Welcome to the first annual Skagit Valley Diversity Conference!

As our world and local communities are rapidly changing, it is critical that we learn about cultures other than our own—that we open our hearts and minds to the diversity that is all around us; that we understand and appreciate our differences; and, that we embrace lifelong learning opportunities.

Skagit Valley College is committed to providing an environment of mutual respect for all who join in. We believe that education is the key to a rich, satisfying life and that education provides the foundation for building both strong individuals and strong communities. Our commitment to diversity and equity provides a wonderful learning environment and makes our College a very special place to study, work, and grow.

As you can see, this first-ever SVC Diversity Conference provides many opportunities to learn about a wide range of important topics. I am thankful for our wonderful faculty, staff and presenters who have worked so hard to make this conference happen. Whether you are a student, faculty or staff member, I encourage you to seize the opportunity to engage, share, and challenge your own thinking.

Again, welcome—I am so pleased you are joining us for this very important event!

— Dr. Tom Keegan, Skagit Valley College President

MISSION: To promote multicultural and social justice awareness, education and appreciation for diversity. We will achieve success through efforts that aim to:

- Promote diversity and inclusion within the educational system in our community.
- Develop leaders to promote social change and empowerment of their identity.
- Create spaces which support diversity education, equity and cultural awareness.

VISION: We are committed to transforming institutional systems by removing barriers and promoting equity and inclusion in education.

THEME: Education, Solidarity and Strength

Special thanks to the 2016 Planning Committee:
Enrique López, Regional Migrant Coordinator, NWESD 189
Diana Peregrina, Multicultural Recruitment Specialist, Enrollment Services
Yadira Rosales, Director Multicultural Student Services

*2016 Conference graphic and program designed by Michael Murdock, Skagit Valley College.

We would like to recognize and thank the following for their generous sponsorship:
Skagit Valley College
President’s office of Skagit Valley College
Mexican Consulate in Seattle

In developing this conference, our goal is to be as inclusive as possible. If you have any additional presenters or resources you would like us to utilize for future conferences please let us know!

For more information please contact Multicultural Student Services at Yadira.Rosales@skagit.edu
Agenda At Glance

9:00-9:30am Registration
9:30-9:45am Welcome
9:50-11:00am Break Out Session #1
11:05-12:15pm Break Out Session #2
12:20-1:20pm Lunch and Keynote Speaker
1:25-2:35pm Break Out Session #3
2:40-3:00pm Closing

Session 1: Identity and Culture

• Chican@’s Scholarship Activism: Past to Present
• Orgullo Oaxaqueño: Come and Learn the Culture from Oaxaca through Storytelling and Art
• Intersection of Identities
• The Equation Hasn't Changed: Silence Still = Death
• Aztec Calendar, Your Potential and Universities before European Colonization

Session 2: Social Justice and Community

• Undocumented Students in Higher Education: How to survive inequity
• Since Time Immemorial, Helping students understand Tribal History and Sovereignty
• Hidden Stories: Gangs, Healing, and Hope in Skagit County
• Crafting Critical Stories, Teacher-Student Testimonials - Hear My VOICE!
• The Historical Roots of El Movimiento y Community Development
• Brown Excellence
• Campesin@’s Organizing in Skagit County

Session 3: Education is Change

• College 101: The difference between high school and college
• Financial Aid 101
• College Resources: You are NOT ALONE!
• Chale, Who needs college?
Intersection of Identities

In higher education it is important for leaders, such as faculty and staff, to invite conversations and activities that embrace intersectional identities. My suggestion comes with an understanding that many minority groups show a growth in population, yet higher education enrollment and degree attainment does not rise. It is necessary to address some struggles that various groups of people often experience when dominant members of society are subconsciously or consciously unaware of ways that one's intersectionality is met with barriers. I will identify ways to embrace and support those of diverse backgrounds in the effort to promote access and success of diverse populations. I will conclude with credible ways to accomplish self-empowerment and an overall appreciation of human differences within a just, equitable and multicultural world.

