

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

SDSU

Imperial Valley
Cross-Cultural Center

Along the California-Baja California Borderlands



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2021 - 2023

Inaugural
Report



“THROUGH
THESE GATES
WILL PASS THE
FUTURE”

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Vanessa Falcón Orta, Ph.D.

Faculty Director for the Cross-Cultural Center

In the aftermath of the global COVID-19 pandemic and racial justice unrest in the United States, in November 2021, we inaugurated the Cross-Cultural Center (CCC) in the Division of Student Affairs at San Diego University-Imperial Valley (SDSU-IV). The CCC was created in alignment with SDSU's 2020 Institutional Commitment of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) and in support of SDSU's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan to transcend borders and transform lives, SDSU-IV's 2020-2025 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan to improve and create an inclusive campus climate for students, faculty and staff and the Office of HSI Affairs' mission to serving Chicanx students and transborder communities.

48

new events and initiatives dedicated to advocating for the social justice, equity and inclusion of our campus community at SDSU-Imperial Valley. Building bridges for SDSU students and their families along the California-Baja California Borderlands community.

Our resilience to “rise and defy” and commitment to “transcend[ing] borders” and “transform[ing] lives” was rooted in our values of inclusion, empowerment, solidarity, social justice and humanism for all our students, faculty and staff. Informed by our values, the Cross-Cultural Center was strategically guided by a student-centered conceptual framework dedicated to recognizing the talents, strengths, and experiences that our students bring with them from their communities (Yosso, 2005) and their “funds of knowledge” (González & Amenti, 2005); hand-in-hand with validating the intersections of their social identities (Crenshaw, 1989) through the practice of critical consciousness (Freire, 1970/1993).

Guided by our values and student-centered conceptual framework, our objectives were applied through liberatory research methods of inquiry, community engagement, multimedia broadcasting and documenting and multi-generational mentorship. With the objective and mission of creating a safe space and inclusive campus climate for all our students, faculty and staff we implemented 48 new events and initiatives. With the objective of advocating for the social justice, equity and inclusion of our campus community at SDSU-Imperial Valley, we implemented the following signature initiatives:

- Building Bridges Graduation
- Empoderación en la Educación/ Empowerment in Education
- Revolutionary Women of Our Community
- Empowering Men of Color
- Brave Space of Dialogue

The success of the Cross-Cultural Center, would not be possible without the involvement and courage of the Inaugural Advisory Committee, which consisted of transborder students, faculty staff and allies. Together we embodied and applied the institutional commitment of “transcending borders” and “transforming lives” through initiatives dedicated to “building bridges” for the social justice of SDSU students and their families along the California-Baja California borderlands, serving Transfronterizx students at SDSU- Imperial Valley and SDSU-San Diego.

Inaugural Student Assistants



Ismael Arvizu

January 2022–July 2022

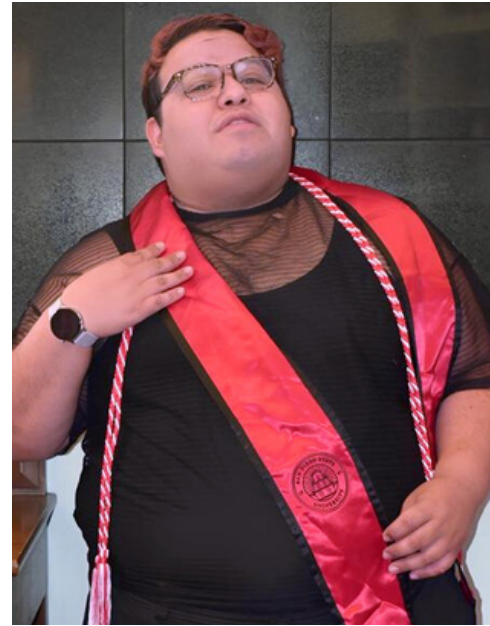
Xicanx Scholar
Borderland Activist
Fomer XSF President



Christie Jimenez

June 2022–July 2023

Graduate Student and PPS
Credential Candidate, SDSU IV
PPGA VP of Internal Affairs



Isaac A. Esparza

February 2023–August 2023

Under-graduate Student, SDSU IV
Psy-Club President

Inaugural Advisory Committee

Aday Urias, MSW- Case Management Coordinator

Alissa Ramos, M.A.- Coordinator, Academic Learning Center

Andrea Van Bebber, B.A.- MSW Graduate Student

April Mazón, M.Ed.- Retention and Data Analytics Specialist/Mathematics Advisor

Carlos A. Fitch, B.A.- Former A.S. President

Christie Jimenez, MSW, PPSC- Graduate Assistant, Cross-Cultural Center

Efren Lopez, Ph.D.- Assistant Professor, English

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

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

Gina Jimenez, B.A.- Psychology Student

Isaac A Esparza, B.A. - Former Psy - Club President, Cross-Cultural Center

Ismael Arvizu, B.A.- Former President Chicanx Sin Fronteras

Melissa Villarreal, B.A.- Food Pantry Coordinator

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

Vannessa Falcón Orta, Ph.D.- Faculty Director, Cross-Cultural Center (Committee Chair)



