

EL CENTRO

(LATINX CHICANX STUDENT PROGRAM)



Background

Latinx Report to Board of Trustees (March 4, 2019):

“Latinx Center: Beginning this spring semester 2019, the Bridge Program will be expanded to incorporate an effort to be named “El Centro.” Chicanx, Latinx, and other students with related interests will be able to go the El Centro office to study, receive assistance and referrals, have access to computers, receive information about cultural and community events related to Latinx/Chicanx issues and concerns.”

Number of student participants: **500** (as of 1/3/2022).

Mission Statement

The mission of El Centro is to unite all cultural backgrounds, Latinx and Chicanx; to support, educate, and assist students in completing their educational goals while providing cultural enrichment, and solidarity between Mt. SAC’s students and surrounding communities.

Program Benefits/Resources*

El Centro expanded to Bldg 9E Classroom 2080 during the Fall 2021 semester.

El Centro students utilize current Bridge program benefits and services:

- Counseling and Advising (Bridge)
- Study Area and Study Rooms (Bridge)
- Computers and Laptops (Bridge/El Centro)
- Free Printing (Bridge)
- Communal and Welcoming Environment (Bridge)
- Peer-to-peer Support
- Leadership and Community Engagement Opportunities
- Chicanx/Latinx Studies Library/ Archival Documents
- University Raza Youth Conferences
- On-campus Cultural Events

* MEChA: Chicanx/Latinx Cultural Resource Center and Support Program Proposal (October 23, 2018) includes additional resources that should be included in the development of a Latinx center



Goals

- To increase the educational attainment of Chicanx/Latinx students.
- To educate the Chicanx/Latinx community and the Mt.SAC community about the diversity that encompasses the Chicanx/Latinx cultural community.
- To provide a physical space that reflects the perspectives and culture of Chicanx/Latinx students.
- To provide educational, cultural and social programming that affirms and celebrates Chicanx/Latinx identity and values, as well as the awareness of the social, political, historical and cultural realities of the Chicanx/Latinx population.
- To broaden and facilitate the channels of communication between Chicanx/Latinx students and the greater Mt.SAC student community.
- To support the development of students interested in the Chicanx/Latinx culture.
- To participate in the college’s core values of supporting equity and diversity.
- To provide information to enhance cultural awareness at Mt.SAC.

Accomplishments/Highlights

- Programming includes in-person, online and hybrid options.
- Celebrated Latinx Heritage Month with the first ever Mt. SAC Latinx Heritage Month Kick-Off (in collaboration with the Equity Center) and organized month-long series of events.
- Students are involved in the planning of future El Centro modular design/space.
- 150 students participated in the 3rd Annual El Centro and Raices Nuestra Celebracion (Our Celebration): A drive thru event to recognize the graduation and transfer achievements of Mt. SAC Latinx students. A committee comprised of Mt. SAC staff, faculty, managers and students organized the event. Over 500 guests attended.
- El Centro is engaged with the local community and participated in 3 community outreach events:
1) Mt. SAC Power to the CommUnity: A Community to College Pathway Presentation, May 19, 2021 in partnership with Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley, Just Us 4 Youth, and Day One Pomona
2) Kiwanis Club of La Puente Community Resource Fair, August 28, 2021
3) Conexio de Padres por la Educacion Pomona, Resource Fair, September 25, 2021
- Since its inception in March 2019, over 40 events hosted by El Centro.
- First El Centro learning community was established; cohort enrolled in English 1A/History 40 (History of the Mexican American) during the Fall 2021 semester. Cohort will continue to the Spring 2022 semester and enroll in English 1C and Political Science 25 (Latino Politics in the US).
- The El Centro learning community is part of the Knowledge is Power Learning Community (KPLC): a collaboration between Arise, Umoja Aspire, and El Centro.



Latinx Heritage Month Calendar of Events

September

- 13 Latinx Heritage Month Kick-Off (collaboration with Equity Center)
- 15 What does it mean to be Latina/o/x
- 21 Decolonize Justice: Bad Hombres (collaboration with Rising Scholars)
- 28 El Centro Open House
- 30 FEM-torship Program info Session

October

- 4 Central America Week Kick-off with Dr. Leisy Abrego (UCLA)
- 5 Film Screening: When the Mountains Tremble
- 6 Central American Voices: Dr. Suyapa Portillo (Pitzer College)
- 7 Film Screening: 500 Years, Life in Resistance
- 13 Film Screening: Chavela (collaboration with Pride Center)

Future Considerations

- Host a Mt. SAC Raza youth/parent conference
- Continue planning for new El Centro modular
- Staffing (Director, Peer Mentors, Support Staff)

