



**METROPOLITAN STATE  
COLLEGE *of* DENVER**

**Department of Chicana/o Studies  
Department of African and African American Studies**

**Journey  
Through Our  
Heritage  
Program**

**Year End Report  
2009/2010**



# **Welcome! Nawah! Hau Kola! Bienvenidos! Jambo! Cualli Tlaneci!**

Did you know that *el molcajete* is a stone tool utilized by indigenous populations in Meso-America and Mexico since at least the 1300's to grind chile and tomatoes into salsa? It was the first food processor and the perfect gift for any aspiring chef.

Welcome to Journey Through Our Heritage (JTOH) one of the nation's most innovative and unique multi-cultural educational programs sponsored by Metropolitan State College of Denver (MSCD) Department of Chicano/Chicana Studies and Department of African/African American Studies. JTOH partners MSCD students with local high school students and engages them in a year long program whose goal is to enhance current public school curricula in the areas of African/African American, Native American, Mexicana/o, Red Bones, Métis, Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies. The grand finale of the year is an academic "knowledge bowl" between/among participating high school teams.

JTOH also participates in numerous community events and works with the Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts, an organization called to spread the Gospel primarily to the some 5000 kids that can be found on every street corner, trailer park and parking lot in their neighborhood in Denver on a year round basis.

## **Mission**

Journey Through Our Heritage promotes self empowerment, develops leaders and engages students with community leaders and organizations in order to increase cultural and historical knowledge bases through involvement in healthy competition, rigorous academic study and community service via the use of history, creative & cultural arts, and language.

## **Goals**

- To expose high school/college students to indigenous values, traditions, and practices;
- To support high school/college students through rigorous interdisciplinary competition designed to challenge and inspire young minds through Chicana/o Studies and alternative curricula;
- To facilitate the infusion of cultural and historical contributions of Latinos and other predominant ethnic groups, resulting in the success of all students.
- To create a formal connection between MSCD students in the Chicano Studies program and GED/high school students state-wide;
- To embrace and promote diversity by broadening participating high school teacher's ability to teach a more culturally inclusive curriculum;
- To engage, collaborate and work with communities by building relationships with program administrators, community organizations, schools and potential partners who desire to participate in the program;

## **Outcome Results for September to May 2010**

### **Journey Through Our Heritage On Campus**

- JTOH employed 15 Metropolitan State College work study students for the fall and spring semester of 2009/2010. ( JTOH MSCD mentors)
- JTOH MSCD mentors logged in over 2,441 hours on tutoring, mentoring and community service learning.
- Recruited nine area high schools to participate with the JTOH program: Inner City Parish, West High School Principal, North High School, Lincoln High School, Escuela Tlatelolco, Thomas Jefferson High School, Brady Exploration, Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts and Program of American Indian Youth Leaders.
- There were 54 individual team members from the nine high schools, 12 Metro mentors and 10 teachers involved in the program this year.

### **On Campus Events:**

The **Welcome Back ceremony** on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> consisted of nine host schools that were introduced to the JTOH program with a catered pasta dinner a cultural festivities. On March 15<sup>th</sup> the nine schools competed in an **Essay Expression** competition where teams earned points towards the JTOH championship trophies. On April 23<sup>rd</sup> the games began as the high schools converged upon the Metropolitan State College campus to compete in a **Jeopardy Style** competition. The events culminated in a **Grand Fiesta** on May 21<sup>st</sup> wherein schools came together for a barbeque on campus with music by Latin/reggae group Mono Verde, face painting and the final awards ceremony.

### **Student Anthology:**

The JTOH produced a professionally edited anthology of student essays on the significance of culture and history. These reflective writings were bound into a booklet and distributed to all 53 students. Each team was awarded points by Professor Ed Wingograd of Johnson and Wales University.

### **Special Events:**

The JTOH participated in MSCD's Cesar Chavez Day in March, the MSCD Lalo Delgado Poetry Festival in April, the MSCD Cinco de Mayo event in May and the Genecario Apache outdoor summer camp in June. These experiences were invaluable in helping the college mentors gain experience in planning and executing special events. The ability to work in a real life environment ensures that college mentors are prepared to engage with the public in the everyday work force.

## **Off Campus Activities**

- Hosted nine community concerts at the Aurora Fox Theater in partnership with the Colorado Folk Arts Council.
- Hosted the Denver Woman's Press Club spring seminar on Words of Change (a half day workshop on the power of the pen to effect world global change with regards to world issues).
- Partnered with various community organizations to produce Cesar Chavez Day on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2010.
- Partnered with Chicano Humanities and Arts Council for their annual fundraising event Milagros de Corazon.
- Partnered with Sisters of Color United for Education (a 501c3 nonprofit involved in health care) to help host a health fair in April

## **Demographics**

The Journey Through Our Heritage program inherently emphasizes indigenous students; however, it also embraces participants from other groups. Furthermore, the schools that will be recruited in this year's program do have high concentrations of Chicanos/as, Mexican-Americans, and Latinos/as. The material used for competition is related to the disciplines of Chicana/o and Native American Studies programs respectively. Most of our schools were federally recognized Title I schools. The high school population JTOH served in the 2009/2010 school year consisted of 85% Latino, 10 % African American and 10% Anglo students.