About the Cross- Cultural Center at SDSU-Imperial Valley

Background

Since November 2021, SDSU-Imperial Valley's Cross-Cultural Center (CCC) has focused on supporting the success of our diverse student community through programs and events centered on their social justice, inclusion, and validation. We are dedicated to fostering students' wholistic learning and growth through initiatives emphasizing the social justice, inclusion, and validation of the intersectionalities of their social identities such as race, ethnicity, class, ability, sexual orientation, gender, gender expression, immigration status and being part of mix-immigration status families.

Our Mission

Like the CCC, our mission is ever changing with our campus, greater community, societies and geo-political context at the Imperial Valley and Calexico-Mexicali border region. The mission of the CCC is to create an inclusive campus climate and environment for underrepresented students at SDSU-IV by advocating for the challenges they face and embracing the strengths, talents, and resiliencies they bring from their communities at the Imperial Valley and Calexico-Mexicali border region. We are dedicated to creating an inclusive, welcoming and safe space for all our students through events and initiatives centered on critically conscious dialogue and communication.

Guiding Conceptual Framework

Community Cultural Wealth- (Yosso, 2005)

By applying the community cultural wealth model we recognize the talents, strengths, and experiences that students of color bring with them to their college environment, including aspirational, linguistic, familial, social, navigational, and resistance.

Funds of Knowledge- (González, Moll, & Amanti, 2005; Velez-Ibanez & Greenberg, 1992)

By applying the Funds of Knowledge model, we recognize the complex life experiences, academic knowledge, and skillsets that derive from our diverse student communities and draw from them to enhance praxis, rather than relying on mainstream or middle-class notions of knowledge.

Intersectionality- (Crenshaw, 1989)

By applying an intersectional lens, we recognize how race, gender, class, sexuality, and various social identities overlap and thus create specific challenges and multiple oppressions for our diverse student communities. Recognizing intersectionality helps us create institutional and community equity and social justice.

Critical Consciousness- (Freire, 1970/1993)

We practice critical consciousness, which denotes the ability to recognize and analyze systems of inequality and assume a commitment by taking action against these systems of oppression. Critical consciousness is a foundational process to fighting for equity and social justice in our programming.

VALUES

Inclusion

Collaborations across campus and the greater Imperial Valley-Mexicali border region through an open horizontal decision making process.

Empowerment

Encourage the acceptance, affirmation, empowerment, representation and validation of all students at SDSU-IV.

Solidarity

Supporting each other and vulnerable communities at SDSU-IV and the greater Imperial Valley-Mexicali border region.

Social justice

Advocacy through action and equity, for the service, success and empowerment of underrepresented students at SDSU-IV.

Humanism

Loving people for who they are, where they are, through care, compassion and grace.

OBJECTIVES

Research

We are dedicated to applying empowering and liberatory methods of inquiry, such as photovoice and collaborative autoethnography for the study of student development in higher education, by centering students as the experts and authors of their own stories.

Community engagement

In collaboration with organizations dedicated to the social justice of vulnerable communities at the Imperial Valley-Mexicali border region. We welcome and encourage the greater community to collaborate, participate and attend our events, initiatives and programs.

Multimedia

Broadcast and document events online to provide all students the accessibility to engage with the CCC remotely. Disseminate social justice efforts, policies and practices through the clicktivism of information in social media. Engage in digital social spaces for collaborative community-based content creation, research, and advocacy.

Multi-generational mentorship

Foster the success of first-generation college students in navigating higher education and graduate studies exploration through faculty/staff to student mentorship and student-peer mentorship at SDSU-IV, the community college and high school.

VISION STATEMENT

We aspire to create an inclusive and socially just campus environment for all students at SDSU-IV at our Imperial Valley campuses through interdisciplinary and multifaceted collaborations through SDSU on a local, national, and global scale.

