



Dr. Reyes Ortega

"It's not very often when good fortune enters a person's life. However, the Latino Leadership Council has enriched my life forever and in ways that I hope can be equally returned or surpassed."

Originally from the San Francisco bay area, Dr. Reyes Ortega's extended family comes from the adobe villages of the northern mountains of New Mexico. It is within the valleys of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains where the Ortega family has resided since the early 1600's and, over time, has literally survived under the Spanish, Mexican and American flags. His maternal "Macias" side of the family is from the state of Guanajuato, Mexico. With no more than faith, determination and courage, in 1914, his *abuelos* escaped the uncertainties and danger associated with the Mexican Revolution of 1910 to create a new life in the United States. At great risk, they left the comfort of a Spanish-speaking Catholic home to the unfamiliar world of *el Norte*. Dr. Ortega is honored to say that he is the proud grandson of undocumented workers and remains steadfast with his deep appreciation for the sacrifices that were made before.

Understanding the sacrifices of those before him, created a greater appreciation of opportunity and expanded his understanding of social justice and equity, especially during the affirmative action Chicano Movement years of the 1960s and 1970s. Looking back, those initial years also became a springboard to higher education where he earned his bachelors, masters, and doctorate degrees. Dr. Ortega eventually left the bay area to Placer County to raise his family with his wife Rebecca and their two sons, Reyes Cuautemoc and Mateo Moctezuma, while developing his career at Sierra College and contributing to his community. Before long, his life eventually crossed paths with many equity-minded and incredible people throughout the community. It is not uncommon to hear Dr. Ortega cite the following quote as one of his favorites from Dolores Huerta, a life-long civil rights leader and recipient of the prestigious Presidential Medal of Freedom. "We must use our lives to make the world a better place to live, not just to acquire things. That is what we are put on the earth for."

According to Dr. Ortega, "Dolores Huerta is one of my heroes in life and I have faithfully leaned toward her for inspiration, perseverance, patience and focus. These four principles have given me the greatest opportunity to uphold the value of community service. As such, I am so very fortunate to have served as Board President and to have engaged as a practitioner of community service through the Latino Leadership Council. Clearly, through education, health and youth development, the Latino Leadership Council carries the enormous responsibility of welcoming and introducing nuestra comunidad Latina to the complexities and benefits of life in the United States. Of course, this gargantuan task cannot be achieved without the genuine commitment and dedication of an incredible staff and Board of Directors. Si Se Puede!"

CURRICULUM VITAE

REYES ORTEGA

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of Nevada, Reno
Educational Leadership, Higher Education, 2005
Dissertation: A Qualitative Study of the Three Eras of Affirmative Action and the
Impact on Selected California Educational Leaders

M.A. San José State University
Counseling Education, 1997
Thesis: A Project Plan for the Development of Student Equity at
Sierra Joint Community College

M.A. San José State University
Mexican American Studies, 1981
Thesis: A Group Retention Program for Chicano/Latino EOP Freshmen in
Higher Education

B.A. San José State University
History, 1977
Concentration: Latin American History

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Professor Emeritus	Introduction to Chicana/o Studies, Sierra College, 2020 -
Professor Emeritus	Chicano/Mexican American History, Sierra College, 2020 -
Coordinator	Puente Program, Sierra College, 2008 – 2019
Professor	Chicano/Mexican American History, Sierra College, 2005-2019
Professor	College Success, Sierra College, 2005 - 2018
Counselor	Student Services Division, Sierra College, 1997-2019
Assistant Dean	Sierra College, EOPS, Outreach, Financial Aid, Veterans, 1992-1997
Director	Ohlone College, EOPS Program, 1989-1992
Admissions Counselor	Saint Mary's College, 1988-1989
Recruitment Coordinator	Palmer Chiropractic College - West, 1988
Admissions Counselor/ Recruitment Coordinator Outreach Coordinator	Stanford University, School of Medicine Primary Care Associate Program, 1984-1987 San José City College, EOPS Program, 1982-1984
Professor, adjunct	San José City College, History Department, 1981-1984

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Member	Organization of American Historians
Member	National Association of Chicano/Chicana Studies (NACCS)

