

Instructionally Related Activities Report Form

February 1, 2016

SPONSOR: Frank Barajas

PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT: History

ACTIVITY TITLE: Chicana/Latina: Learning and Leadership of the Past and Present

DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: April 1, 2015 and October 27, 2015

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. ✓
-

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 This for IRA Committee reference only and will not be published on the IRA website.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

BOTH PROGRAMS CONSISTED OF A LECTURE TO THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY AND WAS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. THEY ALSO ENTAILED WORKSHOPS THAT ALLOWED STUDENTS AND FACULTY TO HAVE A MORE INTIMATE CONVERSATION WITH THE GUESTS REGARDING THE THEME OF THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP.

DR. VICKI L. RUIZ'S VISIT COMPLEMENTED THE CAMPUS'S CELEBRATION OF CESAR E. CHAVEZ'S LIFE AND LEGACY.

MS. MARIA ECHAVESTE'S VISIT BELATEDLY COMPLEMENTED THE UNIVERSITY'S CELEBRATION OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH IN SEPTEMBER.

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

Diversity and the heterogeneity of the Latino/a population in the United States
OUTCOME: THE LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS LINKED HISTORICAL EVENTS WITH CONTEMPORARY ISSUES OF THE PRESENT. AS A HISTORIAN, DR. RUIZ DISCUSSED EVENTS OF THE PAST IN RELATION TO THE LEADERSHIP OF LATINAS IN THE UNITED STATES. MS. MARIA EHCAVESTE, ON THE OTHER HAND, BROADLY SPOKE TO THE POLITICS OF REPRESENTATION IN THE NATION IN RELATION TO EDUCATION, ELECTORAL POLITICS, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND LAW. BOTH SPEAKERS DISCUSSED THE IMPORTANCE OF A HIGHER EDUCATION TO IMPROVE THE LIFE CHANCES OF STUDENTS AND TO WORK FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE.

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

THE PROMINENCE OF BOTH SPEAKERS WERE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY. THE COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT PROVIDED BY DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE CAMPUS TO MAKE THE EVENTS A SUCCESS WERE ALSO STRENGTHS.

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

THE LIGHTING IN THE GRAND SALON FOR THE MARIA EHCAVESTE'S OCTOBER 27 LECTURE WAS INADEQUATE. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS HAS BEEN CORRECTED.

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

I WOULD INTEGRATE THE ASSISTANCE OF STUDENTS IN THE PLANNING AND CONDUCT OF THE EVENTS.

(6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?

THIS PROGRAM WAS ONE OF SEVERAL DURING MY TENURE AT CI. EACH EVENT HAS ITS OWN UNIQUE SET OF CHALLENGES IN TERMS OF PREPARATION AND NAVIGATING THE INCREASING LAYERS OF BUREAUCRATIC REQUIREMENTS AS OUR INSTITUTION MATURATES. HENCE, I HAVE LEARNED TO BE AS PROACTIVE AS POSSIBLE IN THE ANTICIPATION OF PROBLEMS OCCURRING.

Please enter response

(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)

SEE EMAIL ATTACHMENTS

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

THE HONORARIUMS FOR THE BOTH GUESTS WERE THE LARGEST EXPENSE OF THE PROGRAM. SINCE THE EVENTS WERE ON CAMPUS, THE ONLY OTHER SIGNIFICANT COST WAS THE RENTAL OF A STAGE, CHAIR, AND STEP FOR THE ECHAVESTE LECTURE.

Please enter response

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

SAME AS EVALUATIONS. SIGN IN SHEETS LOST

**C. PLEASE INCLUDE UP TO 6 IMAGES AS ATTACHMENTS TO YOUR SUBMISSION
SEE EMAIL ATTACHMENT**

STUDENT EVALUATION OF VICKI L. RUIZ AND MARIA ECHAVESTE EVENTS

VICKI L. RUIZ WORKSHOP AND LECTURE

CA History 369

April 13, 2015

Discuss the takeaways you received from her Lecture:

I attended the discussion of Vicki L. Ruiz on April 1st 2015. Mrs. Ruiz brought up a lot of intriguing facts in regards to farmworkers in California. For instance, in 1939 there was a big strike amongst all minority workers that wanted a raise from 25 cents to 45 cents. The group called the Minority workers eventually went on strike due to the bad conditions of their pay. These workers had to pick cotton and they had felt that the pay was disrespectful compared to the amount of work they had to do.

Another great point that was brought up during the lecture was the topic on Luisa Morena, the activist and leader in the United States labor movement. Morena unionized workers, led strikes and was the first Latina to hold in office. She rallied people to fight for their rights. Morena had strong beliefs in decentralization. She wanted fellow coworkers to treat each other with respect despite the negative environment. Morena's childhood was very different in comparison to other activist. Fortunately, she was raised in a wealthy family. Luis Morena became a major figure in the Latin community because of her role in the Mexican- American civil rights movement.

During the lecture, Maria Torrez is another important activist that was mentioned. Torres was born poor in the state of Texas. Torrez and her husband Luis Orelo both worked on the farm picking pieces of scraps that workers had left behind prior. She gave birth to twelve kids and one of them ended up becoming blind due to malnutrition.

Unfortunately most of her kids did not end up completing elementary school. Torrez was known for her outspoken mind. In the fields, she was known to put people in their place and proving to them that she could do a man's job. As a result of her outspokenness and determination she was asked to speak in many college seminars to speak on equality in race and gender. Torres' courage became profitable and resulted in attracting many crowds wherever she went.

During the end of the lecture, Vicki Ruiz introduced a short preview of her film *Adios Amor*. The film was a documentary about Maria Torres' life. In the late 1920's Torres started to work in agriculture. Although she had little education, she was very intelligent and proved that in and out of the fields. Torres was known for her quickness in words and her bossiness in the fields. There was one funny moment in the film in which her husband is being interviewed and says that everyday at work he was always the driver while she would sleep in the car. Maria's life was modest and one can tell by the short clip that her family adored her. The motivation of her children is what kept her at a job that only paid \$14.00 per week. The concern for her children is what led her to fight for the equality. Eventually she was banned and pushed out of the movement for social Justice. After being banned she became a minister and devoted her life to her religious faith.