Events & Initiatives



Fall 2021- Spring 2022

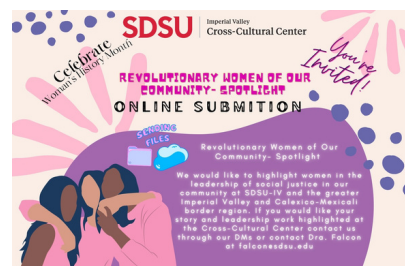
Meet your SDSU Cultural Centers Representatives - December 8, 2021

1. Students were invited to learn about our Native Resource Center, Women's Resource Center, and New Cross-Cultural Center. Speakers: Dr. Vanessa Falcón Orta, Elzbeth Islas and Christopher Medellin. In-Person Attendees: 44; Attendees Via Zoom: 10



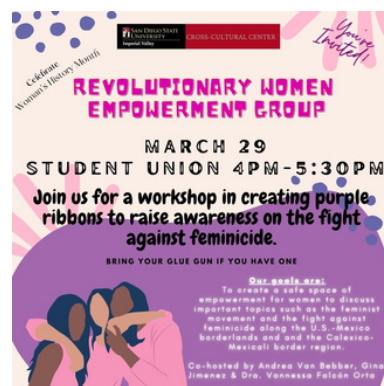
Revolutionary Women of Our Community-Spotlight - March 1, 2022- Ongoing

2. CCC highlighted 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 at the Cross-Cultural Center's Instagram Page. 10 submissions



Revolutionary Women Empowerment Group - March 1, 2022

3. Revolutionary Women of Our Community was a series of events dedicated to celebrating Women's History Month from March 1st, 2022, to March 31st, 2022. "Revolutionary Women" were defined as agents of change for the social justice of underrepresented students at San Diego State University - Imperial Valley (SDSU-IV) and vulnerable communities in Imperial Valley and the Calexico-Mexicali border region. Through the following series of events SDSU-IV students reflected on their own stories as people who identify as women and allies. SDSU-IV students also learned about the stories of revolutionary women in our community at SDSU-IV and greater Imperial Valley and Calexico-Mexicali border region. In-Person Attendees: 18



Revolutionary Women of our Community-Symposium - March 16, 2022

4. This symposium was dedicated to highlighting the local stories and leadership from women who have served as change agents for social justice in the Imperial Valley borderlands. In-Person Attendees: 57; IG Livestream Views: 194



Introduction to Multimedia Storytelling Feat. Diana Cervera - March 23, 2022

5. Diana Cervera is a transborder Chicanx artist based in Tijuana and San Diego. Holding a BA in Ethnic Studies from the University of California San Diego. This symposium was dedicated to highlighting the local stories and leadership from women who have served as change agents for social justice in the Imperial Valley borderlands. Attendees Via Zoom: 7



Undocually Training - April 15, 2022

6. This training was focused on gaining an understanding of undocumented and mixed-status students' backgrounds and experiences. Additionally, we worked on building a visible undocumented student/ally community. In-Person Attendees: 10



Building Bridges Graduation -

April 14, 2022

7. The Building Bridges Graduation 2022 is the first-ever transborder graduation at the U.S.-Mexico border, providing San Diego State University - Imperial Valley (SDSU-IV) graduates whose immediate family members cannot cross the border an opportunity to celebrate graduation with their loved ones in México. This ceremony was 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-IV campus, the opportunity to celebrate graduation in Mexicali. 44 Building Bridges Graduates and 200+ family members participated in this ceremony.



Revolutionary Women of our Community: Featuring the women of Chicanx Sin Fronteras - May 19, 2022

8. In this session we learned about the background, foundations and current realities of the student organization, Xicanex Sin Fronteras and the stories of the Chicanas behind the movement.

In-Person Attendees: 7, IG Livestream Views: 163



Summer 2022

Inaugural Juneteenth Symposium - June 15, 2022

9. The Opening Session of the California State University's Inaugural Juneteenth Symposium, a two-day event celebrating African American history and achievement and promoting and sustaining the anti-racism work underway across the California State University's 23 campuses. This vibrant first-ever event featured world-class speakers, evocative student performances, thought-provoking panel discussions and interactive breakout sessions meant to inspire connection, innovation and continued pursuit of a just and equitable world. We live-streamed the Opening Session of the CSU Inaugural Juneteenth Symposium on Wednesday, June 15. In-Person Attendees: 25



Revolutionary Women Empowerment Group: Future

Bodily Autonomy - June 29, 2022

10. In collaboration with Planned Parenthood Generation Action (PPGA) of San Diego State University - Imperial Valley (SDSU-IV). We created a brave space for a conversation about the SCOTUS decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, what it meant and where we went from there. In times of devastation, we believe that it is most important to come together in community by supporting and uplifting one another. We invited students in case they needed a space to talk and have their voices heard. We invited them to join us this Wednesday, June 29, 2022 from 5-6:30 PM via zoom to the "Revolutionary Women Empowerment Group." We were proud to collaborate with @ppgasdsuiv in this virtual event. Zoom Attendees: 10



Exploring Graduate Studies en Tiempos de Post-Graduación - July 14, July 28, & August 11

