

university of oregon



2019  
**Aztlán del Noroeste**  
Regional Conference

celebrating the 50th anniversary of mecha

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eugene, or

feb. 23-24

**On behalf of the University of Oregon MEChA Chapter, we are honored and delighted to welcome you to the 13th Annual Aztlán del Noroeste Regional Conference, Back To Our Roots. We have spent countless hours trying to make this the best regional conference yet.**

**Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx de Aztlán (MEChA) is a student organization that promotes higher education, cultura, and historia. MEChA was founded on the principles of self-determination for the liberation of our people. We believe that political involvement and education is the avenue for change in our society.**

**We, the University of Oregon MEChA Chapter, have built our strategy and planning around five advocacy points that have been appointed by the MEChA organization: Chicanx Studies, Raza Outreach Programs, HIV/AIDS/STIS Education, Gender Identity and Sexuality, and Immigration. These advocacy points encompass what MEChA stands for and promotes. This conference was made with these advocacy points in mind.**

**The theme of the Aztlan del Noroeste Regional Conference is Back to Our Roots. For this years Regional Conference, we want to focus on rebuilding our region from the ground up. For us, rebuilding means going back to our "why": why we chose to become involved in MEChA, and why we chose to be leaders of change in our communities. This "why" drives MEChA, and Mechistas alike, to be proponents of a greater future. By coming together as a region, we will be able to strengthen our overall presence and impact, as Aztlan del Noroeste.**

**2019 marks fifty years since the birth of MEChA. We are overjoyed to have you all come to our university to celebrate this remarkable moment. By coming together and unifying as a region, we are representing fifty years of change, dedication, and activism. We hope that you enjoy your time at the University of Oregon, and that you feel the love that was embedded in the planning of this conference.**

**In Solidarity,  
Conference Organizer  
Vanessa Barrientos, UO MEChA Internal Director**



# Conference Committee

**Melinda Gonzalez UO MEChA External Director**

**Tre'Von Robinson, UO MEChA Co-Programs Director**

**Daisy Batten, UO MEChA Co-Programs Director**

**Yomaira Tarula, UO MEChA Co-Political Director**

**Cynthia Aguilar, UO MEChA Co-Political Director**

**Guillermina Rodriguez, UO MEChA Media and Communications Chair**

**Meghan Jacinto, UO MEChA Gender, Identity, and Sexuality Director**

**Richard Alvarez, UO MEChA Design Coordinator**

**Jose Amesquita, UO MEChA Finance Director**

**Caitlin Saavedra, UO MEChA Recruitment and Retention Director**

**Carmen Ramirez, UO MEChA High School Outreach**

**Romario Bautista, UO MEChA RUYC Coordinator**

**Veronica Blackwell, UO MEChA RUYC Coordinator**

**Noe Sanchez, UO MEChA GANAS Co-Coordinator**

**Misael Espinosa, UO MEChA GANAS Co-Coordinator**

**Luis Montero, UO MEChA Conference Intern**

**Isiah Espinosa, UO MEChA Conference Intern**

# Agenda

## Saturday

<b>Registration / Breakfast</b>	<b>8:30 - 9:30 am</b>
<b>Opening Speaker: Yomaira Tarula</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
<b>Workshop 1</b>	<b>10:15am - 11:30 am</b>
<b>Workshop 2</b>	<b>11:45am - 1pm</b>
<b>Lunch &amp; Keynote Speaker: Kat Lazo</b>	<b>1:10 pm 1:45 pm</b>
<b>Workshop 3</b>	<b>3:00pm - 4:15 pm</b>
<b>Call to Action Joel Iboa and Yomaira Tarula</b>	<b>4:30 - 5:45 pm</b>
<b>Dinner/Reflection Speaker: Joel Iboa</b>	<b>6 - 8 pm</b>
<b>Baile</b>	<b>9 pm</b>

## Sunday

<b>Resolution circle</b>	<b>10 am</b>
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# Workshop Schedule

## Session 1 - 10:15 am -11:30 am

**Exploring Pilipinix and Latinx Histories (GSH 130)**

**Muxeres x Higher Education (GSH 131)**

**Gender, Sexuality, and the Latinx (GSH 132)  
identity**

**Check Your Privilege (GSH 117)**

## Session 2 - 11:45 am - 1:00 pm

**Let's Talk About Sex Baby (GSH 130)**

**You Can and You Will: How to Harness the Leader  
Within (GSH 131)**

**Ni de aquí ni de allá: Chicanx Activism in the  
Oregon (GSH 132)**

**La Migra, La Policia, La Misma  
Porqueria! (GSH 117)**

## Session 3 - 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm

**Navigating White Spaces but Staying True to Your Roots  
(GSH 130)**

**"Chicanx Rap Made Me Do It" (GSH 131)**

**Central American Diaspora and Our  
Collective Memory (GSH 132)**

**We Are Everything (GSH 117)**

# Workshops

## let's talk about sex baby

**Maria Alejandra Gallegos-Chacon (She, Her, Hers) UO**

Let's talk about the sex education you never caught. We will cover topics like consent, gender identity, sex toy safety, contraceptives, and any other questions you might have. There is obvious stigma and taboo around reproductive health and sexuality in the Latinx community and we're going to unpack and learn together ways to have healthier relationships to sex.