Overall, Vicki Ruiz was very informative. Ruiz changed my whole perspective on how difficult life was on the fields as a farmer. It was intriguing to me that there are so many other individuals that were important to the movement besides the well known Cesar Chavez. Learning, reading and attending these lectures have brought so much growth and awareness to me as Hispanic.

XXX

April 21 2015

California History

Reflection

Research and Writing Workshop

As I am getting closer to my senior year at Cal State Channel Islands, and having graduate school on my mind, I found Vicki Ruiz research and writing workshop to be helpful. This workshop provided guidance and awareness of what to expect from highly competitive graduate schools. Being a well-known historian and scholar, she clearly presented the valuable information. Ruiz emphasized that writing plays a huge role when applying and attending graduate school. As she kept mentioning that writing is the focal point, my confidence level kind of shook. Writing has always been a struggle of mine as long as I can remember. Looking back, I needed tutors to write well-written papers.

Unfortunately as a child I was always compared to my older sister for her achievements in academics, especially in English. Even though I was compared I knew that my parents only wanted the best for me. My parents were not given the same opportunities because of their immigrant background. Being considered a “minority” back then was more of a struggle to find a place in society in education.

As Professor Ruiz talked about her experiences and advice on how to take graduate school by the horns it gave me comfort. Professor Ruiz said, “ Writing is a skill, anyone can learn”. I can personally relate to this because even though I did not feel like a writer I made an effort and pushed myself to become better. I had mentors in college that helped me get through the hurdle and succeed as a writer. She said that the best papers

are the ones that have passion rather than the ones that are just simply assigned. Passion tells the story and hooks the reader; therefore giving one a paper with imagination and conciseness. I cannot explain how much inspiration and drive she gave me in this workshop with the topic of writing. I am now aware that I need to continue to keep practicing my writing skills and master it so I can feel confident enough to use it as a tool to further my academic career.

Professor Ruiz also touched based on other important aspects besides writing. Ruiz mentioned how academic pedigree, a mentor and funding is what is needed for graduate school. Doing great work as an undergraduate reflects on whether you will be accepted to graduate school and the same goes for a doctorate. Basically, everything builds on everything else. It is not only important to show that you can write but prove that you're a quality student with recommendation letters, and grade point average. It is also very utile to build relationships with your professors as an undergrad because they can mentor and write the recommendation letters for graduate school. Another great point that was brought up was getting a job in the field that one wants to work. For instance, Ruiz mentioned how volunteering for everything can speed up the process of getting a job. Seeking mentors helps not only further ones academics but provides the emotional support during their academic career.

Research and Writing Workshop: Dr. Vicky L. Ruiz

As time grows closer to graduation, and having applied to my first graduate school, I am constantly seeking guidance and advice from scholars in my school. Last week, I had the privilege of participating in a research and writing workshop presented by a well-known historian, scholar, and a woman of color, Professor Vicky L. Ruiz. She enlighten many of us with her wise knowledge and experience. As a student of color

myself, I look for the hand-full of faculty that I can relate and identify with. Having her here, was simply fulfilling.

Prof. Ruiz, began by stating that *anyone* can learn how to write, she said that “writing is a skill anyone can learn.” In a way, this was empowering for many of us that at some point have felt discouraged in the area of writing. To this day, I am working to better my writing every day. Her statement motivated me. I am aware that as a future graduate student one of the most important papers I will write is my dissertation. My entire graduate education will revolve around writing and research. For this reason, I was glad she touched on the importance of writing a thesis. Having a clear, concise, and strong thesis, is key to a successful dissertation.

Prof. Ruiz went over some important items, I liked how she went over the differences between literature review and history. For example, she shared that in history finding historical documents requires patience. The amazing part of history, is discovering and building connections with current events. Most of the terms she used, I have heard, but I could never connect the facts with my life. Prof. Ruiz, was able to not only able to teach us some important research skills, but also help us find connections in a way I can relate.

More important to me than anything else, was her advice on how serious graduate school is. She touched on the importance of time and discipline. In other words, she said that graduate school is like another job. Prof. Ruiz reminded us that money should not keep us from attending graduate school. She concluded with some tips on funding our graduate school: working on campus and also being involved through volunteer work. She also said to seek mentors. I strongly support that, as I wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for my mentors that believed in me, and guided me. I take away from this workshop some excellent advice. It was both educational and gratifying to learn from Prof. Ruiz.

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Thread:

Vicky Ruiz

Post:

Vicky Ruiz

April 21, 2015 8:09 PM

Status:

Published

Although I had to leave early that day, I Remember Vicky Ruiz talking about the need of Labor Unions for a Mexican American society that was experiencing all kinds of discrimination. Labor Unions brought hope and a reason to unify not only a particular ethnicity, but also a lower class of laborers who were degraded through the miserable conditions of work. also how the landowners and corporates would impose a socio-ethnic discrimination. The roll of Labor unions not only awaken the capacity of workers to

rise up against injustices but also a Chicano Movement that emerge influenced by the emerging organizations and unions demanding much more decent conditions and equality.

[Reply](#) [Quote](#) [Mark as Read](#)



Thread:

Vicki Ruiz Lecture

Post:

Vicki Ruiz Lecture

Posted Date:

April 11, 2015 10:26 PM

Edited Date:

April 11, 2015 10:26 PM

Status:

Published

The lecture given by Vicki Ruiz a great historian captured the stories of two immigrant women and their struggles growing up in an era where women did not have a voice. Vicki brings to life this voice that otherwise would not have been heard, the lives of these two amazing women Lucy Moreno and Maria Moreno now have a special place in my heart for what they did for the Mexican immigrants. The passion in Vicki's research gives an account into the importance that both Maria and Lucy played, Lucy was born on August 30, 1907 in Guatemala in growing up she knew education was necessary and desired a university education. Lucy then leaves to New York in search for a new adventure as an art student her professor was the world renowned Diego Rivera which instilled in her many of his traits such as propaganda social realism and to have a voice. With this she joined the communist party also joining the American Federation of Labor, helping raise money behind the scenes for the Sleepy Lagoon defendants. Helping out those Chicanos in need made her a pioneer in the movement at the time. Vicki Ruiz in great detail talks about how Lucy did not want any privileges that whites had and wanted to be known for who she was a proud Latina. In the end Lucy went through deportation proceedings and says "they can deport me but they can never deport the people I worked with and things I accomplished."