11. Are you applying to a graduate program this Fall of 2022? Or are you considering graduate studies? If so, you are invited to attend Exploring Graduate Studies en Tiempos de Post-Graduación. Topics that were discussed include but were not limited to: Researching programs, funding for graduate schools, understanding the admissions process and requirements, tips for personal statements, asking for letters of recommendation, standardized tests, and more. Zoom Attendees: 12. IG Recording Views: 238



Pride Flag Raising Ceremony - July 21, 2022

12. This ceremony included a student panel on the Queer student experience in higher education at Imperial Valley, CA. The panelists discussed their grassroots initiatives towards creating more inclusive learning environments for LGBTQIA+ students at SDSU-IV. Lastly, audience members were invited to reflect on how they can continue to foster the success of the LGBTQIA+ community at SDSU-IV and Imperial Valley. Refreshments were provided by Willow Tree. In-Person Attendees: 25; IG Livestream Views: 512



Hi I'm HELS, Ask me Anything - July 22, 2022

13. This information session was dedicated to learning about free legal services for DACAmended & UnDACAmended students and their families at San Diego State University-Imperial Valley (SDSU-IV) and the greater Imperial Valley region. Zoom Attendees: 8



A Brave Space of Dialogue - August 15, 2022

14. This space was dedicated to our Transfronterizx students and community along the California-Baja California Borderlands at the San Diego State University-Imperial Valley (SDSU-IV) Campus and the San Diego State University-San Diego Campus to discuss the situation of our communities during the time of unrest in Baja California and throughout Mexico. Dr. Gabriel Lam, Psychologist at SDSU-IV’s Counseling and Psychological Services. Zoom Attendees: 17



Fall 2022- Spring 2023

Cross-Cultural Center Advisory Committee - August 31, 2023

15. San Diego State University - Imperial Valley (SDSU-IV) community were invited to the Cross Cultural Center Advisory Committee for the Fall 2022 school year! Our first meeting was on Wednesday on August 31, 1pm-2pm @ The Nogales Conference Room (Inside SDSU-IV Admin Building) & Via Zoom. Zoom Attendees: 8; In-Person Attendees: 7



Inauguration Empoderación en la Educación Opening Ceremony - September 14, 2022

16. Empoderación En la Educación/Empowerment in Education: Underrepresented Postsecondary Success Stories was a series of lectures, symposiums and activities both online and in-person dedicated to amplifying underrepresented success stories in higher education. These events were parallel with our heritage months highlighting Black, Native, Undocumented and LGBTQ+ scholars, educators and activists in education. The Empoderación En la Educación - Opening Ceremony took place on Wednesday, September 14 2022, from 11-1PM at the Stepping Art Gallery, featuring Keynote Speaker, Dr. J. Luke Wood, Dean's Distinguished Professor of Education at San Diego State University. In-Person Attendees: 50; YouTube Views: 67



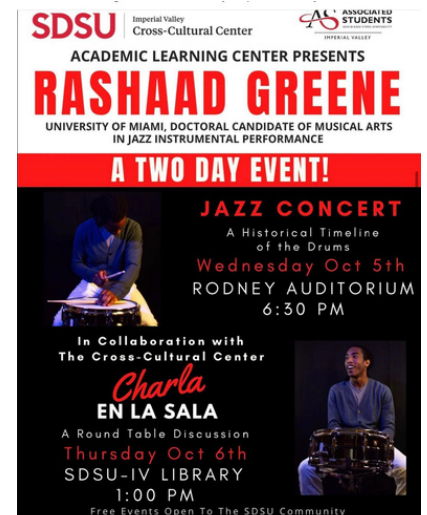
Celebrating Hispanic Heritage: Postsecondary Success and Community Engagement at the Imperial Valley-Mexicali Borderlands - September 16, 2022

17. On September 16th 2022, in celebration of Hispanic Heritage, Empoderación en la Educacion presented a panel of Latinx scholars, activists and community organizers dedicated to the social justice of vulnerable communities at the Imperial Valley-Mexicali Borderlands. Panelists, Ismael Arvizu, Johanna Espinoza and Daniela Flores, shared their origins stories and postsecondary success as a tool for the liberation and social justice of their communities. In-Person Attendees: 17; IG Livestream Views: 187



Jazz Concert - October 5, 2022

18. The Academic Learning Center in collaboration with the Cross-Cultural Center and Associated Students invited Rashaad Greene, a Doctoral candidate of musical arts in Jazz instrumental performance from the University of Miami. Rashaad Greene presented a historical timeline of the drums through a Jazz concert which was held on Wednesday, October 5th in the Rodney Auditorium. In-Person Attendees: 50+; IG Livestream Views: 113



Charla en la Sala with Rashaad Greene - October 6, 2022

19. The Academic Learning Center (ALC) hosted a two-day event with Doctoral Candidate in Jazz performance, Rashaad Greene. Rashaad performed a jazz concert, spoke in Professor Reyes' History 413 course, and in collaboration with the Cross Cultural Center and co-sponsorship with Associated Students, held a Charla en la Sala, where AS leaders moderated a discussion about Rashaad educational and professional journey, as well as advice to Imperial Valley students. In-Person Attendees: 57 students and staff.

