



Latina Leadership Network

Cuesta College Chapter

¡VIVA! NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2021 EDITION

Thank You for Your Commitment & Service

2020-2021 LLN Board



Upcoming Events & Important Dates

- Caravan Graduation Ceremony
May 21, 2021
- New Board Members Announced
- 1st LLN Fall Meeting
August 27, 2021

Congratulations to the Newly Elected 2021-2022 LLN Board Members!

- President - Jannet Rios Leon
- Vice President - Christina Sholars
- Treasurer - Anna Paez
- Historian - Andrea Echeverri & Edith Lopez
- Secretary - Laurie Buchholz
- Madrina - Glenda Moscoso

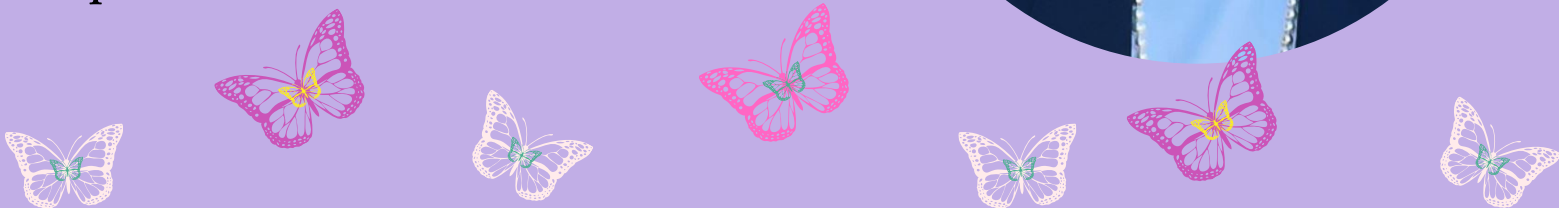
In This Issue:

- LLN News
- Outstanding Leader: Janet Florez
- Student Spotlight
- Upcoming Events



Welcome Dr. Elizabeth Coria!

On behalf of the Latina Leadership Network (LLN) of the Cuesta College Chapter for staff, faculty and administrators, we would like to say ¡BIENVENIDA! to the Cuesta community! We are excited to have you be a part of our Cuesta familia.



We have a webpage!

Latina Leadership Network (LLN) finally has its own webpage, hosted on the Monarch Dream Center's site. [Click here to visit](#) and find all the information you need to stay up to date with LLN.

Content: About LLN, ¡VIVA! Newsletter, news & events, contact information and more.





Highlights from the Dreamers Club



For Spring the Spring term, Dreamers United student Club continue meeting monthly. Some of the highlights were:

- Over 100 Dreamers/DACA were able to received special funding ranging from \$500-1000 dollars
- 5 club members will be graduating and being honored during the Spring Multicultural Graduation Reception
- A New Dream Team was formed with the goal of improving programs and services to be more inclusive and make recommendations on how to better serve undocumented students. The Team have taken the UndocuAlly Training part 1 and 2 and will complete part 3 this Spring term.
- Cuesta has received funding to hire a Dream Center Liaison (AB1645) This position will allow for both SLO and NCC Monarch Centers to offer more student support and expand the outreach efforts in the community.



JOIN OUR CLUB!

We will start meeting again in the fall term and are looking for a new president and vice-president.

Club Advisors:

Estella Vazquez | Phone: (805) 546-3109
evazquez@cuesta.edu

Jannet Rios | Phone: (805)-440-8721
jannet_riosleon@cuesta.edu

Follow us on Instagram!
@cuestacollegedreamercenter

Funding efforts:

- We raised \$3,145 dollars during the first “Join the Dream” crowdfunding fundraiser
- We applied for a Cuesta Foundation Grant and were awarded \$10,000 to go towards Emergency Funding, DACA renewals and other undocumented student critical needs.

Thank You and Congratulations:

We thank our club president Yusbely Delgado and vice-president Sarahi Beltran for leading our club. Congratulations to both of them, as well as the other graduating students from our Dreamers United student Club. ¡ Felicidades y Adelante, Si Se Pudo!



Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA)

CUESTA COLLEGE
ZOOM 99577625096
 Cuesta MEChA club presents
Win Raffle Prized after the movie
 Amazon & Target Gift Cards
 T-shirts, water bottles, & Cuesta Swag
CESAR CHAVEZ
 You-Tube Zoom
 Movie -Watch Party
 Wed. March 31, 2021
 12 PM to 1:45 PM
SE PUEDE
 OCAMPO CHAVEZ PRINT
 DRAWING FOR TICKET HOLDERS
 AFTER MOVIE

MEChA has a new co-Advisor! Magdalena Munoz-Perez is our newly hired EOPS counselor and has agreed to serve in this capacity!

