

**TRANSCENDING BORDERS,
TRANSFORMING LIVES BY
BUILDING BRIDGES**

SDSU

Imperial Valley
Cross-Cultural Center

Along the California-Baja California Borderlands



2023-2024

Report

Cross Cultural Center's Team



Daniel Lopez

Coordinator
Freshman Academic Advisor



Andrea Van Bebber

Graduate Assistant
Masters in Social Work Student

Advisory Committee

Alissa Ramos, M.A.- Coordinator, Academic Learning Center (ALC)

Germán de la Peña, M.Ed.- Career and Veteran Services Coordinator

Melissa Villarreal, M.A. - Food Pantry Coordinator

Susana Lopez, B.A.- Administrative Coordinator, Division of Student Affairs

Aday Urias, MSW- Case Management Coordinator

Gilberto Reyes, M.A.- Adjunct Faculty, History

Vannessa Falcón Orta, Ph.D.- Assistant Professor, School of Teacher Education

Melissa Gastelum, M.A. - Academic Advisor, Public Administration & Criminal Justice

Angela Piña, M. A.-STEM Healthcare Retention Specialist & Academic Advisor, Public Health

Frida Diaz, B.A. - Head Coach, ALC & MSW Student

Alexia Reyes - Associate Student Senator, SDSU IV

Perla Soto - Associate Student Senator, SDSU IV

Daniel Lopez, M. A. - Cross-Cultural Center Coordinator & Academic Advisor, Freshman

Andrea Van Bebber, B.A. - Cross-Cultural Center Graduate Assistant & MSW Student



Events for Fall 2023

Revolutionary Women of Our Community-Spotlight Sept. 20 - 29, 2023

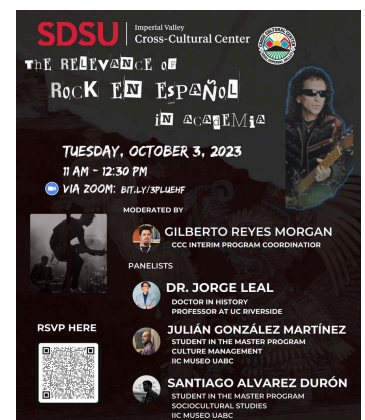
1. In commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the CCC highlighted Hispanic women in the leadership of social justice in our community at SDSU-IV and the greater Imperial Valley and Calexico-Mexicali border region. Their story and leadership work was highlighted on the Cross-Cultural Center's Instagram Page. Ten video interviews were shared. Total cumulative views: 2,423.

The Relevance of Rock en Español in Academia - October 3, 2023

2. Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month we presented the event "The Relevance of Rock en Español in Academia". For many scholars, rock music has influenced their lives to achieve higher levels of education and become educators and promoters of culture. At this event, our guests Dr. Jorge Leal, Julian Gonzalez Martinez, and Santiago Alvarez Duron discussed the importance of Rock en Español for developing their careers and the relevance of collecting and archiving historical evidence of the evolution of music. Attendees: 90.

The Role of Outgroup Empathy in Mobilizing Opposition to Restrictive Voting Laws and Voter Suppression Efforts October 10, 2023

3. This event was a presentation of research findings by Dr. Cigdem Sirin a Professor of Political Science and a Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), and Dr. José D. Villalobos Professor of Political Science and a Distinguished Teaching Professor at UTEP. Attendees: 26



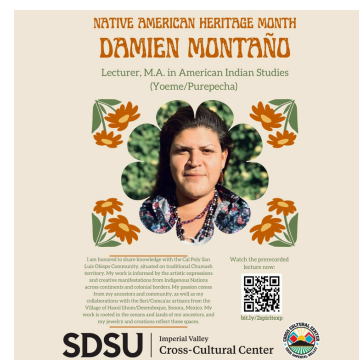
En el Patio de Atras - November 8, 2023

4. In celebration of LGBTQ History Month, the Cross-Cultural Center's event was a hybrid screening of the play, "En el Patio de Atras" featuring the directors Luis Ceceña and Armando Legaspy, members of the LGBTQAI+ community, who presented and hosted a Q&A. Attendees: 75



Damien Montaña's Lecture - November, 2023

5. In celebration of Native American Heritage Month, we had a prerecorded presentation by Yoeme/Purepecha lecturer Damien Montaña (he/they/them), M.A. in American Indian Studies. In this lecture, he spoke about his experiences as a Two Spirit person and the intersectionality of Indigenous and Chicana identities. Youtube Views: 27



Events for Spring 2024

About the transborder graduation “Building Bridges” - January 12, 2024

6. The first event for 2024 was a Transborder Symposium on the Building Bridges Graduation that centered and focused on the perspectives and testimonies from the graduates themselves. Graduates spoke about their experience with this important initiative. This event also featured a brief introduction to the Building Bridges Initiative and provided background information for those who are interested in its genesis. Attendees: 15



ONE SDSU PODCAST, Episode 1: Intro to Podcasting by Pamella Lach - February 2, 2024

7. ONE SDSU Podcast at SDSU Imperial Valley, co-hosted by Angela Manzo and Andrea Van Bebber. The advisors were Daniel Lopez, Dr. Vannessa Falcón Orta, Gilberto Reyes, and German de la Peña. Our mission focuses on uniting all SDSU communities by promoting a sense of unity, inclusion, and belonging among students. ONE SDSU Podcast is committed to empowering cultural diversity by broadcasting nationally and locally renowned speakers to speak on behalf of their backgrounds and activism. It's committed to enhancing student's creative abilities by providing workshops on podcast creation and more. We hope to bring unity among campuses and students who may feel underrepresented with their identity, and encourage students to embrace cultural humility. The first workshop is an introduction to podcasting by Dr. Pamella Lach, Digital Humanities Librarian and DH Center Director at SDSU West Campus. Attendees: 21, IG Recording Views: 49, YouTube Views: 15.