DACA Updates Webinar - October 13, 2022

20. Higher Education Legal Services (HELs) Webinar for DACA Recipients and those eligible via Zoom. Zoom Attendees: 7



Transfer Success Stories - October 18, 2022

21. San Diego State University (SDSU) Imperial Valley National Transfer Week: Lunch and Learn with SDSU Imperial Valley Event. We shared information on all the great programs we have to offer our prospective students from Imperial Valley College (IVC). More than 60 IVC students participated in the event which was a part of Nation Transfer Student Week. April Mazon, Dra. Vannessa Falcon Orta, Susana Lopez, and the team from IVC took the lead on the event, our amazing panelists (Alan, Ana, Frida, and Viviann) shared their experiences, and the Team SDSU for representing SDSU Imperial Valley! In-Person Attendees: 60 students; IG Livestream Views: 137



Resistencia Indocumentada: Exploring the lived experiences in Undocumented Students in Higher Education -

October 19, 2022

22. The Cross Cultural Center in collaboration with Imperial Valley College’s Undocumented Students Program hosted a webinar/virtual watch party in LA-1 featuring Adan Escobedo, a previously undocumented scholar who shared his lived experience as an undocumented person in higher education from an undocumented critical theory lens.

In-Person Attendees: 20



Hi I’m HELS - October 20, 2022

23. This information session was dedicated to learning about free legal services for DACamented & UnDACamented students and their families at San Diego State University-Imperial Valley (SDSU-IV) and the greater Imperial Valley region. In this session HELS introduced students to their free legal services and basics of Knowing Your Rights, followed by Q&A.

In-Person Attendees: 2



Queering the Border - October 27, 2022

24. This symposium was an Empoderación en la Educación Cross-Cultural Center event, which highlighted the experiences and success of LGBTQ+ People in the California-Baja California Borderlands. Pride Flag raising took place before the symposium at 6pm at the Student Union Building (AS building). Panelists: Rosa Diaz (IV LGBT Center CEO), Luis Chavez Rodriguez (Counselor in K-12 Imperial Valley school), Raul Ureña (Mayor Pro Temp of Calexico). Panel was moderated by: David Kanaan, PhD (Assistant Professor of Public Affairs), Roberto Ivo Da Rocha, PhD (Visiting Professor of Economics). In-Person Attendees: 21



En el Patio de Atrás - October 28, 2022

25. A screening of the play "En el Patio de Atrás" at San Diego State University - Imperial Valley's Rodney Auditorium. We got the opportunity to meet the director and creatives behind this play about the LBGTQ+ community. In-Person Attendees: 30



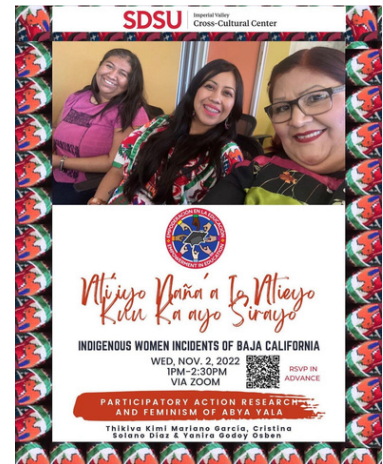
Transfronterix Queer Excellence in Education - October 29, 2022

26. Transfronterix Queer Excellence in Education and learn about the experiences and stories of perseverance of Transfronterix Queer people and how they've achieved excellence in their journey through the Higher Education system. Zoom Attendees: 10; YouTube Recording Views: 48



Indigenous Women Incidents of Baja California - November 2, 2022

27. In celebration of Native History, the Cross-Cultural Webinar was dedicated to creating a platform to amplify the social justice efforts of Indigenous women in Mexico. Since 2017, Thikiva Kimi Mariano García, Cristina Solano Díaz, and Yanira Godoy Osben, indigenous women from the Triquis, Mixte/Ñuu Savi, and Cucapah Native Nations in Mexico, have created the critical awareness of incidences in their communities and have requested access to the political electoral rights of indigenous women in the State of Baja California. Most recently, they filed a lawsuit for the protection of the political and electoral rights of citizens (Inejecución de Sentencia RI-30/2018) in the Superior Regional Court of Justice of the Mexican State, located in Guadalajara. In this session, we learned about their petitions and legislation of the State of Baja California for the social justice of Native women in Mexico. Zoom Attendees: 10