## **Goals**

Journey Through Our Heritage developed two main goals when the program applied for funding last year. The goals were: 1) To encourage the inclusion of indigenous history and culture into mainstream curricula of the high schools from where the students arrived; and 2) To create a direct connection to a college or university for high school or GED students.

These goals were met by partnering nine JTOH Metro work study students with each of the nine high schools. Each Metro mentor spent time at the high schools working in a class room setting as tutors; they conducted after school team building workshops for the JTOH competition events and helped to host all of the events.

These activities not only introduced our JTOH curriculum into the schools but helped forge a strong bond between our mentors and the high schools. In order to meet these goals the program utilized the expertise of college professors, administrators, teachers, authors, community members, the business community, and college mentors.

## Statistical Data

The ten year history of the JTOH program has been highly successful in many ways. One of the most important challenges facing the JTOH was how to produce concrete evidence of its success.

In 2009/2010 with the hiring of a full time coordinator Dr. Renee Fajardo and the addition of a part time Information Technician (IT) work study student Demonic Velarde, the JTOH program was able to begin the process of collecting data to document success with statistical back up. The following data is the results of that documentation.

**Outreach-** The JTOH program reached out to 1,756 Denver Metropolitan area students through collaboration with the Colorado Folk Arts Council (a non profit 501 (c) 3), Cultural Concerts on Colfax series. This once a month concert series features multicultural performance groups from numerous disciplines including Pow Wow dancers, African drummers and Aztec dancing. The primary goal of the concerts is to expose students to the rich and vibrant cultural heritage of the performing arts in Colorado. The JTOH mentors were able to present information about Metropolitan State College of Denver (MSCD) and the JTOH program at nine concerts with partnership with the Aurora Fox Theatre. In 2010 JTOH mentors will be presenting hour long workshops to the schools before they attend the concerts. Through this partnership we hope build a strong MSCD and JTOH presence in the schools state wide.

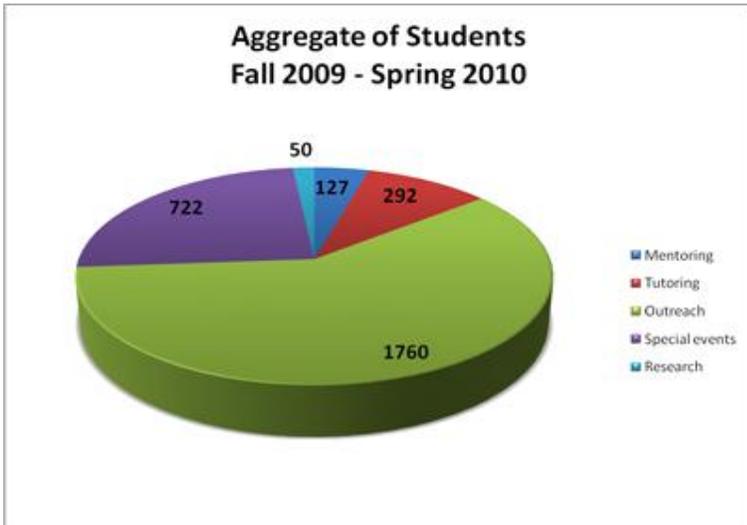
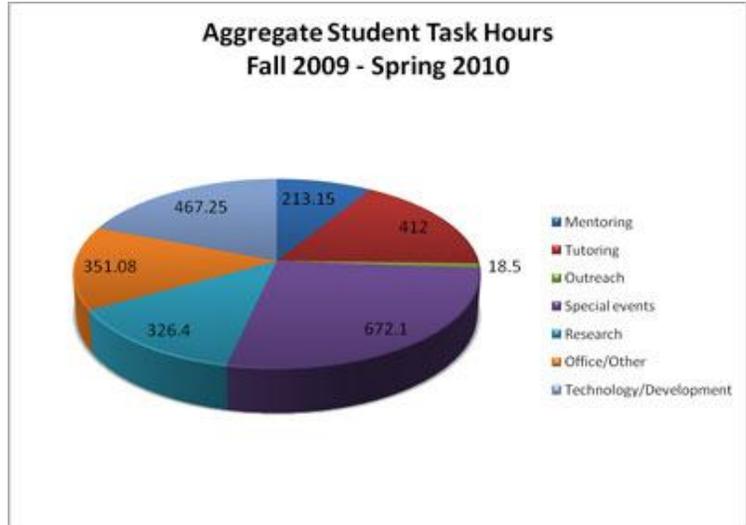
**Mentoring-** The JTOH mentors from MSCD were responsible for mentoring 54 individual competitive team members from nine high schools. A total of 213 hours were put in by MSCD JTOH mentors coaching and mentoring team members. The teams attended four events on the MSCD campus. Each team member received a participation medallion for their efforts in the competitions. All nine high school teams were also awarded participation trophies to be placed in their schools trophy case. In addition there were trophies given for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each of the competitive categories. The Grand Champion of this year's competition was Lincoln High School, La Academia was the runner up and Partnership of American Indian Youth won e 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

**Tutoring -**The JTOH MSCD mentors also logged in 412 hours of tutorial help at the high schools, tutoring over 292 students.