Magdalena holds a BA in ethnic studies, a Masters in Counseling and student development, and one in Public Policy and Administration, and she has been an instructor and counselor plus has loads of experience to offer.

Welcome Student MEChA Leaders!
Anayleen Jimenez & Jael Ventura



Katherine Avendano, winner of the Chavez print!



Teacher Pathways Presents Future Teacher Week

The Teacher Pathways team hosted a series of interactive workshops to provide students an opportunity to connect and learn from aspiring and current educators in 5 virtual sessions.

- Si Se Puede- The Power to Shape a Student's Experience in the Classroom
- Road to Becoming an Educator Info Session
- The Importance of Bilingual Education in Today's Classrooms
- Getting Started in the Education Field: Marketing Yourself for Employment Success
- We Transferred: The Latinx Student Experience at a 4-year college



Latino Leadership Network Student Club

"Inspiring Leadership Thru Team Building Experiences While Networking With Others"

Leadership Activities

Sports provide Opportunities

Hiking

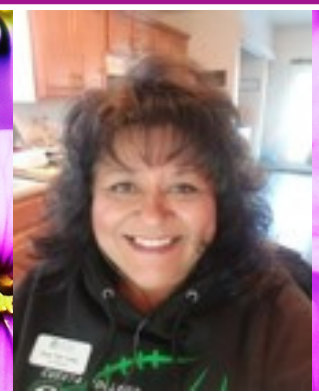
Student Success Festival

Social Groups

Networking on and Off Campus

Public Speaking

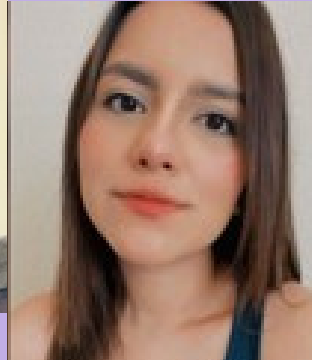
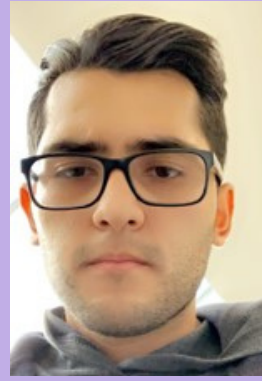
Volunteering



LLN Co-Advisors
Aly Aguirre - Financial Aid Specialist
Dee Limon - CaFE Specialist



President - Rubi Blanco
Vice President - Javier Perez



Class Of 2021!

Congratulations LLN graduates! We are so proud of each of you. Thank You for helping support our club .



Outstanding Leader: Janet Florez

"I was motivated to join the statewide LLN because I have a deep commitment to social change, the dismantling of institutional racism, and removing barriers that impede the upward mobility of Chicana/Latinas. I believe that as a part of the LLN we are able to work as a whole and have our voices be heard. The impact of a group is greater than a single voice pleading for justice".



Janet first joined the statewide LLN while working as a counselor at Bakersfield College in 1992 and co-founded a chapter there with some co-workers. She then started working at Cuesta College on October 1st, 1994 as an EOP&S counselor and instructor for the counseling department.

When I came to Cuesta there were very few Latina/o faculty and staff working here and no LLN chapter to join. I decided the best way to start a chapter was to being recruiting Latina students. I formed the LLN club, raised money and solicited support from various campus departments to take 2 vans full of LLN students to the LLN Statewide conference in San Diego our first year. Our students came back on fire and became the largest club on campus.

The LLN student club along with MEChA and allied Latina and Latino faculty and staff put on a host of Youth Conferences, Cinco de Mayo Celebrations and Dia de los Muertos events, plus symposiums on the needs of undocumented students. As a team, they advocated for hiring of Latino/a employees, a cultural Center, a mural and Chicano/a studies.





*I wrote several grants soliciting funding from the Statewide LLN and the Cuesta College foundation to fund these projects. We had a major presence on campus and support from the administration. As a natural progression, the Latina staff and faculty, who by then were being hired, formally established the Cuesta College LLN chapter as it is today. **A dream realized!** I had the privilege of serving as president for a term and was recognized by the statewide LLN as a Madrina.*



Challenges, barriers and greatest achievement with LLN:

My greatest challenge came when I was hired. I was 1 of 2 Latina counselors in our department. I could count the number of Latina teaching faculty on one hand and not use all my fingers. I felt isolated and alone and my challenge was the status quo and figuring out how to influence Cuesta College's powers that be to want to make changes. The greatest barrier was the apathy of the majority of faculty who were the last to lend support.