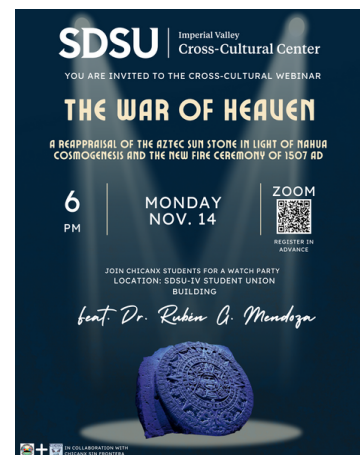
Hi I'm HELS November - 10, 2022

28. This information session was dedicated to learning about free legal services for DACAmented & UnDACAmented students and their families at San Diego State University-Imperial Valley and the greater Imperial Valley region. In this session, HELS introduced students to their free legal services and the basics of Knowing Your Rights, followed by Q&A. Attendees: 7



The War of Heaven - November 14, 2022

29. In celebration of Native History Month, we invited San Diego State University - Imperial Valley community to a Cross-Cultural Webinar featuring Dr. Rubén G. Mendoza provided a guest lecture titled, The War of Heaven: A Reappraisal of the Aztec Sun Stone in light of Nahua Cosmogogenesis and the New Fire Ceremony of 1507 AD. In-Person Attendees: ; YouTube Recording Views: 19



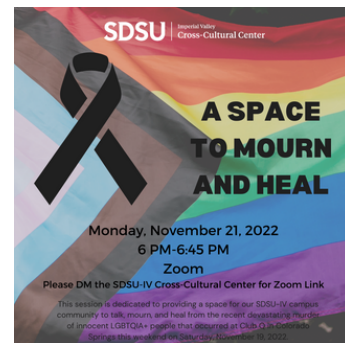
RE:BORDER 2022: Student-Led Transformational Grassroots Leadership in HE - November 16, 2022

30. We addressed the innovation & sustainability of our California-Baja California borderlands by addressing the current social justice efforts and innovative initiatives of our youth at the borderlands. Students in higher education at the Imperial Valley-Mexicali border region are underserved, and there are few studies that illustrate their challenges, resiliencies, and lived realities at the borderlands. Inspired by the challenges, college students at San Diego State University- Imperial Valley have come together since the inception of the COVID-19 pandemic and implemented innovative grassroots practices towards fostering the social justice of all students on campus. In-Person Attendees: 5; YouTube Recording Views: 32



A Space to Mourn and Heal November - 19, 2022

31. This session was dedicated to providing a space for our San Diego State University - Imperial Valley campus community to talk, mourn, and heal from the recent devastating murder of innocent LGBTQIA+ people that occurred at Club Q in Colorado Springs on Saturday, November 19, 2022. Zoom Attendees: 5



Native Heritage Month: Stories of Cucapah Origins, Myths and Legends - November 30, 2022

32. In celebration of Native History, we invited San Diego State University – Imperial Valley community to a Cross-Cultural Webinar dedicated to creating a platform to amplify the social justice efforts of Indigenous women in Mexico. We shared the stories of Cucapah origins, myths, and legends with Yanira Godoy Osben of the Cucapah tribe. Yanira Godoy Osben, an indigenous Cucapah woman born in El Mayor Cucapah, left her ancestral territory for the city of Mexicali in her youth to seek access to education. Because of discrimination, she could not be taught Cucapah, however, she participates in the festivities, organization, and community life that sustains the survivors, who number 40 families. The last Cucapah in Mexicali. She has a degree in Education and currently writes stories of Cucapah origin, myths, and legends told to her by her uncles and elders. Zoom Attendees: 10



**Understanding World History, Culture & Politics -
November 28, 29 & 30, 2022.**

33. How does football help academia to understand the globalized society? Featuring Dr. Roberto Ivo Da Rocha Lima Filho & Gilberto Reyes Morgan. The World Cup is a socializing and relaxing way to meet up with friends and have fun and a good laugh. But it also provides worldwide history, politics, and a sense of genuine sociability. So, let's take this World Cup momentum into play and let the ball roll in the courtyard of SDSU-IV, along with the Cross-Cultural Center and the [@sdsu_brazil!](#) In-Person Attendees: 15



**Empowering Men of Color @SDSU Imperial Valley -
December 1, 2022**

34. The “Empowering Men of Color” Platica was a panel-style discussion that addressed issues related to men of color in education. This event sought to confront the obstacles and challenges facing men of color and featured participants who are successfully navigating professional life as scholars and advocates. Driven by a model of public engagement, this event involved questions for the panel and the audience. This discussion was motivated by a desire to further build the university to better meet equity needs and hold open space for members of the campus community. In-Person Attendees: 34



