

MEChA Statewide Task Force on Educational Rights

Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan

Feliz Año Nuevo! As this new year begins, California Statewide MEChA is looking forward to a very busy Spring. This year MEChA will be 20 years old. Our history is one of pride and commitment to the Chicano/Latino community. It represents generation after generation of MEChistas dedicated to keeping the doors of higher education open for our younger brothers and sisters.

In view of your own ongoing concern and work around the issue of educational access and quality for the Raza community we would like to request your support for our "Spring Action" educational rights campaign.

The goal of this campaign is to influence the direction of educational policy at a state level. We are planning a massive lobby day on April 10th in Sacramento where we will present our demands (see attachment) in the form of an "Educational Rights Act" legislation packet.

We are presently working with key legislators on drafting the legislation and planning a meeting with Governor Deukmejian on the day of Spring Action to ensure a commitment to pass our legislation.

The Spring Action will be co-sponsored by the African/Black Student Statewide Alliance (A/BSSA) and the Asian/Pacific Islander Student Union (APSU). We are also reaching out to the Student Government Associations, elected officials, community organizations, and trade unions in order to make this a broad effort for our right to a quality education for all.

Our campaign comes at a time when the California Chicano/Latino population is nearly the largest ethnic group in the state. Yet the public educational system continues to be a mechanism that locks out the majority of our people from its opportunities.

Today our community faces a 50% and growing drop out rate in the K-12 system. The representation of Raza faculty, staff and administrators in the public higher education systems is a dismal 1.5%. More and more Raza college students are having to leave college due to financial hardship. It is clear that our voice needs to be heard in the state capitol.

Your support and active involvement will help to ensure that our campaign is successful and will have an actual impact on state policy. Only by our united efforts will we be certain that the California public educational system meets the needs of our communities.

Your signature on the enclosed endorsement form signifies your support for our demands and Spring Action activities. If you should have any questions or

suggestions please contact me at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We thank you for your kind consideration and hope to see you on April 10, 1989 in Sacramento!

Sinceramente,

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Note: The endorsement form can be returned to:
MEChA Statewide Task Force on Educational Rights
[REDACTED]