The next amazing women that Vicki talks about was Maria Torrez Moreno Vicki starts out by saying how small of a woman Maria was at 4'11" but also how feisty she was. Maria was born in 1920 in Texas and only had a second grade education she married at a young age and had a migrant mother but was herself an American citizen. She herself was a mother of 12 children and worked in the fields alongside the men and was as tough as them. What set her apart was how she was a leader and was very good at talking what was mentioned as a fearless style she spoke up for the workers rights. The thoughts that I took away from this lecture presented beautifully by Vicki Ruiz was how the women at the time were mostly housewives and did not have a chance to make an income like that men very often. Even more amazing was to have a woman speaking on behalf of an organization only a woman with great presence and pride would be able to go toe to toe with the men. Lastly the courage for these two women in a man's world to not let anyone intimidate them or tell them otherwise. These Latino women reinforced what I learned before that history shows that those who came before us blazed a path for future generations to follow many of these stories were lost because of their accounts going unpublished but as a Chicano it is our responsibility to tell these stories and respect the ones who suffered before us to make this world a more better place for Latinos. To end these reflections I would just like to thank professor Vicki Ruiz for sharing with us these stories that I can tell my children and hopefully they can tell theirs to keep history alive and well.

[Reply](#) [Quote](#) [Mark as Read](#)



Thread:

Posted Date:

April 10, 2015 11:39 PM

Edited Date:

April 10, 2015 11:39 PM

Status:

Published

On April 1st, 2015, I had the pleasure to attend Dr. Vicki Ruiz' workshop at the Broome Library. Dr. Vicki Ruiz, a professional historian, with the many years of experience working with graduate students and Universities she became the mentor to all of us in the audience. Her workshop was amazing, she spoke about the writing structure to follow when writing an essay in response to a book which I would definitely considered on using for the my future essays that I have to write. She emphasized the importance of writing and the only way to improve your writing skills is to read a lot and write more often. Dr. Ruiz explained the difference between "Theme" and "Thesis" when writing your paper and she made a couple of suggestions to some books that we can refer to if ever need help with the citations and bibliographies.

Dr. Ruiz mentioned a couple of tips for those who are planning on attending graduate school in pursuit of higher education. She talked about how as a student you can face difficulties throughout your academic career. I was very pleased that she spoke with a positive attitude, that encouraged students to strive for more than your bachelor and kept students interested in the lecture/workshop. Maybe one thing of things that could have improved was the audio; unfortunately, I had a hard time listening to her talk during her lecture and the workshop. However, the pictures and the video help more to understand the lecture. After all, she was talking about a very important topic. I would like to thank Dr. Frank for giving us the opportunity to meet Dr. Vicki Ruiz and having her lecture us and mentor us as undergrads.

Reply [Quote](#) [Mark as Read](#)



Thread:

Dr. Ruiz's Lecture

Post:

[Dr. Ruiz's Lecture](#)

Author:

April 3, 2015 4:07 PM

Status:

Published

Dr. Vicki L. Ruiz's lecture on Wednesday April 1st entitled "The Right to Remember: Latina Labor Leaders in California Agriculture" was very inspiring. I enjoyed how it looked at labor organizing in a different light, from the perspective of women. The stories of Maria Moreno and Luisa Moreno offer insight into how women dealt with this time and the struggles that came with being a working woman in world that was dominated by men. We have learned about the contributions that Cesar Chavez made with the United Farm Workers Movement. The most discussed woman on this topic would be Dolores Huerta, but even she does not get much attention as compared to Chavez. This is a challenge to the commonly accepted knowledge that Cesar Chavez was one of a few who was doing this type of work. As Dr. Ruiz has pointed out, that is

clearly not the case and there were many others who were doing similar work and did not get the recognition that they deserve.

I was very inspired by the story of her intellectual journey. She was a first generation college student who went to community college and ended up getting her doctorate from Stanford. That resonates with me because I have big dream of becoming a professor and working in college administration so it is always motivating to see someone who worked hard and achieved their goals. I wanted to attend the writing workshop with her but was unable to because I have a class at that time. It seemed like a truly valuable experience when we were discussing it in class so I am looking forward to possibly seeing the video that was taken of it in the future.

I also enjoyed seeing how relaxed and comfortable she is speaking. I am sure that that comes with many years of practice and an occupation which requires it. I am slowly getting better at public speaking but it is still a challenge for me. She is one of the top historians in the country and has the right to all of the clout that comes with all of her credentials but she remains so personable. That gives her the opportunity to be the mentor to so many people who have gone off to do great things themselves. I believe that that is the mark of a great intellectual and leader, the ability to use your own worth to help jumpstart opportunities to up and comers. I am also very excited to see the movie that she showed a clip from. It helps a great deal to have the stories that she told bolstered with a visual aid such as that movie. The unrelated Morenos broke down barriers by "doing the same job as men" and they were not afraid to dirty their reputations or make enemies because they understood that not everyone would be satisfied with them and that is all part of the grander scheme. Overall, I enjoyed Dr. Ruiz's lecture very much.

Select: [All](#) [None](#)

Mark 



May 11, 2015 9:23 PM

Status:

Published

Attachment:  [hist extra.docx](#) (13.667 KB)

Reply [Quote](#) [Mark as Unread](#)



Thread:

Vicki L. Ruiz Extra Credit

Post:

Vicki L. Ruiz Extra Credit

Author:



Jessica Solis

Posted Date:

May 6, 2015 12:30 PM

Status:

Published

I enjoyed attending this event. It was an event that I really paid attention to because of the fact that it was a real person giving real advice about her own real journey. I felt like I could take advice from her when she discussed that she wasn't ready for college at the age of 18, but that community college gave her the confidence to do it. What really inspired me was the fact that she grew up without luxuries but never stopped working for what she wanted. Her mother worked as a donut girl and even with her supporting her mother and her two siblings she kept going.

I was able to relate to her when she discussed how she was not bright throughout school, and that it wasn't until she attended community college where people thought she was smart. One specific thing I took in mind was when she said, "Writing is learned, anybody can learn how to write, it's a skill". I'm not specifically into history or writing, I'm a biology major, but that had me thinking that not only can writing be learned, but anything can be learned and if you don't get it right the first time you keep pushing yourself until you have it down. She talked a lot more about writing, but most of the things that she said about it I already knew. All throughout school I was a pretty good writer, even my teachers would call me out on it and asked me to help other students. I've never really liked writing enough to consider having a career out of it though.