Lessons from Subsistence Marketplaces (Cross-Cultural Guest Lecture) - December 2, 2022

35. Around the world, nearly a billion people are estimated to live in extreme poverty, sometimes surviving on incomes that average less than \$2 per day. The people who live in these areas face many constraints to their everyday decision-making due to the impact of factors including poverty, low literacy, and social stigma. Understanding how these people interact with the marketplace, often as both buyer and seller, provides insight into fundamental beliefs, thinking, and behaviors that impact their everyday lives. This presentation offered some background on these “subsistence marketplaces,” and explained the importance of the research in this area (even for professors in the business school) and key findings and lessons from Prof. Roland Gau’s research in the US, India, and other locations. In-Person Attendees: 3; IG Livestream: 15



Celebrating Chinese New Year in Mexicali, Mexico - January 23, 2023

36. This Cross-Cultural Webinar was dedicated to learn about the Chinese-Mexican community in Mexicali Baja California, Mexico and their traditions in celebrating the Chinese New Year. The guest speaker for this session was Ramon G. Yee, president of the Descendientes de Chinos de Ultramar en Mexicali (Descendants of Overseas Chinese in Mexicali), a collective dedicated to the rescue, preservation, and dissemination of the Chinese-Mexican culture in Mexicali. A moment of silence was dedicated to the victims of the Jan. 21 mass shooting, which occurred as community members were gathered to begin Lunar New Year celebrations. Zoom Attendees: 23



Why We Must Restore the Humanity of Black Boyhood - February 8, 2023

37. What images do you think of when you see Black boys? In this thought-provoking talk, photographer, poet, and mental health researcher Kay Adekunle Rufai discussed his work on restoring the humanity of Black boys. By radically rethinking the images of Black boys we usually see, Kay expressed how he believes it's possible to dismantle harmful stereotypes of Black boys that stem from racism and toxic masculinity. And perhaps even more importantly, by working closely with Black boys and building trust, Kay's work helps Black boys rethink how they see themselves and ways they can show up in the world. Zoom Attendees: 17



Celebrating Black Excellence in Education-Centering the Success of College Students with Foster Care Experience - February 10, 2023

38. During Black History Month and Women's History Month, The Cross-Cultural Center hosted webinar talks and a keynote event with Black scholars nationally and internationally who are at the forefront of research and practice, focused on fostering the success of Black students throughout the education pipeline. The event took place via ZOOM, where students had the opportunity to learn about the keynote speakers and their experience in education. Zoom Attendees: 19



Understanding Black Adolescent Girl's Identity Development - March 8, 2023

39. The Cross-Cultural Center hosted a webinar in celebration of Black Excellence in Education. Dr. Darielle Blevins, who focuses her research on Black girlhood in school and highlights Black girl voices, stories, and visions on their terms, has developed and delivered professional development and educator resources to guide their capacity to disrupt bias. Attendees: 25; IG Recording Views: 252



Celebrating Black Excellence in Education: Be(com)ing a Black Bilingual - March 9, 2023

40. The Cross-Cultural Center hosted a webinar with speaker Dr. Reka Barton, who is a visual researcher who presented her research regarding the educational experiences of Black girls at the intersections of race, language, and equity. She currently serves as a Diversity Postdoctoral Faculty Fellow for the School of Leadership and Educational Sciences at the University of San Diego. Zoom Attendees: 19



Transfronterixx Feminism: The Intersections of Gender at the Borderlands - March 15, 2023

41. This Transborder Student Ally Training was focused on providing a rich understanding and reflection of stories, challenges, and motivations of Transborder students in accessing and completing higher education. The facilitators from Transfronterix Futures dived into the intersections of gender at the borderlands by illustrating the multiple oppressions Transfronteriza students faced and exploring how they navigated their transborder lives despite these challenges. In-Person Attendees: 27; IG Livestream Views: 206



Women’s History Month Symposium: Women’s History Month Symposium: At the Forefront of Reproductive Justice. March 22, 2023

42. This webinar was dedicated to discussing what it means to be a woman in post-Roe times. This symposium featured a panel of women at the forefront of reproductive justice in the pacific southwestern region of California and co-moderated by the student leaders of Planned Parenthood Generation Action of San Diego State University -Imperial Valley (SDSU-IV). This session was brought to you by the SDSU-IV's Cross-Cultural Center's Empoderación En la Educación/Empowerment in Education project and in collaboration with SDSU-IV's Planned Parenthood Generation Action. Zoom Attendees: 49