**Special Events and Community Service Learning-** JTOH MSCD mentors logged in 672 hours on special events such as the Denver Women's Press Club spring seminar, the MSCD Cesar Chavez Day in March, MSCD Cinco de Mayo. An additional 18.5 hours was logged into a special health fair sponsored by Sisters of Color United for Education. Approximately 700 people attended these special events.

**Research-** The JTOH MSCD mentors logged in 326 hours on research to create the Jornada study guide and 351 hours were logged in for office work. There were 25 JTOH MSCD mentors involved in the research and office work of the program.

**Website-** The JTOH web site required over 467 hours of development and continues to be updated on a weekly basis.



## **Program Evaluations**

The JTOH program realizes that the continued success of this program dependent upon an ability able to gather and analyze statistical data and student/teacher evaluations on a yearly basis. In 2010 we instituted several new policies. Program evaluations are now conducted by all JTOH mentors at the end of the school year. Each high school team member and their sponsoring teachers are given the opportunity to evaluate the program. The JTOH college mentors also fill out their own evaluation forms.

### **A synopsis of all evaluations we received from the nine participating 2010 JTOH program.**

#### **JTOH Total Evaluations for All High Schools 2010 (Nine participating high schools with individual 54 team members)**

##### **Evaluations on Essay Expression Competition**

###### **Essay Expression-**

- 54/54 students would like to keep this portion of the competition.
- 54/54 students would like an art project.
- 44/54 students would like a poetry slam.
- 54/54 students would like a cooking project.

*Comments of what they liked about the Essay Expression:*

*“Topic was interesting and allowed us to express our identity.”*

- *“Helped me learn about my ancestors.”*
- *“It was an explicit way to express our thoughts”.*

##### **Evaluations on the Essay Contest**

###### **Written Essay Contest-**

- 20/54 students liked this year’s questions.
- 40/54 students thought the word length was long enough.
- 40/54 students thought the mentoring help was adequate.
- 40/54 students felt the questions were too vague.

*Comments of what they liked about the written essay:*

- *“I liked that the word length was just right and also I liked the little bit of a challenge.”*
- *“I liked learning more about my culture.”*
- *“What I liked about the competition is that everyone got a trophy and even if they didn’t perform well, they felt like their participation and presence was enough.”*

*Comments of what they didn’t like about the written essay:*

- *“What I disliked about the essay was the wording of the questions.”*
- *“Complicated words.”*

## **With regards to Jeopardy Style**

### **Jeopardy Style Competition-**

- 22/54 students thought they had enough time to read the study guide.
- 40/54 students felt the material was interesting.
- 30/54 students felt the questions were fair.
- 40/54 students felt time allowed to answer questions was fair.
- 10/54 students felt the rules were fair.

#### *Comments of what they liked about the competition:*

- *“It was really fun and got to meet other people.”*
- *“It was fun.”*
- *“The competition was fair and we had plenty of time to study and make arrangements to our work.”*
- *One student said the competition was fair and fun, and that there was great food. This student also thought, “It was a great learning competition and it can really help others.”*
- *“It was easy and the study guide was really helpful.”*

#### *Comments of what they didn't like about the competition:*

- *One student said the competition was not as organized as she thought it would have been and that many times they had to stop so the judges could discuss.*
- *“People needed to have more time to answer the questions.”*
- *One student didn't like that the judges didn't count their first question because they didn't tell them not to answer after the speaker finished saying the questions.*
- *Another student didn't like that some schools didn't participate.*
- *Another student didn't like that they had to wait to answer until the question was fully read.*

Based on the input gathered from these evaluations several changes will be made in 2010/2011 JTOH competition.

- Reorganize the structure of the written essay portion of the competition to meet the needs of the students by choosing question that are more relevant and timely for the high schools.;
- Allow more study time for the jeopardy style competition questions and institute a training session for all mentors on how to teach the jeopardy style questions; and
- Add an art component and a poetry slam for the upcoming year.

# **Journey Through Our Heritage 2010/2011: Year of Peace and Justice**

For the 2010/2011 season the Journey Through Our Heritage program has selected the theme of **Peace and Justice**. This year MSCD college mentors will plan several new events and continue to improve the competition portion of the JTOH project.

