The mission and vision of Raza RC involve development and strategic collaboration with UC San Diego academic centers, faculty, and programs to provide resources to our students and aid in their own academic and co-curricular success. Spring 2015 was an opportunity for Raza RC to partner with faculty and connect students to national resources. Professor Jillian Hernandez a Sexuality and Bodies Workshop at the Raza Resource Centro. The workshop was followed with a separate program. Professor Hernandez and her students exhibited their art and poetry through an art opening showcase where students had powerful conversations around the intersections of cultural production, sexuality, and embodiment. The Student Worker Collective continued to work on increasing the English literacy of our custodial staff. The Raza Graduate Student Association worked with Raza RC to hold a transdisciplinary social for graduate students to increase their sense of belonging. The HMP3 program and Raza RC collaborated to offer organic chemistry and physics tutoring in our Mesa Cuauhtémoc and conference room twice a week for eight weeks during the Spring quarter. Raza RC took a team of 9 student scholars to present and network in the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS) held in San Francisco, CA. This year’s theme was “Chicana/o In/Civilities Contestation y Lucha: Cornerstones of Chicana & Chicano Studies”. Raza RC continued with our Friday writing collective for students to be in community as they work on their academic writing, scholarship and internship applications, and conference proposals. In the Spring quarter through one on one coaching with Raza RC our students successfully secured HACU national internships, acceptance into the UCDC program with a special internship with Congressman Xavier Becerra’s Office, community college transfer scholarships, and paid summer research opportunities for undergraduates. Raza RC coached our graduating seniors to secure full time employment through California Coalition of Rural Housing, Community Housing Works, Immigrant Justice Corp, City Year, and Canada Community College.

As part of our mission, Raza RC develops programs that reflect our fundamental belief of community building, inclusivity, and aiding students in re-identifying with the university in a more empowering way. In the 2015 Spring quarter, the Raza Resource Centro inaugurated the Community Engagement and Service Learning Awards (CE/ SL) to highlight the contributions of individuals and organizations in strengthening community through interconnecting academics, service, learning and leadership. The award honored UC San Diego students and community leaders who have shown examples of civic-minded practices and have developed solutions in the community to advance social progress. Dolores Huerta was the keynote for these awards. Afterward, students were able to take pictures, be in community, and talk about the importance of being civically involved. Raza RC collaborated with the Cesar Chavez committee to bring award winning film director and UC Berkeley professor Raymond Tellez for a two day student program at Raza RC titled “Telling Our Stories”. The programs involved screening Professor Tellez’ latest documentaries and building a conversation around the politics of representation, cinematography, and addressing gaps in history. Raza RC collaborated with MEChA to hold an event titled “Queer Men in the Latina/o Community” to talk about intersectional experiences of being Latino and queer in the US. Other community building programs include celebrating Raza RC’s one year anniversary and co-sponsorship with MEChA and the Student Worker Collective involving a breakfast and dinner for custodial workers, and activism through arte.
PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL BEING

Raza RC is attentive to the particular psychosocial needs of our Raza students and the degree of stress our students encounter in navigating UC San Diego. To expand our capacity in providing services and programs in this area and to ensure the wellness of our students, Raza RC partners with CAPS to improve the well-being of our students. Raza RC is equipped with a CAPS office for private consultations and group sessions. Dr. Susana Martinez from CAPS holds weekly office hours at Raza RC. In collaboration with CAPS, a weekly Unidas Women’s Forum was held at Raza RC. The Unidas Women’s Forum is a safe space where women can build community and share their experiences as young women of color in an R1. Before and during Spring quarter finals, Raza RC held programs around stress less activities.

OUTREACH, YIELD, & RETENTION

Raza RC’s vision is to develop partnerships with on campus programs, centers and pipelines for Raza students from California schools. The idea is to provide resources and opportunities to historically underrepresented students, connect students to key stakeholders and programs, and demystify the higher education process. Raza RC collaborated with three of our student affiliates (i.e. MEChA, Raza Graduate Students Association, and La Fe) to host Raza Grad events, meetings, and bible study. Raza RC was active in the Cesar Chavez Committee and we collaborated to develop on campus programming around the theme of Cesar Chavez. In addition, Raza RC held student empowerment programs in the SPACES overnight program for recently admitted students. Part of the program involved prospective students painting sections of an upcoming Raza RC mural. Raza RC partnered with Cecilia Ubilla from the Language and Writing program at OASIS to offer SDCC writing workshops. Raza RC partnered with the Early Academic Outreach Program and presented a workshop in the Comienza Con Un Sueno Conference titled, “Maintaining your Students Cultural Capital at College: What Resources are Available to Help your Student Thrive?” The workshop highlighted the process of adjusting to academic culture, university life, and how to access resources at a major university. Raza RC organized a student panel and presentation for San Jose High School and prospective students were able to listen to current Latina/o student life perspectives. Raza RC sponsored Raza graduation portraits and helped with the funding and logistics of Raza Graduation. We had over 300 students, parents, faculty, and staff attend Raza graduation.

TEACHING, TRAINING, & CONSULTING

Raza RC co-taught the Critical Student Leadership in Higher Education’s Community Centers course in the Spring. Raza RC presented a workshop in the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE). The title of the workshop was “De-colonialization of the Pedagogical and Teaching Conditions: Transformative Teaching and Learning as an Aspect of Social Justice and Cultural Pluralism” designed to demonstrate how transformative pedagogies can be beneficial to nontraditional and underserved university students. Raza RC presented at the National Conference for Chicana and Chicano Studies under the theme ‘Civil’ (C/S)ittings: Interpreting Place, History, and Policy vis-à-vis Racial Identity Projects aimed at addressing gaps in Chicana/o history, U.S. immigration policy, and the limits of a U.S. human rights framework. Raza RC participated and networked in the 2015 National Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA) conference. Raza RC gave a workshop in the community on the Chicana/o Movement and the Role of Student Leadership in Logan Heights through the Escuelita Aztlan program. Local middle school and high school students benefited from the workshop. UC San Diego students regularly reach out to Raza RC to provide consultations in the area of strengthening their graduate and law school statements and applications, designing research questions, publications, applying to conferences, academic writing, and scholarship applications. In addition, students reach out to Raza RC for event planning, logistical support, and to connect them to the Financial Aid team and secure their aid.
RAZA RESOURCE CENTRO

STORY BY THE NUMBERS

In terms of foot traffic patterns, Raza RC experienced a steady increase in attendance, with 50-70 students/faculty/staff entering the Centro for various needs per day.

- The Provoking Knowledge Art Opening drew in 20 people, with art exhibit up for the remainder of the quarter.

- Civic Engagement and Service Learning (CESL) ceremony drew in about 90 attendees for the award ceremony and reception with Dolores Huerta.

- Collaboration/advising with MEChA on Raza Grad drew about 400 guests, including graduates, family members, faculty and staff.

- Workshops presented by RRC for Overnight Program had about 40 participants each session, each session identifying different areas of cultural identity and competency.

- Affiliated groups held meetings on evenings/weekends, with as many as 30 members present per meeting.