EWU working towards a

master's degree in adult education. After completing my master's degree, I plan to work with adult learners at the post-secondary level. Given the opportunity to intern at the Chicana/o studies program will grant me the opportunity to grow not only as an individual but as a professional educator as well. Through this internship, I hope to strengthen my communication skills as well as my instructional practice. In addition, I hope to improve my self-efficacy when teaching and working with students of diverse cultural backgrounds.

## A Note from CEP Alumni & Ph.D. Candidate Jereny Mendoza



My name is Jereny Mendoza. I graduated in 2015, receiving both Interdisciplinary Studies and Government degrees. During my time at Eastern Washington University, I was a McNair Scholar, sister of Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc., and C.A.M.P. student. Currently, I am a 4th year Ph.D. student in the Department of Government at The University of Texas at Austin. I'm behind in completing three milestones of my program. This isn't uncommon for Ph.D. students and much less for first-generation scholars who have to overcome additional barriers.

I plan on taking both comprehensive exams, finishing remaining courses, and defending my dissertation proposal by the end of Spring 2019. While it may seem like a lot, I am excited to take on this challenge and report back in the future with great news! As for the students reading this, I hope you are not discouraged by setbacks but rather inspired to pursue your goals including graduate school. I have always struggled in school, and unfortunately, I will continue to struggle. The path I have chosen is not easy, but I know it leads to my growth and my ability to help those who come after me. The Chicx studies was essential in teaching me this, that we matter and we belong. While racial/ethnic studies such as the Chicx studies are often marketed as secondary minors, for students of color, it is THE BOOK we didn't know existed. The book we are experts in through experience but not in historical knowledge. The book written by people who look like us for a change; revealing our struggles

and contributions. Race scholars challenge and counter stereotypical narratives, and makes us question what we thought we knew about our people who are often framed as outsiders. Both of my parents are Mexican immigrants. In this country they endured poverty, language barriers, and humiliation. I grew up in the East side of Pasco, Washington also known as "El Barrio de Los Negros." The effects of segregation from the Manhattan Project during WW2, kept African Americans confined to that area. Much later, it also confined migrant workers. The effects of segregation were felt when I was growing up. I was exposed to drugs, abuse, gangs, and crime. My story is not uncommon. In fact, I'm sure if you are first-generation or a student of color reading this, you might relate. My trajectory is long and traumatic; suffice it to say that after dropping out of high

school, I applied to River's Edge High School with a 1.26 GPA. I graduated in 2009 with 7 scholarships and was admitted to EWU. I graduated from Eastern in 2015 and was admitted to University of Texas at Austin (UT) the same year. I applied for and was awarded the National Science Foundation Fellowship in 2017. Not bad for a girl from the East side of Pasco right? I'm a firm believer that there is beauty to be found in moments of uncertainty, of weakness and of struggle. So if you are currently struggling, take a look in the mirror and recognize you carry the GANAS of your ancestors. Salud!

# Day of the Dead Events: Altar, Face Painting & Fortune Teller

There were many cultural activities for guests to participate in including Loteria, Face Painting, Sugar Skull cookie decorating, and even a fortune teller. All of these events throughout demonstrated the power of unity and show how the traditional can be blended with the modern to make a joyous event that had everyone smiling, laughing, and even dancing. This event demonstrated the unifying power of culture and CEP looks forward to similar cultural events in the near future. We thank everyone who attended, participated, and made a contribution, financial and otherwise to make this a successful event.



## A Note from C.A.M.P. Associate Director Jennifer Núñez



C.A.M.P. was excited to host its 4th annual Migrant Student Day Conference on October 17, 2018. There was a total of 221 students from 14 different high schools who traveled across Washington to attend the one day STEM Conference. Upon arrival, students checked in and proceeded to the Showalter Auditorium. Once all of the high schools arrived, Outreach Specialist, Nubia Ramirez wel-

comed everyone and shared her experience as former C.A.M.P. and Eastern Alumni.

The conference continued with a formal university welcome from Eastern Washington University's President, Dr. Mary Cullinan. She highlighted the university's national awards. The first was for excellence in diversity and the second was a national recognition for being a College of

panel consisted of former C.A.M.P. students whom shared their experience at EWU and CAMP. Later, they learned about various STEM programs offered at

Distinction. Dr. Cullinan also shared with students how the faculty and staff focuses on students. She concluded by sharing her EWU pride and thanked everyone for visiting.

Afterwards, Enrollment Advocate, Emmanuel Lopez presented on EWU admissions. He shared important university dates, application information and answered student questions. Financial Aid Adviser, Jessica Hernandez followed with a presentation on financial aid. She covered FAFSA, loan options, EWU Scholarship and answered questions.

During lunch, students had the opportunity to participate in icebreakers and visit the bookstore. After lunch, the schools regrouped and met at the JFK Library steps where a group photo was taken. Then everyone proceeded to the Showalter Auditorium where a student panel was held. The

Eastern such as nursing, geology, dental Hygiene, and mathematics. Then they attended a resource fair. The resource fair consisted of departments on campus, clubs and student organizations. During this time, students also had the opportunity to partake in a campus tour. Onsite admissions was held for high school seniors and there was six students who were admitted. The students were connected to EWU faculty and staff through a professional panel and were able to learn about their educational journey and how they got to their current position. The event concluded with a thank you to everyone who attend from Outreach Specialist, Nubia Ramirez. She also collected student information cards and provided giveaways to students.





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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.