If I had to point to a great achievement that I have had with the LLN, I would say it was my consistent steadfast commitment to social justice and the utilization of my organizing skills to initiate the student LLN group as a new hire. I feel like a pioneer who landed on fertile ground, planted seeds of "what could be done" and exposed inequities preventing progress.

I leveraged the power of the group to tirelessly advocacy for the hiring of Latina and Latino faculty, staff and administrators. This made it possible to establish a faculty & Staff LLN because those hires became the change agents we needed to collectively impact institutional changes at Cuesta College. Now they are changing the campus climate and producing inclusivity by giving our students employees they can relate with who look and speak like them.

Our collective efforts uncovered undocumented students issue via symposiums and media attention in order to make Cuesta accountable to meeting their needs. We now have a Dream Center to do just that. We supported the ESL program when they needed a separate center, and fought for a staffed cultural center and a mural all now fully realized.



Our small Latina youth conferences were the springboard to institutionalization of the “Educate -Si Se Puede” high school conferences and most recent we have the beginnings of ethnic studies. I feel honored that I had a role in influencing these changes over the past 26+ years. All these efforts were fought for and I leave feeling like I played a small part of helping to fuel those changes with my persistent insistence that Si Se Puede. I count my efforts as a personal legacy.

Have you had a mentor or partner that you want to highlight or thank?

The list is too great to note all the people who have mentored me, inspired me, and pushed me when I was ready to give up. My partners in crime at Cuesta have been with me from their start, Lupe Beanway, Edie Morales, Estella Vasquez, Dee Limon, Glenda Moscoso, Tonya Hardiman, Cande Munoz, Matt Vasques, and more recently Alicia Paniagua, but the most influential are the hundreds of students who have come through my office doors and given me the reason for doing what I do.

What would you say or advise to future generations who come to join and want to work for LLN?

I would tell them not to pass over this great opportunity to sacrifice a little of themselves for the betterment of the many. Give of your time, talents, energy, and even money if you have it, and you will gain so many benefits. Experience the joy of seeing others succeed because of the little that you can give. Make life-long friends with whom you will come to feel truly related. Your relations with these sisters will be unique and priceless and you will have a sense of belonging, of being wanted and needed and above all love and respected.

I will miss you all as I start a new journey in retirement, but I leave knowing all is in good hands, please remember I am a phone call away, and can be counted on to help when asked.

Janet Florez





Sarahi Beltran Sanchez



What has motivated you to keep pushing through 2021?

My parents and my brother. They motivated me to continue with my education even though it's a hard time. Find a positive out of the negative, it's the only way to make it out of the tunnel.



What goals do you have next year?

My goal for next year is to transfer to a different school. Still, be connected with my brother and my mom's schooling and being their support system to obtain her GED and help my dad's business grow.

What have you enjoyed the most about Dreamers United Club?

It's a strong community and it is so welcoming and is always there for you. It's another support system. They will be there for you with whatever problem you have. They will always be there for you to turn to and guide you.

Major: Criminal Justice

Is there anyone at Cuesta who has supported you along your journey?

Estella Vasquez: "Is an amazing person! She has the most beautiful soul and is always willing to help whoever needs help. She's always giving you advice and honestly just an amazing person to be around."

Jannet Rios-Leon: Is also an amazing person who is like a family member. I'm honestly thankful that I met her because without our zoom meetings I probably wouldn't have been able to survive through Spring in Covid. I'm thankful to have her support.

Transferring To:



DREAMERS UNITED

Jose Guzman



What has motivated you to keep pushing through 2021?

Mi motivación fue adquirir nuevos conocimientos e ideas para ser mejor día a día.

**My motivation was to acquire new knowledge and ideas to be better every day.*

What goals do you have next year?

Mi meta es seguir estudiando para obtener más conocimientos y crecer como persona y no quedarme en un mismo lugar.

**My goal is to continue studying to obtain more knowledge and grow as a person and not stay in the same place.*

Major: General Education

Is there anyone at Cuesta that has supported you along your journey?

La Maestra Alicia.
**Teacher Alicia*

What have you enjoyed the most about Cuesta?

Lo que mas disfruté de Cuesta College fue encontrar personas maravillosas que me ayudaron a ser mejor, con su tiempo y dedicación para obtener este logro.