## **2010/2011 Season at a Glance**

Competition Events :Each of the following events is worth up to a maximum of 100 points or partial points for all high school teams. The JTOH will host 12 high school teams during the season.

- Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> Welcome Back 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM St. Cajetans  
Slam poetry with Molina de Solei & Aju , Asia Fajardo and Rocky Mountain Storytellers Conference (100 points for attending to all teams)
- Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM Cultural Expression Competition St. Cajetans
- Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> Written Essays due for JTOH via e-mail
- March 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Jeopardy Style Competition St. Cajetans
- April 29<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM Café Cultura Poetry Slam Event St. Cajetans (100 points for attending to all teams)

## **AWARDS CEREMONY**

- May 20<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM Award Ceremony Tivoli Commons and Barbeque (rain site St. Cajetans)

## **Special Events**

During the course of the year high school teams may earn extra bonus points by attending special events. You must sign in with your mentors. Each special event is worth an extra 25 points.

### **Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 6:00 PM-Chicano Humanities Arts Council (CHAC) Art Show**

Peace and Justice: Reflections of conflict and resolution featuring art of JTOH team mentors.  
Opening reception with Azteca Art Colorado.

### **Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM -2:00 PM Dolores Huerta Event: St. Cajetans**

Celebrate with the Co-Founder of the United Farm Workers

### **Oct 15<sup>th</sup> (8:00 AM – 5:00 PM) Peace/ Justice Conference St. Cajetans MSCD**

Co-sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Storytelling Conference

### **Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> Aurora Fox Theater 7:00 PM (9900 E. Colfax 303-739-1970) Omecihuatl Rising: A Tribute to the Divine Feminine**

### **Nov. 19-20<sup>th</sup> Celebrate 100 years of the Mexican Revolution**

## **Spring of 2011 Events**

**March 31**, Metro State College Cesar Chavez celebration on campus

TBA Lalo Delgado Poetry Festival

**April 16<sup>th</sup>** Denver Woman's Press Club Peace and Justice Poetry seminar

TBA Metro State College Cinco de Mayo

TBA Sisters of Color United for Education: Spring Health Fair

TBA Spring Break Community Service trip to Mana Studios

TBA Genecario Apache Summer camp

## **Community Service Outreach**

All high school teams can earn up to 50 points for each day of service learning. High Schools and mentors are encouraged to participate in community service learning activities at the non-profit organization the mentor has been partnered with. However, other non profits will be considered.

### **JTOH Partnerships with Non-Profit Organizations:**

#### **Colorado Folk Arts Council**

The Colorado Folk Arts Council (CFAC) was organized in June of 1968 by a group of culturally active individuals to represent organized groups of various elements of Folk Arts (music, dancing, crafts, etc.) that would be a clearing house of information, distribute information and sponsor workshops and other events of orientation and understanding of people and cultures. The CFAC was incorporated as a non-profit organization on July 28, 1969 in the State of Colorado.

2890 Newland Street Wheat Ridge, CO 80214-8036 (303) 232-5542 <http://www.colofolkarts.org>

#### **Sisters of Color United for Education**

In 1991, Sisters of Color United, was established as a nonprofit organization with the vision of advocating for health equity and improved quality of life. With programs focused on health awareness and education, SOCUE works in the Denver metropolitan area and also state-wide increasing their presence in rural areas with focus on services to Mexican Immigrant families.

W. 8th Ave Denver CO, 80204 (303) 446-8800 Fax: (303) 446-8799 <http://www.socue.org>

#### **Chicano Humanities Arts Council**

The Chicano Humanities & Arts Council (CHAC) was founded in 1978 by a group of visual and performing artists. The organization was established as a place where Chicano/Latino artists were provided with a venue to explore visual and performance art and promote and preserve the Chicano/Latino culture through the expression of the arts.

772 Santa Fe Drive Denver, CO 80204-4429 (303) 571-0440 <http://www.chacweb.org>

#### **Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Studio**

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance is an international, cross-cultural, dance-arts and educational institution rooted in African American traditions and dedicated to excellence in providing instruction, performances and community programs, for intergenerational students, artists and audiences. Guided by a vision of dance as the universal language of movement that celebrates performance, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance is committed to honoring diversity and inclusiveness throughout the global community

119 Park Avenue West Denver, CO 80205-3209 (303) 295-1759 <http://www.cleoparkerdance.org>

## **Library People**

Library People is a statewide, not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping libraries with library collections, services and programs through grants, technical assistance, connections, and advocacy. Library People work toward quality library service for Colorado residents by providing advocacy, support, and coordination of service projects to enable libraries of all types, especially small and rural libraries, to meet community needs.

(303) 938-8766 <http://www.librarypeople.org>

## **Denver Woman's Press Club**

The Denver Woman's Press Club honors its heritage, functioning as a stimulating gathering place for people in literary, journalistic and media endeavors by promoting the cultivation of friendship and providing moral support to members; encouraging through educational and philanthropic means the pursuit of writing.

