



LA VOZ ESTUDIANTIL

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT RETENTION EFFORTS

By Zulema Sierra

One-thousand four-hundred and twenty-eight students at Colorado State University said they identify with being Latino. This figure accounts for only five or six percent of the student population.

The retention efforts at El Centro Student Services are a significant component to the gradual increase in numbers of Latino students at the university. El Centro is a key component at the university in retaining Latino students through programming, networking, and establishing a support system for students.

El Centro is a primary advo-

cate of Latino student organizations. Our student organizations are also a support system for students who are away from home. Through conferences, seminars, workshops, and volunteer programs, students are more able of becoming rooted within the university.

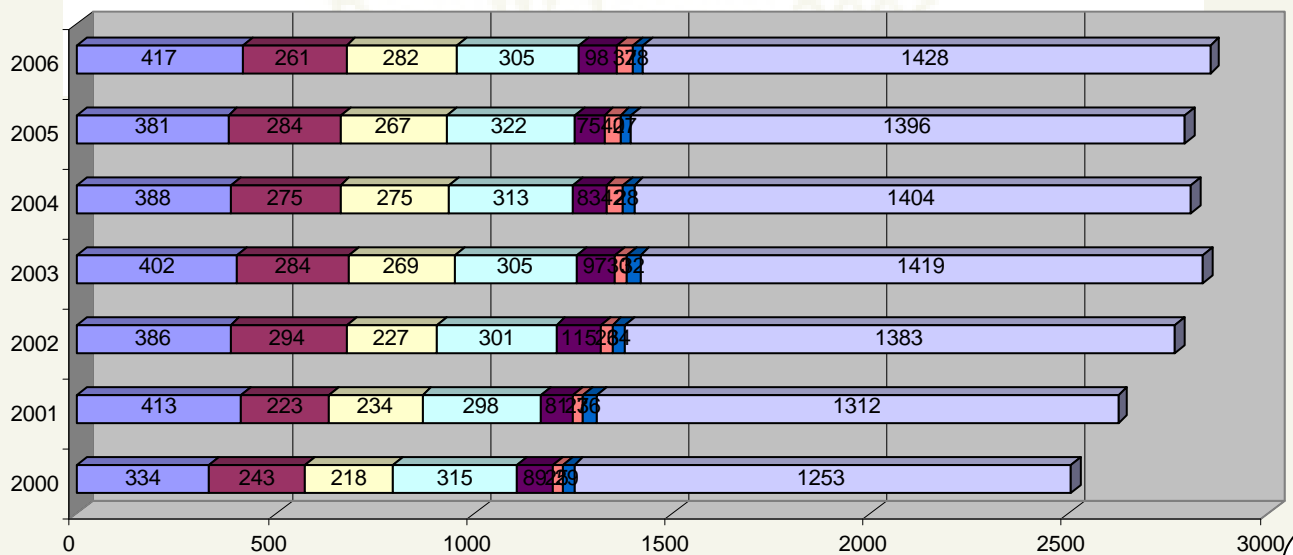
The programs offered at El Centro allow students to become aware of new opportunities, meet students with similar interests, step outside their comfort zones, and find a sense of belonging.

Looking at the chart below, Elizabeth Salamanca, a Senior

majoring in Human Development and Family Studies, said, "The chart looks great, but in comparison to the rest of the population it can be...isolating." She also spoke about the reality of being a minority on the campus. "The value of education in Latino/a house holds must increase," said Salamanca in regards to the low numbers of Latino students.

Although only five percent of the student population is Latino/a, a great effort is being put forth toward the recruitment and retention of Latino/a students at CSU.

Hispanic Enrollment



■ Freshman
 ■ Sophomore
 ■ Junior
 ■ Senior
 ■ Master's
 ■ Doctoral
 ■ PVM
 ■ Total

STUDENT OF COLOR RETREAT RECAP:

Critical thinking, self exploration, and diversity of knowledge. All of these were among the ingredients at the 2006 Student of Color Retreat.

It is difficult to explain in words what the retreat consists of because words do not capture the complete essence of its meaning.