Orgullo Oaxaqueño: Come and Learn the Culture from Oaxaca through Storytelling and Art

This workshop will highlight the cultural richness and diversity inherent in the people from the southern state of Oaxaca, Mexico. Through storytelling by Skagit Valley residents from Oaxaca and a demonstration of traditional artisans, participants will learn about a variety of traditions present in the different regions of Oaxaca.

Chicano@s Scholarship Activism: Past to Present

The important role of Mexican Intellectuals in the formation of Mexican origin communities in the United States is not often enough considered in scholarship on Mexican immigration to the United States. Many who were born in Mexico and immigrated to the United States as infants or in adolescence developed intellectually in the states of Texas, California, and Illinois. Throughout their long intellectual careers, they left important legacies of historical sociological, literary, political and economic scholarship, laying the foundation for the contemporary field of Chicana/o studies.

The Equation Hasn’t Changed: Silence Still = Death

LGBTQIAA individuals in the United States experience more acceptance and less discrimination today than they have at any time in the history of this nation. But we are nowhere near reaching a post-homophobic or post-transphobic era. In this presentation, we will look back at the battles that have been fought and won to overcome unjust laws and those that still lie ahead.

Aztec Calendar, Your Potential and Universities before European Colonization

Come learn about the Aztec Calendar and the ways in which our Aztec ancestors used the calendar to understand the potential in individuals based on their birthdates. By using simple math you will learn how to figure out your own birth symbol on the Aztec calendar and how that symbol explains some of your potentials. We will also discuss the different university systems that existed in the Western hemisphere prior to European colonization. Come be part of an informative and fun workshop!
Presenter: Daisy Padilla and Gerzon Marin, Skagit Valley College • Room: Phillip Tarro Theatre

Undocumented Students in Higher Education: How to Survive Inequity

The purpose of this session is to invite participants to take a journey in an undocumented student’s shoes through an interactive and engaging activity. Participants will walk in my shoes – experience similar challenges and barriers undocumented students have to face in our higher education system while pursuing their goals and dreams of obtaining a higher education, critically reflect – identify challenges and solutions to the barriers, service in action – provide participants with local and campus, and student panel – have the opportunity to have a discourse with current undocumented students pursuing higher education.

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Presenter: Adam Lorio, Samish Indian Nation • Room: A-136

Since Time Immemorial, Helping students understand Tribal History & Sovereignty

Connecting communities and increasing empathy between cultures is critical in today’s society. Helping students, especially K-12, learn about different cultural communities in a meaningful way can be hard. Materials available to educators are often times inaccurate and misleading, perpetuating harmful stereotypes. This is starting to change in Washington, join Adam Lorio, MEd, Education and Outreach Director for the Samish Indian Nation for a demonstration and discussion about Tribal History and Sovereignty curriculum efforts to help students learn history the way it should be shared, letting tribal communities share their stories the way they want them shared.

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Presenter: Chris Hoke and panel, Tierra Nueva • Room: A-225

Hidden Stories: Gangs, Healing, and Hope in Skagit County

Beneath the scare of gangs in our community, there are deeper stories: stories of great pain the public does not see, as well as stories of great resilience—and potential leadership—in the streets that the community needs. Chris Hoke, gang pastor Tierra Nueva and chaplain at Skagit County Jail and Juvenile Detention for the past decade, will explore these stories with two young men who have lived through immigrant childhoods and gang violence, walked paths of healing, hope, and, together, helped shape Skagit County’s growing gang outreach.

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Presenter: Barbara Martinez Griego, Skagit Valley College • Room: L-128

Crafting Critical Stories, Teacher-Student Testimonials - Hear My VOICE!

This session will reflect on three articles and strategies that promote the importance of constructing a critical pedagogical practice that respects and promotes linguistic and cultural respect for bilingual students and teachers in the classrooms. Who we are and where we come from are two important questions we should always keep in our mind when teaching but, at the same time, they should become part of our pedagogical principles. We may come to our sense of worth and develop our bicultural voice differently but the milestones of constructing a critical linguistic and cultural pedagogical practice remain constant.