**What I enjoyed most about Cuesta College was finding wonderful people who helped me to be better, with their time and dedication to achieve this achievement.*

G.E.D



Yusbely Delgado

Major: Communications, AAT



What has motivated you to keep pushing through 2021?

I have two siblings that are very dear to me and letting them know that it's completely possible to achieve a higher education is important to me. I also did it for all the people who supported me through this journey. My family, friends, mentor, and staff gave me the strength to move forward and made me the person that I am today.

What goals do you have next year?

Transferring to UC Davis, plan on pursuing my communications degree and minoring in sociology to gain experience in the future. I want to get a job in psychiatry and eventually become a pediatrician.

What have you enjoyed the most about the Dreamers United club?

It was a humbling experience meeting and talking to students who were in similar situations as me. Knowing that I wasn't alone is one of the greatest feelings ever. I enjoyed the support I was given by the students and faculty while in the club (**Estella, Christina, Alicia, Sarahi**, and many more!).

Is there anyone at Cuesta that has supported you along your journey?

I want to thank **Donna Howard** for encouraging and inspiring me. Thank you for getting to know me, sharing your experiences, and your kindness. Your dedication and passion to guide others have influenced me to do the same and I'll be forever grateful for that positive influence. I'm just one of the many students you helped but I want you to know that you made me a better person and I'm so happy to have met you!

Estella Vazquez was the first person I contacted before joining Cuesta College. You guided me to where I was supposed to go and helped me find my place in the school. Thank you for the confidence you taught me and for always believing in me. You offered me so many opportunities and I'm so happy that I got to work right alongside you.

Dr. Anthony Gutierrez is an incredible and kind person. You always helped and encouraged me while I was Activities Director. Thank you for your dedication, knowledge, and positivity. Thank you for always brightening my day and for always wanting your students to succeed.



Javier Perez

Major: Psychology



Is there anyone at Cuesta that has supported you along your journey?

There are so many people. **Diane Limon** when it came down to connecting me to so many resources and the Latino Leadership Club. She was my mentor during EOPS. **Alejandra Aguirre** kept me posted with everything going on in Financial Aid. She let me know about emergency assistance and it was helpful.

What goals do you have next year?

I plan on transferring, I'm going to CSU Stanislaus and just keep going with my academic career in psychology.

Transferring to:



What has motivated you to keep pushing through 2021?

Going to school was my motivation. I feel I want to set an example to my nieces and nephews by becoming a first-generation college student.

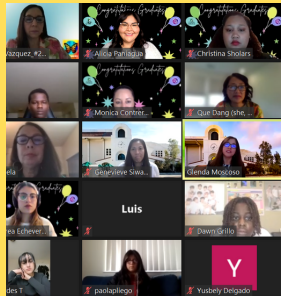
What have you enjoyed the most about the Latino Leadership Network?

I feel the people and the culture make me feel so close. It's a home away from home. We were always trying to succeed for our Latino community. I was able to get in touch with my culture more and even through COVID we kept in touch which made it helpful. Long lasting connections.



Upcoming Events

Thank You for Joining!



Virtual Multicultural Graduation Celebration

On May 14, 2021 at 6 PM, LLN joined forces with BSU in celebrating our students accomplishments and honoring the resilience and educational trajectory of students as they closed one chapter of their lives and embarked on a new one.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!
Si SE PUDO!

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community. Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."

Cesar Chavez

[Watch Video Here](#)



56th Commencement Ceremony!

This year, commencement is going caravan
May 21, 2021 | 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

ALL are WELCOMED!

Drive through celebration
Masks are required for this event.

Have Questions?
Email: grad@cuesta.edu
or call 805-592-9318



Join Us!
Cheer-On our AMAZING
Class of 2021
Graduates





We, the Latina Leadership Network of the Cuesta College Chapter, are horrified and heartbroken by the rising rates of hate crimes, racist violence and harassment, and discrimination against members of the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. We stand in solidarity with the survivors, victims, and their families during these challenging times.

Racism is but a symptom of the larger disease that is white supremacy (Judge Robert L. Carter), and we must continue to work to dismantle this disease, to combat it with radical love and to reimagine and create a world that no longer places our body, mind, spirit, heart, and humanity in perilous danger.

We express our love and shared struggles. Our existence is revolutionary and our right is unrelentless. Let's continue to honor and celebrate our diversity. We are stronger together.