1325 Logan Street Denver, CO 80203-2308 (303) 839-1519 <http://www.dwpconline.org>

## **Grand Design Inc.**

Grand Design is dedicated to preserving and keeping alive, primarily the performing arts of African Americans, yet inclusive of other cultural performing arts; to provide entertainment and brassier the awareness of the public and an appreciation by the public through performances, concerts, presentations, visual art exhibits and cultural awareness training for the benefit of the residents in Aurora and the metropolitan area.

<http://www.grandbydesign.org>

## **Boys and Girls Club of Metro Denver**

Since 1961, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver has been helping kids from tough neighborhoods in the Denver area stay out of trouble, stay in school, and succeed in life. The organization owns and operates eight safe neighborhood branches where kids can spend time after school and during the summer.

2017 West 9th Avenue Denver, CO 80204 (303) 892-9200 <http://www.bgcmd.org>

## **Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts**

The Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts is called to spread the Gospel primarily to the some 5000 kids that can be found on every street corner, trailer park and parking lot in their neighborhood in Denver. Their strategy to do this is through the formation of the Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts. By combining state-of-the-art technology and the passion of dedicated staff and volunteer teachers and a dream of inspiring future generations to engage their culture and leave their mark via drama, dance, photography, film-making, musical instruments, graphic design, voice, poetry, etc.

4201 W. Kentucky Ave., Denver, CO 80219 (303) 949-4674

[www.joncompassionministries.org/ministries/mauriciosaraviaacademy.html](http://www.joncompassionministries.org/ministries/mauriciosaraviaacademy.html)

## **Only One Inc.**

Only One Inc. is an indigenous based organization that strives to teach traditional values to students through a year long study in Native American spirituality. Through rigorous hands on experiences and academic research students are able to engage in meaningful dialogue with Elders from numerous tribes nation wide. **www.onlyoneinc.org** (720) 980-9639

## **Mana Pottery Studio**

Over the last six decades, deep in the heart of Aravaipa Valley in southeastern Arizona, Mana Pottery has been producing unique and stunning American Southwestern art. Multi-colored, hand painted renditions of desert life on handcrafted earthenware provides an inspiring visual feast in the context of everyday functionality. The workmanship that goes into each piece is the meditation of three artists: Immanuel (Mana) Trujillo, who has been making visionary art for sixty years, and Anne Zapf and Matthew Kent, who have been making Mana Pottery for 30 years  
30800 W. Bonita Klondyke Rd., Wilcox, AZ 85643 [www.manapottery.com](http://www.manapottery.com)

## **Casa Mayan**

Auraria Casa Mayan Heritage, an organization dedicated to preserving the history of Auraria and the legacy of the Casa Mayan restaurant. The organization was founded by Gregorio Alcaro and Trinidad "Trini" Gonzalez, descendants of Ramon and Carolina Gonzalez Alcaro, a Denver architect who was 10 years old when the displacement happened, said the ceremony and memorial "represent a milestone in the way the campus has worked with the community and formed relationships." His cousin, writer and lecturer Trini Gonzalez, added, "Good morning, Aurarians. Welcome home."  
(303) 388-5174, [tghuss@comcast.net](mailto:tghuss@comcast.net)

## **Casa de la Esperanza**

Casa de la Esperanza (House of Hope) a 32-unit residential community owned and operated by the Boulder County Housing Authority in the City of Longmont. The Casa de la Esperanza (Casa) Resident Services Program offers an "after-school" program and academic center which provides educational and recreational services to Casa residents, allowing them greater access to opportunity and success by promoting higher education and computer skills and computer access.  
1520 South Emery Street, Longmont, CO (303) 485-6287

## **GrowHaus**

The GrowHaus is an indoor farm, marketplace and educational center in Denver's Elyria-Swansea neighborhood. Our goal is to provide healthy, affordable food for the surrounding community and raise awareness about issues of food justice and sustainability. [www.growhaus.org](http://www.growhaus.org)

## **Awards and Grants 2010/2011**

<b>Hispanic Higher Education Serving Institute</b>	<b>\$ 90,000</b>
<b>Hispanic Serving Institute Initiative</b>	<b>\$ 19,500</b>
<b>Department of Juvenile Justice Youth Team Grant</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
<b>Colorado Folk Arts Council</b>	<b>\$ 1,500</b>
<b>Metro State College Work Study</b>	<b><u>\$ 45,000</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$161,000</b>

## **Journey Through Our Heritage Program Staff :**

### **Department Chairman of Chicana/o Studies Department and Associate Professor at Metropolitan State College of Denver:**

#### **Ramon Del Castillo, Ph. D.**

Ramon Del Castillo is currently Associate Professor and Chair of the Chicana/o Studies Department at Metropolitan State College of Denver. He possesses a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology and Mexican American Studies from the University of Northern Colorado. His Masters Degrees are in Social Science and Public Administration and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado at Denver.