MEMBERSHIPS / PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

President	Board of Directors, Latino Leadership Council – 2020	Placer County, 2015
Member	Presidential Equity Advisory Committee Sierra College, 2019 – 2020	
Co-writer	Associate of Arts Degree, Chicana & Chicano Studies Ortega, R. and De Unamuno, R. (Spring, 2019) Sierra College	
Co-writer	Course: Social Science 16, Introduction to Chicana/o Studies Ortega, R. and De Unamuno, R. (Fall, 2018) Sierra College	
Member	Native American Student Equity Workgroup, - 2017	Sierra College, 2015
Co-coordinator/Founder	Latino/a Profiles at Sierra College, 2015- 2017	
Vice President	Board of Directors, Latino Leadership Council, 2013-2015	Placer County,
Member	Student Equity Workgroup, College's Chancellor's Office, 2013	California Community
Co-coordinator/Founder	Latino/a Film Festival Series at Sierra College, 2013 - 2018	
Member	Gender Equity Committee, Sierra College, 2012-2014	
Senator	Academic Senate, Sierra College, 2011- 2018	
Faculty Advisor	Puente Club, Sierra College, 2010 – 2020	
Member	Equity and Diversity Action Committee (EDAC), Senate for the California Community Colleges, 2010-2012	Academic
Coordinator/Founder	César Chávez Higher Education Speaker Series, Sierra College, 2009-	
Member	Equal Employment Opportunity Committee, Sierra College, 2008 -2010	
Chair/Founder	New Legacy Committee, Sierra College, 2007-2010	
Writer	Course: History 23, Chicano/Mexican American History Sierra College, (Spring, 2004)	
Commissioner	Placer County Community Services Commission, 1997-2000	
Founder	Sierra College Annual High School Counselor Symposium, 1995	
Member	Board of Directors, Boys and Girls Club, Auburn, California, 1994-1995	

Chair Student Equity Task Force, Sierra College, 1993-1995
Co-Founder Chicano Resource Center, San José State University, 1979

PRESENTATIONS

Who Am I and Why? A perspective on Chicano Studies. Puente Transfer Motivational Conference, Sacramento State University, Sacramento, California, (October 28, 2017).

The History of México through Its Music, Berryessa-Bonner, C. de la Fuente, C. & Ortega, R. The Crocker Art Museum and the Office of the Consulate General of México, Sacramento, California. (September 19, 2014).

Exemption from Non-resident Tuition, AB540. California Community Colleges Student Financial Aid Administrators Association. Burlingame, California, (April, 2007).

The Shifting Sands of Affirmative Action at California's Public Universities, The University Council for Educational Administration, National Convention. Democracy in Educational Leadership: The Unfinished Journey towards Justice. Nashville, Tennessee, (November, 2005).

GUEST EDITORIALS

- Our Anxious Thoughts on Immigration (in preparation)
- Where Are All the Sombreros? (in preparation)
- Engage in Latino Leadership (September, 2016)
- Reflecting on Racial Unrest (August, 2015)
- Cowboy Boots to High Heels (April, 2008)
- A Perspective on Imus (June, 2007)
- A Quick Study on Immigration (July, 2006)

PUBLICATIONS

- Measuring the Educational Benefits of Diversity Between On ground and On-line Courses (manuscript in preparation)
- A History of California Roadside Memorials: A Mexican American/Latino Perspective (manuscript in preparation)
- A Qualitative Study of the Three Eras of Affirmative Action and the Impact on Selected California Educational Leaders (Dissertation, 2005)

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Faculty of the Year, Academic Senate, 2017
- Faculty of the Year, Associated Students at Sierra College, 2013
- Nominee, Dr. John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award, California Community College Chancellor's Office, 2013

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS

- Vargas, Zaragosa,

Crucible of Struggle: A History of Mexican America from Colonial Times to the Present.
Education History Group, (Reviewed, 2008)
Oxford University Press.

Higher

- Foss, Donald. J.,
The Dean's Guide to College Success.
Psychology and Education, (Reviewed, 2010)
John Wiley & Sons.