Graduate Studies - April 4, April 18, & May 2, 2023

43. Graduate Studies is a panel of Master and Doctorate Recipients. The Academic Learning Center, in collaboration with the Cross-Cultural Center, hosted a series of Graduate Studies topics to help students navigate the graduate studies process. The panel discussed tips and tricks for applying for graduate school. Speakers: Dr. Kanaan, Walter Lewis, Dr. Falcon Orta, Dr. Lopez, Alissa Ramos. In-Person Attendees: ; Zoom Attendees: 15



Celebrating Asian and South Asian Heritage: Understanding the Ethnic and Racial Identity of Hmong American Students in Higher Education - April 12, 2023

44. Dr. Melissa Vang shared how her background and identities influenced her to pursue a doctorate degree and her research on ethnic and racial identity. During the session, Dr. Vang shared how her experiences have guided professionally into diversity, equity, and inclusion roles in higher education and personally as a Hmong American navigating race, gender, culture, and other social spaces. In-Person Attendees: 8; IG Recording Views:1,071



A Brave Space for Dialogue: During Times of Unrest at our California- Baja California Borderlands - April 19 & 26, 2023

45. This space was dedicated to our Transfronterix students and community along the California-Baja California Borderlands at San Diego State University (SDSU), SDSU Imperial Valley, and Imperial Valley College to discuss the current state of our communities in this time of unrest in Baja California and throughout Mexico. We listened, provided resources, support, and held space for the community during these difficult times. In-Person Attendees: 6



Celebrating Asian and South Asian Heritage: Exploring Chinese Mexican Identity Development in Mexicali - April 25, 2023

46. In this event, the Cross-Cultural Center was proud to present Ramon G. Yee, president of “Descendientes Chinos de Ultramar en Mexicali” is a collective dedicated to the rescue, preservation and dissemination of Mexican-Chinese culture in the city of Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico. On this occasion, Ramon talked to us about the development of the Chinese-Mexican Identity and Mexicali’s Influence on it. In-Person Attendees: 25



2nd Annual Building Bridges Graduation in Mexicali - May 12, 2023

47. San Diego State University - Imperial Valley (SDSU-IV) launched the 2nd Annual Building Bridges Graduation! This ceremony was dedicated to building bridges between the U.S.-México border by providing graduates whose immediate family members cannot cross the border to attend their SDSU commencement the opportunity to celebrate their graduation with their loved ones in México. This historic ceremony was first implemented on May 14, 2022, by the SDSU-IV Cross-Cultural Center at Casa de la Cultura (Histórica Escuela Cuauhtémoc) in Mexicali, Baja California, México; with the support of the SDSU Office of the President, the Office of HSI Affairs, International Affairs, Associated Students of SDSU-IV, Chicax Sin Fronteras of SDSU-IV, and the SDSU-IV Professional Skills Development Center. The SDSU-IV Cross-Cultural Center was proud to collaborate with the Division of Student Affairs and Campus Diversity, and Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, MX, to support our Building Bridges Graduating Class of 2023 along the California-Baja California borderlands by hosting a graduation ceremony at UABC-Mexicali and UABC-Tijuana. The Graduating Students in Mexicali were 58 (53 undergraduates, 3 Teaching Credentials, 2 Masters Grads) and 300+ family members.



Summer 2023

Cafecito Con Anzaldua - June 28, 2023

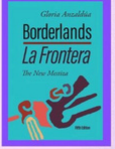

48. In collaboration with the Undocumented Students Program, San Diego State University - Imperial Valley and the Cross-Cultural Center, this session is dedicated to exploring the intersections of race, gender, and sexuality as written in Gloria Anzaldua's *Borderlands/La Frontera*. Gloria Anzaldua, a queer Tejana theorist, is recognized for her outstanding writing and thought regarding the borders surrounding gender, race, and sexuality. In Pride Month, we remember Gloria Anzaldua and situate her work as part of the backbone of gender and sexuality studies. In-Person Attendees: 22; IG Recording Views: 120

Cafecito with Anzaldua:
At the border of race, gender, and sexuality


In the book, *Borderlands/La Frontera*, Gloria Anzaldua translanguages between English, Spanish, and Spanglish to dive into the exploration of her experience as a queer Woman of Color in the United States-Mexico borderlands by redefining what it means to live in an intertwined and intersecting ambience.

In celebration of Pride Month, join our reading/dialogue group.

June 28, 2023
9 AM - 10:30 AM
SDSU Imperial Valley Library
720 Heber Ave, Calexico, CA




RSVP HERE!



Contact us!
SDSU Imperial Valley
760-768-5520
gnunez@sdsu.edu

Imperial Valley College
760-355-6146
carlos.fitch@imperial.edu





Cross-Cultural Center in the News

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