

Instructionally Related Activities Report Form

SPONSOR: Julia Ornelas-Higdon

PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT: History

ACTIVITY TITLE: Diary of a Reluctant Dreamer, Dr. Alberto Ledesma Book Talk

DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: 11/14/19

Please submit via email to the IRA Coordinator along with any supporting documentation at david.daniels@csuci.edu within 30 days after the activity. Thank you for your commitment to engaging our students!

A. ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- (1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY;
 - (2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?
 - (3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?
 - (4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?
 - (5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?
 - (6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?
 - (7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)
 - 8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.
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B. ATTENDEE LIST- SUPPORTING DOCUMENT:

In addition to the report form, *in a separate document*, attach to your email a list of attendees complete with each student major and grade level. This for IRA Committee reference only and will not be published on the IRA website. Include your name and the title of your IRA activity on the document.

C.IMAGES FROM ACTIVITY:

Finally, attach to your email up to 6 images demonstrating student participation (under 2 MB total) with captions/titles. Please attach these photos in .JPEG format directly to email. Thank you!

(1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

Dr. Alberto Ledesma is the Graduate Diversity Director for the Arts & Humanities at UC Berkeley's Outreach and Diversity Office. He recently published *Diary of a Reluctant Dreamer: Undocumented Vignettes from a Pre-American Life* (The Ohio State University Press, 2017). This hybrid-graphic book brings together art and memoir to detail Dr. Ledesma's experiences as an undocumented student growing up in East Oakland in the 1970s and 1980s. Dr. Ledesma explores the struggles and social trauma associated with being undocumented during this period, as well as his path to academia.

For this event, Dr. Ledesma delivered a public book talk and facilitated a discussion of his book, which students participated in having read his work as part of their required course work. The themes of this book reflect CSUCI's Multicultural Mission, connect to the curriculum in History, Chicano/a Studies, Sociology, and English courses.

(2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

This activity relates to learning objectives from the following courses. Students from these courses attended the lecture.

1. In CHS/SOC 425, Contemporary Immigration Issues:
 - Recognize the contemporary nature of immigration as debated by the legal system, government officials, political interest groups, community groups, migrants/immigrants and citizens/non-citizens.
 - Analyze the multiple definitions of citizenship (i.e. dual citizenship) in a globalized world
 - Compare U.S. immigration and citizenship law with countries around the world.
 - Examine how "citizenship" and "immigration" impacts the social, economic and political configuration of what it means to be "American" and "global citizen."
 - Formulate the various forms of resistance among immigrant rights groups and nativist groups against immigration policies
2. HIST 350 Chicana/o History and Culture
 - Describe the diversity and heterogeneity of the Latina/o population in the United States.
 - Examine the historical and contemporary relations between Latin America and the United States in connection with the divergent incorporation of Latina/o groups in U.S. society.
 - Identify and describe the most pressing societal issues affecting diverse Latina/o communities.
2. ENGL 355 Literature of Africa and the Diaspora

formed understanding of African and African diasporic literatures as part of the Anglophone literary condition.

- Articulate challenges involved in and methods of reading transnationally.
- Articulate a key idea in the politics of representation.
- Analyze literary texts, paying attention to the demands of form.

2. ENGL/HIST/CHS 334 Narratives of Southern California History

- Explain the contributions of diverse migrants and immigrants on the region using both national and international perspectives. (GE 1.1b)
- Understand the central, multicultural narratives of Southern California (GE 1.1a)
- Learn the history of the region by integrating interdisciplinary methods and texts. (GE 1.1c)
- Improve interpretive skills through close reading and contextual analysis
- Strengthen organizing skills by synthesizing information gleaned from readings, guest lecturers, projects, and discussion

3. HIST 369 California History and Culture

- Evaluate California's policies toward racialized minority groups.
- Examine California's political growth in the 20th century.

(3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?

Dr. Ledesma's talk focused on his experiences growing up undocumented in the 1980s in Oakland, CA. He related his educational path and how being "hyperdocumented" shaped his academic success. He also outlined the anxieties and vulnerabilities of being undocumented. Dr. Ledesma concluded his talk by offering advice to our students, particularly those who are first-generation, immigrants, or deal with imposter syndrome in higher education.

(4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?

I would have liked to see more students and faculty from across campus at this event to reflect our campus's interdisciplinary mission pillar. We had many participants from History, Chicana/o Studies, English, and Sociology. However, Dr. Ledesma's message would have been valuable for any student, faculty, or staff member to learn from, particularly given CSUCI's HSI status.

(5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?

I would secure a larger space to accommodate the significant crowd that attended. I requested 80 chairs in the Broome Library Exhibition space, and the event ended up being standing room only with roughly 20 people standing in the back and along the side walls.

FROM THE PROCESS?

I learned that students appreciate the opportunity to attend events in which we bring guest experts from off-campus to complement what they are learning in the classroom.

(7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)

The following are comments taken from students' reflection papers written about this event:

- "On a personal note, one of the reasons I love being a student...is because I am able to enjoy such stimulating events..."
- "Alberto Ledesma offers a different perspective of the American Experience that has its sense of complexity through detailed incidents with his family."
- "As an aspiring educator I have thought about the lives of future students and what their experience might be. Living in California, undocumented students is a reality and something that cannot be forgotten. Dr. Ledesma's book is both eye opening for those that aren't in his shoes and inspiration for those that may be in the future."
- "I think what he is doing is extremely important....Especially with how things are going with our current president I think it's important for people to hear these stories and realize that they aren't bad people, their families trying to do better for their kids and only want them to be able to thrive in this world."
- "What I found most useful in the seminar is the concept of being hyperdocumented and the anxiety that arises from being undocumented in the U.S. This drastically impacts student's views of themselves, their mindset, and ultimately school performance. I being a future educator must understand my student struggles and make school a safe zone. I want my classroom climate to be a positive oasis for student....These undocumented students might never feel secure...but hopefully can experience security in my classroom."

(8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.

Dr. Ledesma's honorarium totaled \$1700. In addition, we spent roughly \$30 to copy color flyers to advertise the event.

B. ON SEPARATE DOCUMENT, PLEASE ATTACH ATTENDEE LIST (PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFO REMOVED)

See attached. Note that this list is not complete as all attendees did not sign in.

C. PLEASE INCLUDE UP TO 6 IMAGES AS ATTACHMENTS TO YOUR SUBMISSION



California State
University

**INSTRUCTIONALLY
RELATED
ACTIVITIES**

C H A N N E L
I S L A N D S

See attached



DIARY *of a* RELUCTANT DREAMER

*Undocumented Vignettes,
a Pre-American Life*

ALBERTO LEDES