Unlike Mrs. Ruiz, I actually have always had in mind that I will go to graduate school, but hearing her advice and what she had to say about graduate school encouraged me even more to keep going, because there are days where you tell yourself, "What am I even doing here?" Her story encouraged me to be more open-minded and develop closer relationships with professors because surrounding yourself with smarter and influential people can get you opportunities. Another thing I placed in my head for the rest of my career is to treat graduate school as a job and not as a lifestyle. Right now as an undergrad student I don't take most things as serious as I should, so I thought it was really important for her that's been in graduate school and know what it's all about to advice that. There are many things she said that really stuck to me. My mind is set that from now on I will volunteer for everything in order to meet people who might help me throughout my career and be successful.

Attachment:  [history extra credit .docx \(99.675 KB\)](#)

[Reply](#)
[Quote](#)
[Mark as Read](#)
**Thread:**

Vicki L. Ruiz extra credit

Post:

Vicki L. Ruiz extra credit

May 3, 2015 10:20 PM

Status:

Published

On Vicki L. Ruiz's lecture on April 1st, I found her own personal story of how she got to where she was, equally as interesting as what she shared about Maria Moreno. Dr. Ruiz is currently a professor at UC Irvine where she is able to share her passion for history and Chicano literature. Her passion for history stems back to her earlier days as a child where she was plagued with severe asthma. She spent a majority of her days inside reading and listening to her mother's stories of when she was a young girl. Dr. Ruiz went on to attend Gulf Coast Community College and then Florida State University. She had originally planned on becoming a teacher but it was one of her professors who motivated her to pursue a Ph.D. Impressively, Vicki Ruiz earned her Masters and Ph.D. from the University of Stanford.

After giving a brief overview of her life, Dr. Ruiz went on to talk about a woman named Maria Moreno. Maria Moreno was a brave mother of twelve who fought endlessly to improve conditions and pay for migrant workers. Working tirelessly in the scorching sun without an area to go to the bathroom, migrant workers were not being paid sufficiently. Not nearly enough to live on, let alone raise a family with twelve children so Maria realized that something had to be done. Poverty stricken and having to take on the thankless job of raising children, Maria began traveling all around giving speeches in hope of making a change in the labor union. What is truly disheartening is that her courageous efforts were not recognized in textbooks or taught in schools. Before listening to this presentation I had no idea who Maria Moreno was or what impact she had on California's agriculture. I previously thought that Cesar Chavez was the first to shed light on this issue and strive for improved conditions for migrant workers everywhere. All in all, I found Vicki L. Ruiz's lecture both very informing as well as eye opening. After watching the Class Dismissed video and learning about Maria Moreno's story, I am curious what other information students are being excluded from.

Writing Workshop

The Vicki Ruiz workshop that I attended this afternoon in the Broome Library was really good. Ms. Ruiz began her talk with background information about herself. Her mother worked in a doughnut shop and really emphasized education for her as well as her sister. Ms. Ruiz's mother encouraged her to be a teacher. Both she and her sister became teachers. Her educational path included junior college then on to Florida State University.

Ruiz emphasized that writing is a learned skill and believes that anyone can learn to write. She shared a trick. Her trick is to remember that the noun is doing

the action. She also said to know the difference between a theme (what is the story about?...what is being talked about?) and a thesis (what do we want people to read? it is your argument).

She spoke to the group about the format of the paper. In the first paragraph include what the theme is. Next, use the evidence that you have and how are you build your argument. Be sure to back up what you are saying. Finally include the interpretation. Do you agree or disagree with the author's interpretation and why or why not? At this point of the workshop, Ms. Ruiz gave examples using families from Texas. She also spoke Alamo, which was interesting to me.

Ruiz also emphasized asking questions when deciding to write. Some questions would be, Why should people care? why should I care? Each paragraph should build on the next. Follow paragraphs. March through time and have a beginning and an end. Give the reader guideposts along the way as you build your evidence for your arguments. She also said to "weave" theory into the argument. Finally develop a conclusion. Give the reader a second chance to hear your argument.

Vicki Ruiz stressed that you really need to like what you do. Though things are easily found online there are times that research can be hard and can take a lot of time. She compared working with archives is like going on a treasure hunt.

I am really glad I attended the workshop. Her tricks and tips of writing research were helpful. The group had some really good questions and she answered them clearly and made them relevant to the workshop. I especially liked when she said that we should bring our imagination and values into our work. Another thing I was glad to hear was that she uses and recommends Turabian as a source for writing citations. Ms. Ruiz was uplifting and encouraging and the workshop was completely worthwhile.

[Reply](#) [Quote](#) [Mark as Read](#)



Thread:

Extra Credit Vicki. Ruiz

Posted Date:

April 22, 2015 10:55 PM

Professor Barajas

History 270

15 April 2015

During Vicki L. Ruiz's event, I was fascinated to know how she got to where she is today. She currently is a history professor at UC Irvine, all because of the influence of one of her professors. Ruiz emphasized how important it was to not only have good grades, but also have teacher-student relationships. She explained that she was pushed

and encouraged to write because a professor saw talent in her work. Ruiz noted that she never saw herself becoming a good writer, or even applying for grad school. I learned that when you apply to graduate school, they look at your writing to see how well you can illustrate your knowledge. She says that no matter what field you're getting into, you need to be a good writer. Ruiz taught me that the necessary components you need for an essay include a theme and a thesis. The difference between them is that a theme is a story, while a thesis is your argument. It is best to use both in your first paragraph, and have the following paragraph be evidence, while your last is your interpretation. When it comes to research papers, she claims you first want to begin with a hook in order to capture the reader. Second, is to build your thesis. Afterwards it's important to give the reader guideposts as well as citing information. Lastly, your conclusion briefly encapsulates the thesis. I was impressed to know that these details can affect the quality of a paper. Ruiz gave multiple examples as to how historical events seem to change over time, and text books can contribute to lost information. I was fascinated as to how highly she talks about her passion for history. I was curious to know more information about her achievements and came across the fact that she contributed to the publication of our history book, *Created Equal: A Social and Political History of the United States*. I am pleased she came to our campus to give us insight as to finding your own passion in life.