In love and solidarity,

Latina Leadership Network
of the Cuesta College Chapter





Key points

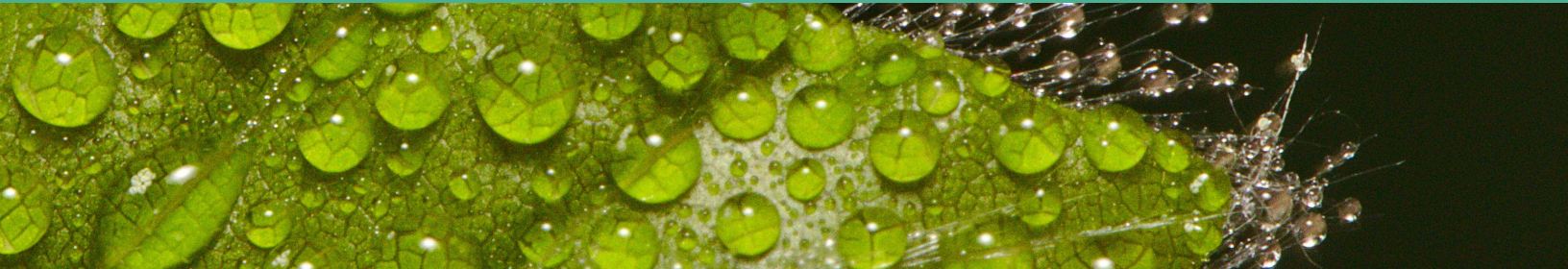
- Social support is key to mental well-being and connected to longevity.
- Having a support system is especially vital in a time of social unrest.
- Connecting virtually doesn't replace in-person support, but it can still be a powerful and important tool in a time of physical distancing

Having solid social support means having people you can go to when you need to talk—which has become more important than ever over the past year. Between the weight of the COVID-19 pandemic and difficult but necessary conversations about race and politics, having real-life, in-person social support has a profound impact on us—it actually helps us live longer.



Besides a time of flowering, rain and wet grass, spring-21 has been an opportunity to evaluate new directions and new possibilities for the coming months of the year. Our priority is to continue serving our students; our challenge, to keep growing and strengthening this network of wonderful leaders, professionals and human beings who work every day regardless of distance, fatigue and obstacles.

Thank you LLN for always being present.



Visit our relaxing room online.

At the Student Health Center your overall well-being is our #1 priority. Here you will find some techniques and exercises to reduce stress, anxiety, and depression. [Click here to enjoy it!](#)



How Students are Fighting Zoom Fatigue” using self-care strategies: [Click here to watch the video](#)



Words of Encouragement

I look at the LLN Cuesta Chapter and I see
a group of GUERRERAS.

I see mujeres who have
ADVOCATED

for their students and communities.

I see mujeres determined to

DO & BE BETTER

for themselves, for mujeres,

and for THEIR gente.

I see mujeres I am PROUD of.

I see MARIPOSAS

getting used to having wings.

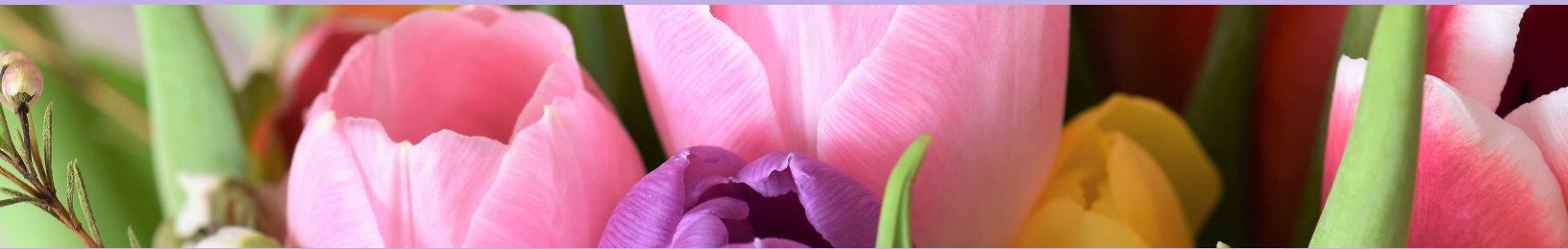
I see mujeres I ADMIRE.

VIVA LLN!



Alicia

Thank you for allowing me to be a part
of this amazing community and serve
as LLN President for the last three years.
May we continue the work in solidarity.



Jannet

As this semester comes to an end, I want to
remind you that you did it! Despite the
challenges, loss and tears we all reached another
milestone. It has not been easy as a community,
but when we needed help, there was always
someone to lean on. To students- know that there
will always be someone at Cuesta ready to help
you, no matter where you go! To our staff, faculty
and administrators, we grew with our students
and I thank you for working towards meeting the
needs of our students!