Dr. Del Castillo is a past columnist for the Rocky Mountain News and a current columnist for El Semanario. His critical essays cover the plight of the Chicana/o in American society. His awards include the prestigious Colorado State Division of Civil Right's Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award (1998); the "Spirit of Tlatelolco Award," (2005); the Latino and Latina Student Law Association Community Humanitarian Award (2005); the Cesar Chavez Peace and Justice Committee's Founders Award (2008); the Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales Civil Rights Award (2009) the Espiritu de Aztlan Award from Metro College (2010.)



Ramon is published in his discipline. His poetry publications/books include: Tales from a Michoacano; Broken Concrete; From the Corazon of a Bato Loco; and When the Owl Can't See at Night; Chile Colorado, a CD with three local poets and a storyteller used in the Chicana/o Studies Department curriculum; poetry unit in El Alma de la Raza curriculum, used in Denver Public Schools; and Cantos Al Sexto Sol: An Anthology of Aztlanahuac Writing; Cool Salsa edited by Lori M. Carlson and Encyclopedia Chicana.

## **Journey Through Our Heritage Program Coordinator:**

### **Dr. Renee Fajardo**

Dr. Fajardo has long been an advocate of children's and family rights. Her work with art education, literacy, and community programming have crossed all borders and boundaries. The former director of the Crossover Project, a nonprofit cultural arts education program, Dr. Fajardo has organized summer camps for at risk children, implemented high school cultural workshops, and helped provide cultural programming to thousands of students in the past 15 years.

As a board member of many cultural-nonprofit organizations throughout the state of Colorado, Dr. Fajardo has extensive knowledge of cultural, ceremonial, and community traditions of numerous indigenous people. Her own Chicana/Native American (Picuris Pueblo) and European roots allow her to be sensitive to the many nuances that face today students of color.

A Denver native and graduate of the University of Nebraska, she is also a freelance writer specializing in the South West. She has published articles dealing with subjects ranging from the migrant farm worker crisis in America to the importance of cultural art in impoverished neighborhoods to profiling success stories of immigrant families who own their own businesses.

She is also the co-author of the Holy Mole Guacamole Tummy Tale series with Carl Ruby, a series of four children's books on food, culture, and family. She co-produced the Return of the Corn Mothers exhibition, a Colorado Endowment for the Humanities Award recipient for 2009, along with master photographer Todd Pierson. She strongly believes that community is family and through our connection to our past and ancestral ways we can empathize with others in a compassionate way.



## **Office Administrator: Mercedes Salazar**

Regis University Denver, Colorado

**M.S.M.**, Master of Science in Management Leadership 1995,

**B.S.B.A.** Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

1990 Certificate in Spanish 1974 Attended University of Mexico City

Mercedes assists the department Chairs, Faculty and Students in the Chicana/o Studies Department with the main focus of the retention and success of students completing their education. She manages the budget and prepares course schedules, through the Metro Banner computer system.

Mercedes participates in staff meetings and supervises work study students. She assists in the planning of the following activities; Richard T. Castro Distinguished Professorship, Corky Gonzales Annual Symposium, Cesar Chavez, Corn Mothers Project, Journey Through Our Heritage and the Lalo Delgado Poetry Festival.

As the Fiscal Manager of these events she maintains an accurate budget, by contacting the caterers, entertainment, speakers, room reservation and obtaining visual equipment and supplies for the event. Mercedes develops all flyers, invitations and works close with the campus public relations and media departments to assure a successful event. She has also developed an email list of CHS majors and minors and other Latino surname students throughout the Auraria campus for recruitment and invitations to events.



## **Information Technology: Domonic Velarde**

Domonic Velarde is a native of Denver, Colorado and a senior at Metropolitan State College of Denver. He will graduate Fall of 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in the Independent Degree Program - IT Programming, Web, and Database Development as well as a Minor in English with a Writing Emphasis.

I am honored to be the Webmaster for the Journey Through Our Heritage Project and the Chicana/o Studies Department at Metropolitan State College of Denver. I started with the Journey Through Our Heritage Project in 2008 as a mentor. The experience taught me valuable skills in being able to connect with today's younger generation. I found through mentoring that many of the students had the same questions I did about our cultural roots. It empowered me to reconnect with my heritage and rediscover things I did not even know I had lost. Since then I have progressed to serving as IT to the Journey Project, and finally culminating in an internship as the Webmaster for the Journey Through Our Heritage Project and the Chicana/o Studies Department.



# MSCD College Mentors and Community Service

## Adrian Tijerina

### Colorado Folk Arts Council (CFAC)

My name is Adrian Tijerina. I am a Music Education Major and Chicana/o Studies Minor at Metropolitan State College of Denver. My date of graduation will be spring of 2013. I am from San Diego, California and moved here to attend school here at Metro.