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Presenter: Dr. Larry Estrada, Western Washington University • Room: L-126

The Historical Roots of El Movimiento y Community Development

This presentation will link the historical elements of El Movimiento Chicano to present day social/political change and community development. Emphasis will be placed upon the components of inter-group solidarity and unity to bring about effective political representation and mobilization within the Chicano Community.
Brown Excellence will examine how mainstream Latinx stereotypes influence how we perceive ourselves. Every day as we turn on the television, log onto Facebook or Twitter we become bombarded by images and messages. This workshop will begin to shatter mainstream Latinx stereotypes as we engage in self-reflection and storytelling. We will shed light on our community, family and individual resilience as Latinxs.

Session 3
Friday, September 30th 1:25-2:35pm

Education is Change

Presenters: Elly Mata, LEAP • Room: Multipurpose Room

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Presenter: Edgar Franks, Community to Community Development • Room: F-102

Campesin@s Organizing in Skagit County

Community to Community Development (C2C) is a community organization based in Bellingham. We focus on the food system through the lens of Farm Workers. For the last 12 years we have organized around Skagit and Whatcom Counties, Washington State, and the country around the various intersections that revolve the farm workers. Our Workshop will center around the history of farm worker organizing in Skagit County and the current movements that are happening around the region and how people can get involved.

Presenters: Estevan Vivanco Meza • Room: A-225

College 101: Differences between High School and College

This workshop will introduce students to the difference between high school and college and provide students an opportunity to see what it is like on a college campus. This workshop will also provide an overview of the main services on campus to help students navigate and take advantage of the college’s academic resources.

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Presenter: Rose Hill • Room: L-311

Financial Aid 101

It’s no secret: college can be expensive. But don’t let the cost of a college education put your goals out of reach. There are many resources available to help you achieve your dreams. Eligibility for several Washington State financial aid programs has expanded to include students who are ineligible for federal financial aid due to immigration status. Students who meet individual program, income, or residency requirements for the State Need Grant, the College Bound Scholarship, State Work Study, or Passport Scholarship should complete the free WASFA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid) to apply for state financial aid. New for 2016-17: Starting October 1, 2016, students will be able to file a 2017-18 FAFSA or WASFA using 2015 income! This means you will no longer wait until January to file for financial aid.

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Presenter: Tanya Zaragoza, Whatcom Community College • Room: F-102

College Resources: You are NOT ALONE!

We will be exploring how universities and colleges have many different resources available to help you succeed and graduate! You are never alone when in education. This workshop will also be a good opportunity for you to ask any questions and clarify any negative chismes regarding college. Que Vivan Los Estudiantes!!
As a former high school drop-out who, at the age of thirty six, began college at Whatcom Community College, Dr. Carlos Adams saw college as a foreign, bewildering and uninviting environment. He began college as a single parent from a working class background. Through hard work and support, Carlos graduated from Whatcom Community College as the recipient of the Laidlaw Award for the Outstanding Graduate. He transferred to Western Washington University and attended Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies majoring in American Cultural Studies and graduated as its Student of the Year and selected as valedictorian. He completed his graduate work at Washington State University in the American Studies Program and his dissertation focused on the intersections of hope and Latino Masculinity. Today, Carlos teaches the American Minority and Ethnic Studies courses at Green River Community College and Sociology Courses at Pierce College and continues his dedication to improving the lives of historically excluded and marginalized individuals and communities.

Chale, Who needs college?

Malcolm X stated, “Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.” Carnalito(a), we have to master the education system we take part in, while holding on proudly to our culture and identity! I know it’s hard and at times we want to give up and drop out of school. Remember, we are the present and the future. We need to equip ourselves with knowledge, Wisdom, Cultura and Education! Come over and join me in my workshop, we will have fun and look at how education is a key element to change and success. El pueblo informado jamás será robado!

Presenter: Enrique Lopez, NWESD 189 • Room: L-126

Liberation Education:
The Decolonization of the Mind and Body

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Carlos Adams
12:20-1:20pm ~ McIntyre Hall