ONE SDSU PODCAST, Episode 2: Podcast Editing, Audio, and Mixing by Pamela Lach - February 9, 2024

8. ONE SDSU Podcast co-hosted by Angela Manzo and Andrea Van Bebber presented the second episode which discussed "Podcast Editing, Audio, and Mixing" by Dr. Pamela Lach, Digital Humanities Librarian and DH Center Director at SDSU West Campus.

Attendees: 11, IG Recording Views: 107, YouTube Views: 6



ONE SDSU PODCAST, Episode 3: Podcast Streaming in Multiple Platforms by Roberth Alcantar - February 16, 2024

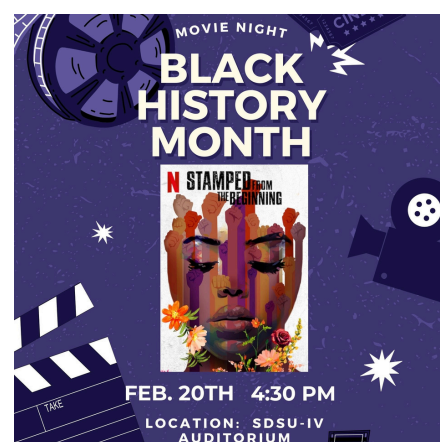
9. ONE SDSU Podcast co-hosted by Angela Manzo and Alexia Reyes presented the third episode "Podcast streaming in multiple platforms" by Roberth Alcantar, an SDSU Imperial Valley student. Attendees: 7.



"Stamped from the Beginning" Film Screening - February 20, 2024

10. As part of our Black History Month celebrations, our event was a special screening of the documentary "Stamped from the Beginning." This thought-provoking film explores the complex history of racism in the United States, providing a unique perspective on the experiences of African Americans.

Students joined us for an insightful journey into the roots of racism, tracing its historical origins and impact on individuals and communities. The film was not only an opportunity for education but also a chance to foster meaningful conversations about the challenges and triumphs of the African American experience. Attendees: 35.



ONE SDSU PODCAST, Episode 4: Dolores Huerta - March 13, 2024

11. In celebration of Women's History Month, ONE SDSU Podcast had a special episode with co-hosts Angela Manzo and Andrea Van Bebber about an insightful conversation with Dolores Huerta. They delved into her remarkable journey, shared untold stories, and explored the impactful work she has done in areas such as civil rights, labor rights, and women empowerment.

Attendees: 657, IG Recording Views: 669, YouTube Views: 17



Deaf Awareness Event - March 28, 2024

12. In celebration of Deaf History Month, we invited SDSU Imperial Valley and the Imperial Valley College community to the "Deaf Awareness" event featuring members of the deaf community in Imperial Valley, Fabian Luna and Rogelio Licea. This event was an insightful journey into the awareness of the richness of Deaf culture, community customs, and learned from our guests' experiences in higher education.

Attendees: 115



"Jugando con mis Compas" with Hector Ruiz- April 23, 2024

13. The Cross-Cultural Center invited the students to the event "Jugando con mis Compas." This project, by Hector Ruiz, explores and represents our unique cultural identity between Mexicali and Imperial Valley by creating an alphabet based on symbols.

Attendees: 21



ONE SDSU Podcast - "I Speak English, Spanish y A Veces Spanglish" - April 26, 2024

14. ONE SDSU Podcast is committed to uniting all SDSU communities by promoting a sense of unity, inclusion, and belonging and promoting culture and creative abilities among students. For this episode, co-hosts Angela Manzo and Andrea Van Bebber presented "I Speak English, Spanish y a Veces Spanglish," an insightful discussion about language and bilingualism. This episode opened a space for students to share their experiences about learning a second language or navigating life as native bilinguals.

Attendees: 10



ONE SDSU Podcast - Asian American Heritage Month - April, 2024

12. ONE SDSU PODCAST episode in celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month was hosted by Gilberto Reyes. Our special guest was Ramon Yee, president of "Descendientes Chinos de Ultramar en Mexicali," a collective dedicated to the rescue, preservation, and dissemination of Mexican-Chinese culture in the city of Mexicali Baja California Mexico. Attendees: 2



Building Bridges Graduation - May 17, 2024

13. SDSU Imperial Valley's Cross-Cultural Center (CCC) was proud to host the 3rd Annual Building Bridges Graduation 2024 in Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico. This ceremony is dedicated to building bridges between the U.S.- Mexico border by providing graduates whose immediate family members cannot cross the border to attend their graduation at the SDSU Imperial Valley campus, the opportunity to celebrate graduation in Mexicali. SDSU prides itself on being a Hispanic serving institution by supporting the social justice of our Transfronterizx students at the California-Baja California borderlands. Attendees: 200+