The non-profit organization I work with is the Colorado Folk Arts Council (CFAC), which is one of the oldest multicultural organizations in the state of Colorado. The CFAC was founded in 1968 by a group of individuals who represented organized groups that were culturally active in different elements of Folk Arts (i.e. music, dance, crafts, storytelling, etc.). Their first community activities took place on May 18th, 1969 when the CFAC helped to organize ethnic group participation for the opening of the new convention center in Denver. The first CFAC festival took place on stage at the Central City Opera House on July 25th, 1971. The first annual International Heritage Festival was presented at the University of Denver arena in 1976 to commemorate the Colorado Centennial celebrations.

The Colorado Folk Arts Council works with many schools, businesses and government programs to present ethnic folk arts in the community. Their street address is 2890 Newland Street in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. The CFAC president Ron Gehauf's phone number is 303.232.5542. The CFAC website is <http://www.colofolkarts.org>. The CFAC became an official non-profit organization on July 28th of 1969. Their mission statement is: To encourage the preservation of ethnic cultural arts, history and traditions through educational workshops, youth team building, public performances, and community projects. This is a very noble mission seeing as how important it is to preserve cultural identities in today's society.

As a music education major, I am excited to be working with the Colorado Folk Arts Council to help as much as possible in making Hispanic community impact well known. I currently am working on the 2010-2011 Colorado Folk Arts Program Guide. This catalogue is a compiling of ethnic artists from all around the state of Colorado. The task has truly become a labor of love for me, there are many things to accomplish but I am excited with what this catalogue will offer when it is complete. I also am helping with Journey Through Our Heritage's 2010-2011 Aurora Fox concert series which includes helping to organize performance dates and the artists who will be performing through Metro State's Journey Through Our Heritage program and the Colorado Folk Arts Council. In the planning of the concert series, I also have met with Grand Design a non-profit organization in Aurora, Colorado to collaborate on a performance that specifically showcases the African American artists and storytellers in the community. I am very excited to be part of this non-profit organization. I believe whole-heartedly in its mission, purpose, and impact in the communities throughout Colorado.



## **Jay Michael Jaramillo**

### **Chicano Humanities & Arts Council (CHAC)**

My name is Jay Michael Jaramillo. I was born and raised in Colorado. I have attended Metropolitan State College of Denver since fall 2008, where I plan to graduate in 2012, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing.

I have been immersed in art my entire life. My father, Jerry Jaramillo, is an influential artist in the Denver and Latino Community and is one of the Co-Founders of CHAC. Beginning at a young age, I worked for my father, which has given me valuable experience and knowledge of fine arts as a trade. I share the same passion for art as my father, which is why I have exhibited my own artwork at CHAC since 2003. I have assisted my father in numerous projects: "Flight of the Eagle Dancer" at Aztlan Recreation Center (4435 Navajo Street Denver, CO) and "La Familia Cosmica/Lost City of Atlantis" at La Familia Recreation Center (65 South Elati Street Denver, CO) which is Denver's largest indoor mural.



As a Marketing Major, I have gained experience in my field of concentration while working for Metro State's Journey Through Our Heritage Program. It has enabled me to work with my peers and faculty of each of the Tri-Institutional Colleges at Auraria, and includes engaging, meetings for events as the 6th Annual Latino Leadership Summit. In addition, I worked for Metro State's Admissions Office where I assumed the role as an ambassador to the college.

In the Summer Semester of 2010, I was given the opportunity to familiarize myself with The Chicano Humanities & Arts Council. CHAC is a nonprofit organization that has been serving the Denver and Latino Community since 1978. It was established, as a place where artists are provided with a venue to explore visual and performance art. Further, serving to promote and preserve the Chicano/Latino culture through the expression of the arts and education. My goal is to strive to the utmost of my ability in linking The Chicano Humanities & Arts Council with Journey Through Our Heritage, making the organizations synonymous with each other.

CHAC Gallery is located along the Santa Fe Art District.

772 Santa Fe Drive

Denver, CO 80204

[www.chacweb.org](http://www.chacweb.org)

CHAC's Executive Director - Crystal O'Brien

CHAC's business Phone: 303-571-0440

Wednesday & Thursday 10AM - 4PM

Extended business hours

"First Fridays of the Month" from 12 - 10PM & Saturday 12 - 4P.M.

## **B. Peach Dance Library People**

My name is B. Peach Dance and I am a junior at Metropolitan State College of Denver. I was born and raised in the Denver area, graduated from East high school on the honor role in 2009. I am majoring in modern languages –Spanish in 2012. I am receiving a minor in dance and participate in an activity called Winter Guard with a professional troupe. This activity consists of spinning flags, rifles, and sabers in an indoor environment to a music as opposed to on a field to a marching band (color/fall guard). Although I do not do this activity through Metro State, it has taught me many important life lessons in conjunction with my college experiences including, social academic, and professional maturity.