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Thread:

Extra

Posted Date:

April 9, 2015 9:56 PM

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April 9, 2015 12:53 PM

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During the Presentation Vicki Ruiz held at the Broome Library, I could honestly say I learned many things I was truly not so aware or at all aware of, especially when it came to the importance of them. For example the first and by far the most important thing I learned during the presentation was that in order to apply and get accepted into any graduate school not only must you have a high GPA and plenty of extracurricular activities which include volunteering around your community, but I learned that the most important thing graduate schools look at during admissions is whether you are a good writer or not, having the proper writing skills makes a tremendous difference in whether or not you get admitted to grad school or not. Vicki did however mention that not everyone is born a good writer, she herself had never been a good writer but, with the help from her college professors she was able to become a better writer and obtain the skills she needed to get admitted into grad school. Vicki's personal experience made me realize that as long as I continue practicing, putting in the hard work, dedication and effort I myself can become a better writer and have this skills required to be admitted in grad school. What I also found extremely helpful to know was how she mentioned that having and making good relationships with your professors can also be a tremendous advantage because not only can you go to them when you are in need of help or if you did not understand a certain topic they talked about in class, you can also go knowing that once you come out of their office you will come out being an expert at what they were talking about in class. Having a good relationship with your professor not only helps you maintain good grades but, most importantly it can help you when you are in need of letters of recommendation, which is one of the most important things you need to have when applying to graduate school. Overall I found Vicki's presentation extremely helpful it helped me not only get better writing tips on things that I should do and should not do when writing a paper but, it also gave me the confidence and the courage to apply to grad school after I graduate from CSUCI. Attending the presentation also made me realize that not only having a bachelor's degree is important but, that getting my PHD is even more important and recommended by many professors, because I will not only be getting paid more but, I will also have a bigger advantage when applying to a job position those who only have bachelor's degrees do not have. In today's generation people including, companies, managers etc... are all looking for people who are well educated and have a

higher degree than just a bachelor's degree because there are so many people with bachelor's degrees already, it is important to keep an open mind and know that although grad school will be even more difficult than college, it is still important to know that it will pay off once you graduate. In conclusion I really enjoyed the presentation and found it very helpful.

April 7, 2015 3:49 PM

Status:

Published

Adios Amor

In this lecture, I learned many things that I had not previously known. Maria Moreno was not somebody that I had heard about before this presentation. She was a labor worker and mother of twelve. She had quite an impact on shedding light to the labor conditions and the poverty that struck many workers. The presentation also made me realize what the textbooks leave out of American History—we are only getting bits and pieces. This presentation being the day after we celebrate the famous Cesar Chavez for his efforts in reform, we focus on a person that came before him, but yet is still overshadowed. It is crazy to think that I wouldn't have the slightest idea of who she was if I wouldn't have gone. Why is that? According to the presenter, Vicki L. Ruiz, she and her children suffered through severe poverty and she had a talent for sharing her story for the better of her community. Her son once went temporarily blind for three days due to malnutrition. She went to schools and held other public speeches to try and change things. Ruiz explained that she was also really proud of being a woman—Moreno stated that she can work like a man and is proud of it. Moreno explained in an interview that she was getting \$100n dollars a week which, comparatively, would be \$14 present day. Ruiz then showed us a clip that was a trailer for an upcoming documentary on Maria Moreno's life and impact on the labor union. Her nine remaining kids and colleagues help share her story to the world. Moreno, unfortunately, had to return to Mexico because of outside pressures and later died there. I hope that this documentary will help spread her story and eventually lead to her input in American history. I am honored to have been able to attend Ruiz's presentation and look forward to finding my true passion in life as she did.

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April 4, 2015 4:45 PM Adios Amor

In this lecture, I learned many things that I had not previously known. Maria Moreno was not somebody that I had heard about before this presentation. She was a labor worker and mother of twelve. She had quite an impact on shedding light to the labor conditions and the poverty that struck many workers. The presentation also made me realize what the textbooks leave out of American History—we are only getting bits and pieces. This presentation being the day after we celebrate the famous Cesar Chavez for his efforts in reform, we focus on a person that came before him, but yet is still overshadowed. It is crazy to think that I wouldn't have the slightest idea of who she was if I wouldn't have gone. Why is that? According to the presenter, Vicki L. Ruiz, she and her children suffered through severe poverty and she had a talent for sharing her story for the better of her community. Her son once went temporarily blind for three days due to malnutrition. She went to schools and held other public speeches to try and change things. Ruiz explained that she was also really proud of being a woman—Moreno stated that she can work like a man and is proud of it. Moreno explained in an interview that she was getting \$100n dollars a week which, comparatively, would be \$14 present day. Ruiz then showed us a clip that was a trailer for an upcoming documentary on Maria Moreno's life and impact on the labor union. Her nine remaining kids and colleagues help share her story to the world. Moreno, unfortunately, had to return to Mexico because of outside pressures and later died there. I hope that this documentary will help spread her story and eventually lead to her input in American history. I am honored to have been able to attend Ruiz's presentation and look forward to finding my true passion in life as she did.

MARIA ECHAVESTE WORKSHOP AND LECTURE

December 1, 2015

History 369

Maria Echaveste

Maria Echaveste was born in Texas and was the oldest of 7. Later in life they moved here to California where she attended Channel Islands High School. She was the first class to ever attend that school. She continued her education at Stanford University where she received her BA in anthropology. From her BA she went on to get her Juris Doctor at UC Berkeley.

Echaveste's father did not know how to read or write and she taught him how to write since it was very important when he was going to sign papers. From there her father was later able to read and write in Spanish and a fair amount in English. Her father was very old school and always questioned, "How much education does a girl need?" Her mother and herself when behind her father's back to continue her education. Her mother went on to take her to bus and that's when she first left her house to get a career. Her father was not pleased but she knew she was doing the right thing. She explains her struggle of education as a "girl who is not allowed to explore much". Many see the role of a woman as to stay home, clean, take care of the children but she did not believe that she believed in being open to people and places and exploring different things that is different from what one is used to. She sees that our parents just want us to stick to what we know because they are scared for us but the only fear that can happen is not letting your children get a career and being successful. She is really encouraging and emphasizes in "taking self-knowledge" and "believe in yourself". In order to make those life goals come true you need to work hard, never give up and believe you can and you will.