Colorado State University student Ceriss Blackwood describes the retreat by saying, "It gives you the ability to think critically about diversity issues concerning other ethnic groups." There was a panel of Alumni who

talked about what it is like to be 'ethnic' in the professional world. Topics such as this, open the floor to different issues and empower students to take it upon themselves to make changes. According to Blackwood she mostly enjoyed the Student of Color Retreat because, "It was very hands on... not just a conferences where you sit down and listen... there was lots of involvement."

Two other themes discussed were stereotypes and values. Stereotypes and values were highlighted through

portrayals of gender, ethnic Greeks, multi-racial identities, and gay lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgender topics.

The Student of Color retreat has become a Colorado State University tradition as every year it pushes to exemplify the university's aim toward diversity.

An event as impactful as the Student of Color Retreat, however, lacks attendance. The most prominent reason is that students are hesitant to attend an event they are not familiar with.



SPOKEN WORD



Spoken word can be looked at as the literary performance of poetry. It is the art of expression through words. It is lyrics, stories, or poetry spoken rather than sung. Spoken word can be many things. It is what you make it.

Spoken word performances are extremely moving and

emotional and others can be humorous and daring. The reaction from the audience all depends on the performer.

Spoken word is an excellent way to convey experiences, social and/or political views, or to demonstrate artistic capability.

Through the emergence of "poetry slams" spoken word

gained reputation in the late 1980s early 1990s.

For an unforgettable experience of Spoken Word, please attend the Ramskellar on Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00 p.m. There will be two special performances by Talam Acey and Jerson Martinez, two nationally renown Spoken Word artists. Admission is free to the general public.



TRIUNFO

Our tutoring program, Triunfo, has had tremendous success throughout the years. This year, however, has been the most notable. Many improvements have taken place such as, the location, a stipend, snacks, and transportation for the students. Tutoring normally took place in the Lory Student Center, however the lack of space was an impeding barrier to better accommodate the students. Tutoring is now held

in the Natural Environmental Science building. According to the Triunfo co-coordinator, Lyssa Zambrana, "The new location is bigger but it's out of the way." It may be out of the way but it provides the space needed for an adequate learning environment.

The most significant addition to the program is definitely the new transportation system. Thanks to a stipend the pro-

gram was granted on behalf of Dr. Christine Jones, we are now able to pick up students from their designated schools and also drop them off when the session is over. The stipend has been useful in making many improvements to Triunfo. Zambrana also informs us that due to increased recruitment of volunteers there are more CSU student tutors this year.



Student and Tutor working hard

You Can Make the Difference in the Life of a Child

Volunteers of America invite you to become a mentor. Attend a mentoring fair, January 11, 2006 to visit with seven local non-profits and plug into mentoring opportunities. Can't wait? Make an appointment today to find out more.

- Contact Maureen Carrigan at youthmentor@frii.com or 472-9630



Shirley

Early mornings, late nights, extra work, too many hours.

This is what a typical work day was for Shirley Guitron, the Administrative Assistant III at El Centro Student Services. A week ago she brought tears to our eyes when she made the decision to leave the office. Shirley is one of the hardest working individuals you will ever meet and one of the most delightful. Finding a replacement for her may be near impossible. The abundance of tasks she took on was incredible. Never complaining and always wearing a smile.

Shirley is the kind of person who always tries to see the good in people. She is positive, cheerful, kind, and generous. Her countless battles to keep the office in order have not been over looked. All of us at El Centro would like to say thank you to Shirley once again. Although she has left the office she has not left our hearts.

Thank You Shirley, we love you!



FEATURED POEM FOR NOVEMBER

My Ode to You

With this poem comes no special attire,
Nevertheless, to you my heart's desire.
No fancy design to dress it in,
Only my everlasting love without sin,

When your name leaves my tongue,
It is as if, the flowers of spring have just sprung
How can I feel this way you may ask?
It is my love; that of 'everlast'

As the room feels with your scent,
My pain begins to repent.
My heart begins to feel with pride and joy,
I begin to feel somewhat like a little boy.

Oh the things you do to me,
Brings out my happiness and glee!
Your beauty is easy to explain;
As beauty is expressed upon a rose after rain!

Say thou love'st me while thou live,
I to thee my love will give!
I'll love your for all time,
Which once was mine, I give to thine!

"My soul, the song of all life"