I am a work study in the Chicana/o Studies Department for the Journey Through Our Heritage program. This program matches work-study students with a non-profit organization and I have been matched with Library People. Library People is a nonprofit organization that provides advocacy, support, and coordination of service projects to enable libraries of all types, especially small and rural libraries, to meet community needs. Incorporated in 1984 as a Colorado nonprofit, Library People began as an activist group to meet statewide issues of support for libraries. Many people came from local libraries' Friends groups. After several years, and the resolution of the original issue, the group went on hiatus. Library People began a new phase in its existence in 2005, by recruiting Board members, initiating special projects, and developing ties to local library staff and local Friends groups.



Currently, Library People helps libraries with services and programs through grants, technical assistance, connections, and advocacy. Among its activities are a statewide network of local Friends and library supporters; annual Rural Library Enrichment Project grants; a Best Friend Award; a quarterly E-Flash news bulletin; and the Authors Appearances project. A new partnership through Metropolitan State College of Denver is focusing on outreach to Latinos on behalf of libraries. Library People: 2207 Bluebell Ave, Boulder, CO 80302, [www.librarypeople.org](http://www.librarypeople.org), [libraryPeopleColorado@yahoo.com](mailto:libraryPeopleColorado@yahoo.com), 303-394-3710.

Being a book lover and having been to the library many times in many places, working with library people is a nice fit. Since this organization is relatively behind on the development scale, it is exciting that I have such a close influence on the development of the organization itself, and the libraries, and in turn communities it serves. I am currently researching the greatest need of services from Library People by looking at different counties' library services and resources, and beginning a statewide Friends network database.

## **Monica Crespo**

### **Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts**

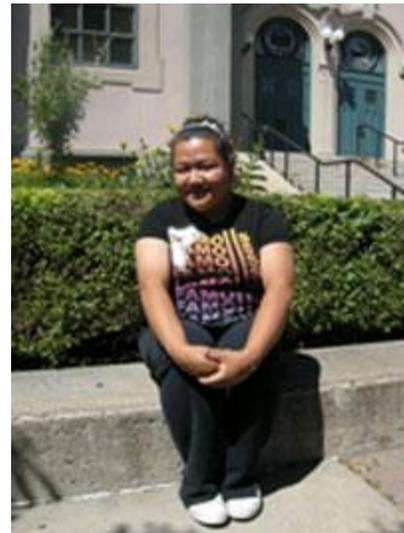
My name is Monica Crespo; I was born and raised in Guanajuato, Mexico until I was twelve years old. I was brought to Colorado along with my two brothers and my parents. I graduated from Niwot High School in June 2009. I am pursuing a career in the psychology field and I am anticipating graduating from Metropolitan State College in 2013.

I am one of the Chicana/o Studies work study students at Metro State involved in the Journey Through Our Heritage program. I am very pleased to say that the program has allowed me the opportunity to work with a local high school students and the nonprofit organization, Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts.

Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts is an art school designed to provide opportunities for the community and children from low income families gain knowledge and skills to help them realize their true potential. This school was named after the famous artist, Mauricio Saravia, who passed away in 2008 from a rare skeletal disease. His many accomplishments in life inspired people to create the art school that will help young students thrive in the community. At Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts, Pastor Scott Carranza and the teachers are all volunteers who focus on giving all the children guidance and spiritual wellness.

While volunteering at Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts, I definitely got to see the great potential of all the young children there. These highly intelligent, friendly and caring students are a delight to work with. While my job was to tutor and mentor kids there, I can honestly say that I made some great friends also.

Since I am planning on getting a minor in art, this great relationship with Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts has helped me to understand the importance of art in the lives of young kids and adults. It has been a great experience to work with Pastor Carranza and all the young ones. This nonprofit organization is one of the many that, we as a team would like to make a positive impact on! Mauricio Saravia School of the arts is located in 4201 W. Kentucky Avenue in Denver. Co. and it is coordinated by Pastor Scott Carranza and his number is (303)949-4674.





**Journey Through Our Heritage 2010  
Jeopardy Style Competition**



**Journey Through Our Heritage 2010  
Awards Ceremony**

## **Letter from the Coordinator:**

As the Coordinator of the Journey Through Our Heritage program at Metropolitan State College of Denver, I am very excited to be part of this wonderful project. The hard work and dedication of those who created the Journey has been a labor of love for many years. It is a great honor for me to continue this work.

Chicana/o Studies along with African/African American Studies believe that this unique program will instill in the hearts of our college students and the high school teams we work with the spirit of cooperation and stewardship that is the legacy of our ancestors. The Journey is about team work, community service, honoring our ancestors, knowing our history, excellence in academics, and striving for a better tomorrow by engaging the minds of our youth in thought provoking competition. We are all from indigenous people and the past has much to teach us about being caretakers of the Earth. As we embark on the newest leg of our journey together we invite you to join as we explore new horizons and celebrate the bright future of our students.

We look forward to a very productive 2010/2011 season. We are pleased to be forming new partnership and anticipate a wonderful journey to come.

Blessings,

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Dr. Renee Fajardo