Echaveste grew up in our backyard, Oxnard. I did not know of her story so hearing she is a local and hearing how much she has done is very inspiring. She was a former U.S. presidential advisor to Bill Clinton. Maria had a lot of focus and dealt with immigration, labor and education issues. She has a lot of background to those topics where now she wants to make a difference. She gave us an amazing statistic where before California was in the top 5 now we are in lowest 5, very scary to know how poor our

schools are doing. She is very empowering, and motivating and another important topic she touched upon was women. She advises that the Latina women need to find their voice. They should not be scared to speak up and stand up for what they believe in. Just as she believed in herself, I would have never thought of seeing one of our locals working at the White House, anything is possible.

A question was asked on her main goals now. She touched based on her 3 main goals, which have to do with food, voting, and US ambassador. Out of those 3 the 2 main ones I can remember most about was voting and US ambassador. She wants to start getting the Latino community to voting. They do not get heard or they feel they do no matter that they do not vote but she wants to make a difference of that and get the Latino community to step up. When I heard her goal of being an ambassador that shocked me in a positive way. A woman does not get the respect she deserves when running campaigns or involved in politics. So to see she has this as her goal its inspiring to see she does not let society bring her down but instead it pushes her to make a difference in others lives. She has seen what goes on throughout the states so she has to ability to make a difference.

Maria Echaveste is a very strong and empowering woman. She gives women and men the motivation they need to fight to get to their life dreams. She does not see struggles as an obstacle to stop you from getting where you are. Throughout her presentation she strongly emphasized, “Believe in yourself”. She could have not said it any better to encourage students to reach their career and goals.

History 369
Dr. Barajas
November 4, 2015

Leadership Workshop – Extra Credit

On October 27, 2015, I attended the Leadership Workshop by María Echaveste, who was a guest speaker at our university. As a Latina, former White House Chief of Staff, during the Clinton Administration, and a person who continues to advocate for labor rights and education, I found Mrs. Echaveste to be both admirable and inspiring.

María Echavesta, the oldest of seven children, whose father was an illiterate farmworker, graduated from Stanford and received a law degree that enabled her to continue on to the White House. Despite the lack of support from her father, her mother supported Mrs. Echaveste's dream of higher education. Though she was criticized by some of her colleagues for going into corporate law after receiving her Juris Doctorate degree, after some time, Echaveste was in a position to effect important change for Latino communities.

In her reflection of the trajectory of her career, Mrs. Echaveste has absolutely no misgivings, and credits her experience as a corporate lawyer as foundational because it helped her advance her career and eventually enabled her to help community in a meaningful way. Her interest in learning and love of reading as a child, were two attributes she feels helped her succeed academically. She feels our current educational system needs to be overhauled, as we are currently 46 on an international level in regards to the dollar amount spent on educating students. Mrs. Echaveste's experience makes her believe she is able to work towards improving our educational system.

In addition to her concern about education, Mrs. Echaveste has a great desire to become an Ambassador to México in the future. She not only has familial ties to what she describes as a "beautiful country," but also believes she can effect much needed change there and is willing to work hard to do so. I find María Echaveste to be a great example of a Latina in action that has the heart and the drive to improve Latino communities.

Frank Barajas
Extra credit
Leadership workshop
27 October 2015

Leadership Workshop

I attended the leadership workshop on October 27th at 3 p.m. I found this workshop to be different than other workshops that I have been to. When I first

heard about the workshop I did not know what it was going to be about or even why it was a big deal that this lady, Maria, was going to be talking to us. It was not until the introduction was made that I realized she came from a Mexican family that did not want her to attend college, law school to be exact. Her attending college was a big step for her but what she did with her degree after was even bigger, and what she continues to do. After law school she was offered to work in the white house with the president. Although she has a great life now her life was not always easy and she had to overcome a lot of things.

She was born into a Mexican background, which meant that girls were not a lot to do a lot of things. Also her father had no education background and was basically illiterate. Her mom who only had an education of second grade had to help her father learn to speak in Spanish. Maria was the oldest of seven children. When she wanted to go off to college she had the hardest time because she was the first one to go. Another problem for her was that her father did not want her to go so she had to get her mother to drive her to the bus stop so that way she could get onto the bus and off to Stanford University. She did not go into much detail about what happened between her and her relationships with her parents after she left for college but I would assume they went through some tough times. But once she graduated college her father realized that girls/females could accomplish and do the same things as men so he threw her a graduation party.

After she talked about what it was like to go to college and graduate she talked a little about what it was like working in the white house. She said "I couldn't believe that a farmer's daughter made it here, made it to the white house to work." I think that really is amazing because a lot of people are told they are not able to do something or they aren't going to accomplish much because they come from low-income families. I do not think that is true, I think with enough support someone can accomplish anything if they really want to. Although she did not go into great detail about who supported her and helped her get to college there had to be people at school that pushed her to go, her mom helped her, and she helped herself by reading about college and knowing that she wanted to go.

Now that she is not working in the white house I think it is amazing on what she wants to do. She wants to be ambassador of Mexico so that way one-day Mexico and the US can join to be one. She wants to help Mexico get the resources that they need in order for them to go to school and not have to drop out at a young age to help their families earn money. I also think it's good that she wants to help children realize that there are bigger things out there than just themselves and they should get involved in order to make a difference because they are going to be left with the aftermath of what happened because of the climate change and food and water sources running low.

Overall I enjoyed this workshop because it opened up my eyes to see that if we don't start doing something now then what we leave behind for generations to come won't be enough for them to survive. She also gave me the impression that even if all the odds are against you, you should still go out there and do what you want because you are the one living your life and even though people may not agree with you right in that moment they will eventually understand why you did what you did.

#00
History 270
October 27th, 2015

Maria Echaveste Reflection

Maria Echaveste offered amazing advice during her workshop that made me reflect on my own life. Ms. Echaveste stated in her lecture how important it was for us as students to have “a willingness to be open”. By following this, she changed her life for the better. She explained how she knows that opening ourselves up to the world could be a scary concept, but reassured us that it will be worth it in the end. I am currently struggling with exposing myself to more opportunities in life, but Ms. Echaveste made a valid point. If she would have closed herself off to different opportunities in life, such as Stanford, she wouldn’t have accomplished as much as she did. By exposing herself to new opportunities she also became more confident in who she was as a person and even inspired her siblings to follow in her footsteps. Her experiences affected me because I myself have a younger sister who looks at the decisions I make in life. So after listening to how Ms. Echaveste’s siblings were inspired to go to college after watching her graduate and become successful showed me how I could influence my sister’s life decisions.

