

UC SANTA BARBARA

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UCSB Conference Commemorates 40th Anniversary of El Plan de Santa Barbara

In April 1969, a group of Chicano students, professors, and community activists met at UC Santa Barbara for a historic conference that would mark an important milestone in California's Chicano history. The conference resulted in El Plan de Santa Barbara (The Santa Barbara Plan), which served as a blueprint for the establishment of Chicano studies programs throughout the UC system, and of the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (M.E.Ch.A.), a statewide organization of Chicano students.

Forty years later, another conference at UCSB will commemorate that 1969 civil rights action. "The 40th Anniversary of El Plan de Santa Barbara," presented by El Congreso, the campus's official M.E.Ch.A. chapter, will take place May 22-24. The public is invited to attend, and registration is \$10 for community members and free for high school students.

The conference, which begins on Friday, May 22, with an opening reception and Noche de Cultura at 6 p.m. at Mosher Alumni House, will examine and revisit the strategies and goals expressed in El Plan de Santa Barbara. It will continue on Saturday, May 23, with keynote addresses by Graciela Molina DePic and Alan Gomez. DePic, an educational reformer and feminist leader, will speak at 9:10 in Campbell Hall. Gómez, an assistant professor in the School of Justice and Social

Inquiry at Arizona State University, will follow at 9:40 a.m.

Saturday's events will also include two important panel discussions. At 10:15 a.m., Guz Chavez, María Marin, Richard Valencia, and Armando Vasquez will offer a historical perspective of El Plan de Santa Barbara. At 11 a.m., Trina Vasquez, Joaquin Sinfregos, and Juan Gochez will provide a critical analysis. Among the other special events are La Pachanga, El Carnaval, and the Guerrilla Rasquache Film Festival.

"This educational conference will bring together generations of students, faculty, professionals, and community members to celebrate the gains made since 1969, evaluate the current state of Chicana/o Studies, and shape an agenda for the future," said UCSB Chancellor Henry T. Yang. "We are grateful to our UCSB alumni and current students for their support, over time, in recruiting and retaining Latino students. As Arnulfo Casillas, the first chair of El Congreso, is often quoted by students, 'Keeping the Doors Open for All Those Yet to Come' has become a shared motto for our campus community."

"From a broad perspective, the purpose of the conference is to celebrate El Plan de Santa Barbara, which was developed in 1969," said Ruben Rey, a UCSB alumnus and member of the committee organizing the conference. "A more focused purpose, however, is to understand that 40 years after the blueprint was developed, the presence of Latinos and Chicanos on college campuses has increased but there are still issues in our community that need to be addressed. Forty years have passed, but there are still challenges and we need to have dialogues and discourse about these issues to keep moving forward."

Related Links

[40th Anniversary of El Plan de Santa Barbara Conference](#)

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the

edge of the Pacific Ocean.