RAZA RESOURCE CENTRO

ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

The mission and vision of Raza RC involve development of and strategic collaboration with UC San Diego academic centers and programs to provide resources to our students and aid in their own academic and co-curricular success. Winter 2015 was an opportunity for Raza RC to partner with faculty and graduate students. This past Winter Quarter, the Student Worker Collective was awarded the Diversity Award for their outstanding literacy program aimed at empowering working-class and Latina/o workers. Professor Olga Vasquez taught the practicum component of La Clase Magica at the Raza Resource Centro where she brought in community leaders to teach students the importance of civic engagement. In the evenings, SACNAS taught a series of workshops such as, “Is Science the Path for You” and “Why do a Science Post Doc?” 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 winter quarter. Raza RC continued to work with undergraduate and graduate students to prepare their research for their participation in the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS). Raza RC partnered with the campus community centers to hold a workshop under the real world career series titled, “Finding a Career that Matches Your Values”. Raza RC launched a successful Friday writing collective for students to be in community as they work on their academic writing, scholarship and internship applications, and conference proposals. Four of our student participants received HACU corporate and non-profit internship interviews.

INCLUSION, COMMUNITY, CULTURAL CONGRUITY & BELONGING

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 winter quarter, Raza RC organized “Speak your truth” open mic night. Students were able to participate in performance arts, self-expression, and be in community. Raza RC developed a two part student program titled, “Dating While Queer and Brown” and “Decolonizing Queerness”. In a safe space, LGBTQ students had an opportunity to talk about the intersectional experiences of dating and managing relationships in an research intensive R1 environment. The second program involved having a dialogue around what does solidarity and being allies look like for people who do not experience these intersectional forms of oppression. Other community building programs include a critical film series, salsa dancing lessons, and a program titled, “Mingle with Professional Raza”.

STORY BY THE NUMBERS

In terms of foot traffic patterns, Raza RC experienced an increase in student traffic when we held multiple programs in one day. The following are a few examples. On January 13th, 88 students came to Raza RC to use the space and participate in the Chicana Latina Forum and La Fe Bible study. On January 14th, 69 students came to Raza RC to use the space and come to the Phi Lambda Rho event. On January 20th, 89 students came to Raza RC to use the space and participate in the Chicana Latina Forum, Bajo La Misma Luna film screening, and La Fe Bible study. On February 5th, over 100 students came to Raza RC for HMP3 tutoring, La Clase Magica, Real World Career Series, and Raza Grad. On February 10th at least 60 students came to Raza RC for the Union Bank Series, Chicana Latina Forum, Gun Hill Road Screening, and La Fe Bible study.
RAZA RESOURCE CENTRO

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 well-being 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 Latina forum was implemented at Raza RC. The Latina 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 Winter quarter finals, Raza RC held programs around “stress less” activities. A yoga program was introduced as a means to teach students different strategies to manage anxiety, stress, and overall well-being.

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 stake holders and programs, and demystify the higher education process. Raza RC collaborated with two of our student affiliates (i.e. MEChA and La Fe) to host Raza Grad events and bible study. These two student programs found a home at Raza RC. In addition, Raza RC was involved in the planning committee with SPACES to develop a shared track in the overnight program for recently admitted students. Raza RC held workshops at Otay Ranch High School and San Diego Community College about resources and opportunities for Latina/o students at UC San Diego. Raza RC partnered with the vice president of Union Bank in La Jolla to develop a Union Bank financial series aimed at teaching students how to manage their finances, develop their credit, and build their net worth. Raza RC followed up on this financial series with a workshop titled, “Get out of debt before you’re in it!” Raza RC partnered Financial Aid to hold a FAFSA workshop (including info for AB540 students). These programs and workshops are designed to connect students to resources and help them manage their finances while being a student. Raza RC revamped “Fiesta Fridays” series where students come to be in community and learn about Chicana/o Latina/o history and culture. Friday’s series is designed to build community, retain students, and provide a welcoming space.

TEACHING, TRAINING, & CONSULTING

Raza RC works with a graduate student in the MA Postsecondary Educational Leadership and Student Affairs program at San Diego State University (SDSU) to prepare the student for her MA exam and a career in student affairs. 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 aide.