What made her lecture so surreal was the fact that she came from Colonia. It’s almost hard to believe that someone who made it to the white house came from somewhere close to home. Having the opportunity to listen to Ms. Echaveste share her road to success was truly inspiring and I really appreciate that she took the time to visit us here at CI.

Professor Barajas
HIST 270-01

2 November 2015

Maria Echaveste Extra Credit

On Tuesday October 27th, 2015, I attended the on-campus visit from Maria Echaveste. Although this workshop was described as a lecture on leadership, I felt that it was more of a reflection of her life and her personal views. I learned more about Maria's life and upbringing more than anything else. For example, her Latin roots were highly emphasized and she tied her culture with her success, but only in the sense that she did not let her own culture prevent her from attaining an education and being successful. By "prevent" I refer to the fact that Maria's father did not approve of her studies at Stanford, however, her mother helped her leave without her father's consent. Maria added that over the years she had struggled with the question, "How much education does a girl need? How much education does anyone need". She had learned that her father had difficulty viewing her, or any women in general, as being capable of accomplishing much in this world, considering his own upbringing in Mexico. I felt that this information was inspiring and overall empowering. Maria commented that it is our exposure to things that help us grow and actually live our lives. She mentioned that in her culture, parents are uncomfortable with letting their children go beyond boundaries that the parents themselves are familiar with—which overall denies most Latin children to become exposed to ideas outside their culture. To emphasize this idea, Maria spoke of her desire to go to school and become someone as being the sole reason as to why she managed to become successful. Out of all the topics and experiences that Maria discussed, I was most inspired by her short discussion on ambition and believing in oneself. In the Latin culture, being labeled as ambitious is a negative, but Maria chose to see it as a positive and ultimately as one of the biggest reasons as to why she became successful. She gave

herself credit for being able to become work for a law firm in New York City as well as work in the White House. Overall, I felt that Maria Echaveste is an empowering Latin woman whom should be a role model to not just Latinas, but to women in general. I for one, felt more inspired than ever to continue pursuing my dream career, and now I am even considering surpassing that dream and continuing to medical school later down the line.

Professor Frank Barajas

HIST 270

October 27, 2015

Reaction Paper: Maria Echaveste Visit

On the evening of October 27, 2015, at 6:30 pm, I attended a campus visit from Maria Echaveste, whom I learned is a Mexican Ambassador who has received her education from Stanford and Berkeley Colleges, she is a scholar, a lawyer, an advocate for immigrant workers, a wife and a mother among other notable titles. The visit was very interesting, as she shared compelling views about immigration and education in our country, as well as her personal work experiences in the White House and political campaigns. There were many topics she talked about that captured my interest and she also shared some insight about important issues that our country and society need to place attention to. I also enjoyed the way she shared her personal feelings about being a Hispanic female working for our government and working as a corporate lawyer.

Ms. Echaveste shared her views on our education system and she believes that every child should be afforded the opportunity to reach their potentials, no matter what

socioeconomic class they belong. She commented on how there is a direct correlation between socioeconomic class and education level of people, and how those with a middle to upper class economic standing will have more of an advantage at an education, while the poorer class remain with the disadvantages that do not allow for the opportunities of a quality education. Additionally, Ms. Echaveste also commented about correlations between poor quality of education and crime/incarceration. These are all very valid topics that I too agree that as a country, we should invest in the education of our children.

Another topic of discussion that captured my interest was her view on Veterans and receiving mental health care, something I myself feel strongly about, as I am a Veteran and worked as a Mental health specialist for the Army. I agreed with her statements about how our country has lost a sense of shared sacrifice and that the small number of volunteers for our armed forces are taking the brunt of a multitude of serious issues, as there has been an increase in PTSD and other mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. Ms. Echaveste was asked what would be an important trait from the field to the office and she stated that a deep sense of responsibility is important, which I also agree is important because it inspires a genuine effort to contribute to the community and family.

In regards to her experience in the corporate work force and the U.S. Government, Ms. Echaveste spoke about the way she didn't fit other people's perception of what a corporate lawyer is 'supposed' to look like and I liked very much her response to those attitudes, as she went on to say that when people want to categorize or stereotype, it is their problem to deal with, because your focus should be your job and responsibilities. I

also liked the way she explained how not to be arrogant, but to be able to recognize your capabilities, know your values and to contribute those qualities.

This was a very inspiring and interesting visit from Ms. Echaveste, as she touched on a number of topics that were very important and the experiences and guidance she shared were invaluable. She is a very accomplished woman that was generous enough to share advice based on her own experiences, and she sets an example of someone trying to pave the way for others to receive opportunities that will give them the chance for a better quality life. As college students we should all take heed to her example and become passionate about issues that would contribute to the betterment of our communities.

CHS/HIST 350

Extra Credit

“From La Colonia, to the Clinton Administration, and to Cal: Learning and Leadership” with Maria Echaveste

On the evening of October 27th, I was able to sit down and listen to Maria Echaveste’s story about how she went from a regular student at Channel Islands High School in Oxnard, CA to former president Bill Clinton’s right hand-*woman*. Although there were a few aspects of her answers that I was weary of, I did find her interview to be extremely motivational as a young, prospective female professional.

Echaveste answered questions regarding growing up in a migrant family with parents who hadn’t attended college, what it is like balancing being a woman with a family while working full-time in the white house, and even what kind of hobbies she likes to pursue in her spare time. I found a lot of her responses to be fully detailed with educated -albeit politically driven- answers. Specifically, a time that caught my attention was when Echaveste discussed the issues with the Electoral College and the lack of citizens actually getting out and voting on Election Day. She stated that approximately 26-27% of eligible voters are voting. Putting this into perspective, it explained a lot of why the system may not be as representative as one may like to think. She later went on to state that, although our system is flawed, it is still highly efficient and progressive.

I did, however, disliked what was said regarding veterans. It seems as though Echaveste’s answer was crafted so as to not step on any toes politically. It seemed somewhat falsified, and I disagreed when she stated, “There is not a sense of shared sacrifice [amongst civilians and veterans due to the elimination of the draft].” I feel

as though she did not address the question and also felt her answer did not make much sense or have much coherence.

