

Mexican American Studies Symposium
Sponsored by Chicano/Latino Faculty & Staff Association

On Saturday April 23, 2011 from 12:00-2:00 pm at San José State University we will be holding the Mexican American Studies Symposium sponsored by the Chicano/Latino Faculty and Staff Association (CLFSA). Now more than ever it is important to highlight the significant contributions of Ethnic Studies curriculum in K-12 as well as in our colleges and universities. Many lawmakers have started the full assault on the elimination of Ethnic Studies. We argue that this is the exact moment to increase funding and expand these types of programs and not to eliminate them. It is important for us to share this message with the community and so we invite you to join us for a discussion and Q&A session following the presentation.

The aim of the symposium is to discuss Chicano/a Studies and its contributions to local communities, colleges and universities, and building the pipeline into higher education. We will have three presenters including a local politician and two Chicano/a scholars. Dr. Julia E. Curry Rodriguez, professor of Mexican American Studies at San José State University will moderate the event. The three speakers include: Dr. Devon Peña, Professor of Anthropology, University of Washington, Former Chair of the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies; Dr. Mary S. Pardo, Professor of Chicana and Chicano Studies, CSU Northridge and Assembly Member Luis Alejo, 28th District.

Some of the key points that this symposium hopes to address are as follows:

- An examination of the challenges that face the Mexican American Studies Program at San José State University including; marginalization within the institution and by its administrators, lack of institutional resources and possible consolidation with other ethnic studies departments
- What should San José State University be doing to help ensure preparedness of incoming students
- Is there a relationship that Chicano/a Studies and/or Ethnic Studies curriculum play in fostering strong academic skills and success
- How well students are prepared to come to college
- K-16 demographics within the state representing Chicano/a & Latino/a students
- The effort to pass legislation regarding K-16 Ethnic Studies
- Challenges to K-12 graduation
- The quality of education with particular regard to A-G college entrance requirements
- The impact of exit and star testing
- How are the CSU's serving (or underserving) the students of our district

- What are the local implications of the national discussion on Anti-Ethnic Studies legislation

If you have any questions about the symposium please feel free to contact the symposium coordinator Dr. Julia E. Curry Rodriguez or symposium volunteer Juan Pablo Mercado (contact information below). Thank you for your support!

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