On the other hand, though, another point in her interview that I found motivating was when discussing the difficulty of Echaveste's job as the Deputy Chief of Staff to Bill Clinton. She states at one point, "People make mistakes because they think they know everything, and are afraid to admit that they don't have the confidence to admit [their lack of knowledge]. Frankly, the world is complicated and you can't know everything. If you know what you don't know, you are likely to make much more educated decisions." During another moment of her interview she brought up the spirit of individualism that the United States places on a pedestal. She states that the United States' policies regarding leave at work is a bit "schizophrenic" in the sense that, although this nation was founded on individual rights, many of these individuals have no other help other than what they can provide for themselves. "If you are so concentrated on the individual, you forget that you are part of a community." I found this to be an interesting and motivating way of thought regarding the fine line between individual and societal responsibility.

My favorite part of Echaveste's interview was when the topic of being a woman in the workplace was discussed. Because I am planning on going into the medical field where the predominant number of professionals is men, it was encouraging to hear her take on this topic, having worked in an office under supervision of men and around male peers. Echaveste discussed having confidence, saying, "'Okay, I can do this job.' Having that state of mind served me very well, especially when I went to work in the white house...because there will be people who make assumptions about what you are capable of based on your gender, or your ethnicity, or your race." Echaveste goes on to say, "You have to understand that those categorizations (negative stereotypes) these people are carrying are their problems, not yours. You have to have the confidence and be prepared to do your job." This was important to hear coming from a Latina who has faced adversity throughout her career. She went on to discuss the balance between staying humble and knowing your capability, which I feel is a difficult balance women often face in the workplace, and in life in general. Discussing this, alongside with being a mother, was a helpful reminder that, although it may be difficult (specifically as a woman), it is possible to balance work and family.

Hearing these topics being discussed by someone as experienced as Maria Echaveste was a moving experience. It was important for me to meet and hear what Maria Echaveste had to say regarding things such as immigration, working while maintaining a family, changing policies and previous as well as current political agendas, being a woman and a Latina and facing adversity. Although there were a few moments that I doubted Echaveste's answers and point of view, overall I really liked what she had to say regarding these important topics our society is faced with today.

Professor Barajas

Extra Credit #1
CHS History and Culture 350
14 November, 2015

Extra Credit on Maria Echaveste

During the night event in which Professor Barajas sat down with Maria Echaveste, former US presidential advisor to Bill Clinton and White House Deputy Chief of Staff during the second Clinton Administration, I learned the importance of education and ways to achieve success. Although she has achieved immense success by attending schools, like Stanford and Berkley School of Law, Mrs. Echaveste started her pivotal educational career at Channel Islands High School right here in Oxnard. Throughout the interview Mrs. Echaveste projected her belief in education to provide Chicanas/os and every individual the chance to achieving success. As a child she was an avid reader which helped her to understand a world outside of the one she grew up in. She even worked at Bob's Market as a teen and balanced work with school. However, as one of seven children she felt the pull of family even though she wanted to attend college.

Each struggle and challenge she went through especially as one of seven children, prompted her to realize how important education and getting civically involved was. She explains how many Latinas/os are not civically involved as they should be, yet have strict parent such as she did. Strict parents can help success as they repeatedly urge their children to be the best in their classes. Gendered roles especially in traditional Mexican families can make it hard for people to image women amounting to a high level of success; gender roles place expectations of familial roles on the Chicana rather than promote then to educational success. Also, how the term ambitious in Spanish is seen as a negative hurts Latina/o success as well.

Mrs. Echaveste discusses that the willingness to be open to new experiences allows individuals to gain exposure to other aspects of the world. She understands that feeling of being afraid of the unknown but says that being willing to explore and find new opportunities is the ultimate way to success. College education helps to raise awareness, prompts civic involvement, and opens the Chicanas/os eyes to political injustice. However, it is ok to be nervous about advancement in education or careers – the most important part of education and gaining position in a career is getting out of your comfort zone.

I respected and found valuable to the part in which Mrs. Echaveste spoke about not fitting into society's picture of a corporate lawyer. How people will make "assumptions about your character based on race, gender categorization and stereotypes". But, out of constantly being assumed to be one way she developed a positive self-image of herself and become stronger.

CHS 350 Tu/Th 3pm
10/27/15

In attending the Maria Echaveste event, "*From la Colonia, to the Clinton Administration, and to Cal: Learning and Leadership*" Talk from 6:30-8:00pm in the Grand Salon, I realized what an admirable Latina Woman she is. Ms. Echaveste has worked very hard coming from a minority background and it is amazing what she has achieved in life thus far. I believe because of her passion for reading she has been able to accomplish and learn things that have benefited her career. From being in Honors in high school, to applying for college, to earning a degree becoming a successful lawyer, working for the white house and continuing with her work in the community advocating

political awareness and social work and improvement; locally, nationally and at a global level. I have learned many things about her as a woman and as a Mexican-American.

As a future educator I always seem to look for valuable information that will benefit my career. Some of her discussion remarks include, “you never know a child’s potential unless they have an opportunity to education, and she thinks that every child deserves a chance to achieve that potential.” I couldn’t agree any better. The government has some improvement to do with the educational system in order to make it equal for all. For instance, as she stated, “the more educated the more opportunity.” This means the more education an individual gets the more likely they are to have a chance to an open door and a better lifestyle. Furthermore, Ms. Echaveste was very fond of the word GAP. She agrees and emphasizes with the research that shows readiness of a child depending on the amount of words a child is exposed to and the less income a family has the less words, reversely the higher the income the more words that a child takes in their word bank. This forces the brain to develop more rapidly because the child is working more brain synapsis in the brain between the ages of 0-3. I found this is valuable information that was delivered by Ms. Echaveste. Also, that it is important to keep on working the brain like exercising a muscle with activities such as puzzles. Part of working the brain synapsis is learning two languages while growing up and developing from a baby to those first five crucial years of the beginning of life. Similarly, by the way she has chosen to have her children grow up with both languages that is English and Spanish, I have done the same with my children. This is because I value the importance of being bilingual and growing up with the language that represents their culture. It was shocking that given her roots sadly, only 3 out of the 13 grandchildren spoke Spanish to be able to communicate

with the grandmother. I would not like my children to suffer the inability to communicate and to be successful in life because of having the privilege of being bilingual. Therefore, as Maria Echaveste put it, know what you are capable of and 'keep your feet on the ground,' no matter of gender, race, appearance, regardless if people make assumptions and negative stereotypes.