## you can and you will: how to harness the leader within

**Cynthia Aguilar (She, Her, Hers) UO**

Let's talk about the elephant in the room: You. We will discuss how to maneuver through spaces which lack diversity to make a seat for ourselves at the table. Dissecting imposter syndrome, assimilation and, dare we say, White people. How do YOU harness the leader within? While they say, "Take up space, but not too much space" we say, "Take all of the space you need."

## we are everything

**Fernanda Ibarra, Carlos Cerpas, Fabiola Cruz, Jimmy Vidales, Alejandro Lazaro, Angeles Zamora, David Raya (They, Them, Theirs) CCC**

Many students lose a sense of who they are. The loss of identity lingers for most and they end up losing focus on what is important, their roots. Going back to our roots and having an understanding of who we are, why we are here and the sense of ourselves. In our workshop we will be showing a video of who we are as well as finding ourselves and looking. We will be sharing our experience of how we are self identifying ourselves throughout the journey of back to our roots.

# navigating white spaces but staying true to your roots

Daisy Batten (She, Her, Hers) UO

Staying True to your Roots & Navigating White Spaces will discuss what it means to be a Latinx student in predominantly white spaces. Often times we find ourselves conforming to white culture in the education system and in society just to fit in and be accepted. But how can we stay true to our Latinx identity at the same time? In this workshop we will discuss the term "white washed", and the times we ourselves have felt outed and "othered". We will also discuss ways in which we can stand our ground and find our place in the spaces we are in. We will share stories about our experiences and find ways in which we can express our identities in a powerful way.

# check your privilege

Roman Cohan (He, Him, His) OSU

We will be doing a number of questions related to identity and the topic of privilege, for each question the person standing in a line will either take a step forward or a step backwards. At the end of the questions there should be a noticeable distance between people where then we can have a discussion on privilege and how this looks like.

# exploring pilipinix and latinx histories

Stephanie Lerma (She, Her, Hers) OSU, Abby Pasion (She, Her, Hers) OSU, Angel Mandujano (He, Him, His) OSU

Learn about the stories and histories that bring these seemingly separate groups together, and deepen our understanding of what it means to be Latinx and Pilipinx in the U.S. today.

In collaboration with Isang Bansang Pilipino: OSU Chapter

# **muxeres x higher education**

**Ariana Grimaldo (She, Her, Hers) LCC, Adriana Santiago Martínez (She, Her, Hers) LCC**

**This workshop will be discussing influential muxeres that have shaped history for the Latinx community. We will be tying all this into higher education, and discussing goals, dreams, aspirations. We would like to use our examples to motivate and inspire everyone to achieve higher education and not give up. These examples show how people from our similar backgrounds, have beat the statistics, and made it to be someone. They have done something others may not have thought was possible.**

# **“chicanx rap made me do it”**

**Janie Ramirez (She, Her, Hers) WOU, Gabriela Tellez Saldana (She, Her, Hers) WOU**

**Taking it way back to the hxstory and evolution of Chicano rap. We will take a vivid journey through Chicano music, to understand the lyrics and meaning behind the songs. We will relate the songs back to other genres of rap, such as Mexican rap and the NWA. Apart from the music we will identify characteristics and certain stereotypes that Chicanx rappers and people face. Discussion as to what it means to identify as Chicanx will also be covered.**

# **gender, sexuality, and the latinx identity**

**Meghan Jacinto (She, Her, Hers) UO**

**This workshop will explore the intersections between the LGBTQIA+ and Latinx/Chicanx communities. We will learn about inclusion language, basic terms, and how folks can be mindful of others' multiple marginalized identities in their social justice work. In addition, we will discuss the history of LGBTQIA+ justice in Latin America. We will also come to understand the influence of European colonialism on conceptions of gender and sexuality in the Latinx world. This workshop will portray the ways in which all oppressions are connected.**

# central american diaspora and our collective memory

Carla Osorio (She, Her, Hers) UO

I am interested in looking at new generations of Central Americans shaping resistance movements and who or what motivated them to continue paving the path for resistance. I will be sharing about four different Central American Womxn: Maria Guardado, Ana Maria Rodas, Lil Milagro Ramirez, and Berta Caceres. All with different background/stories but similar passions countering hegemonic structures. My goal in this workshop is to share about these Sheroes that resisted U.S. imperialism and to instill in us hope to continue weaving our collective memory.

# la migra, la policia, la misma porqueria!

Mariana Sofia Rodriguez (She, Her, Hers & They, Them Theirs) MEChA Alumni

This workshop explores the functions of ICE, Customs & Border Patrol, and your local/state police and the dangers imposed on immigrants criminalized under past and current policy. Utilizing an intersectional approach to the ways these agencies target undocumented, queer, brown, black folx and shifting from immigration as a sole "Latinx" issue.

If you've been thinking: How can we abolish ICE? What can I do on my campus / community? What can I do as an ally / accomplice in this movement? Then this workshop is for You!

# Activities

## call to action

The ability to drive legally is a core everyday need for Oregon families. For the last 10 years Oregon Immigrants without legal status have been unable to access a license. Our community has been put in an impossible position: either choose to drive without a license and risk arrest and deportation or choose not to drive and be unable to provide for their family. This year we have an opportunity to regain what was taken away from us. drivers licenses for all.

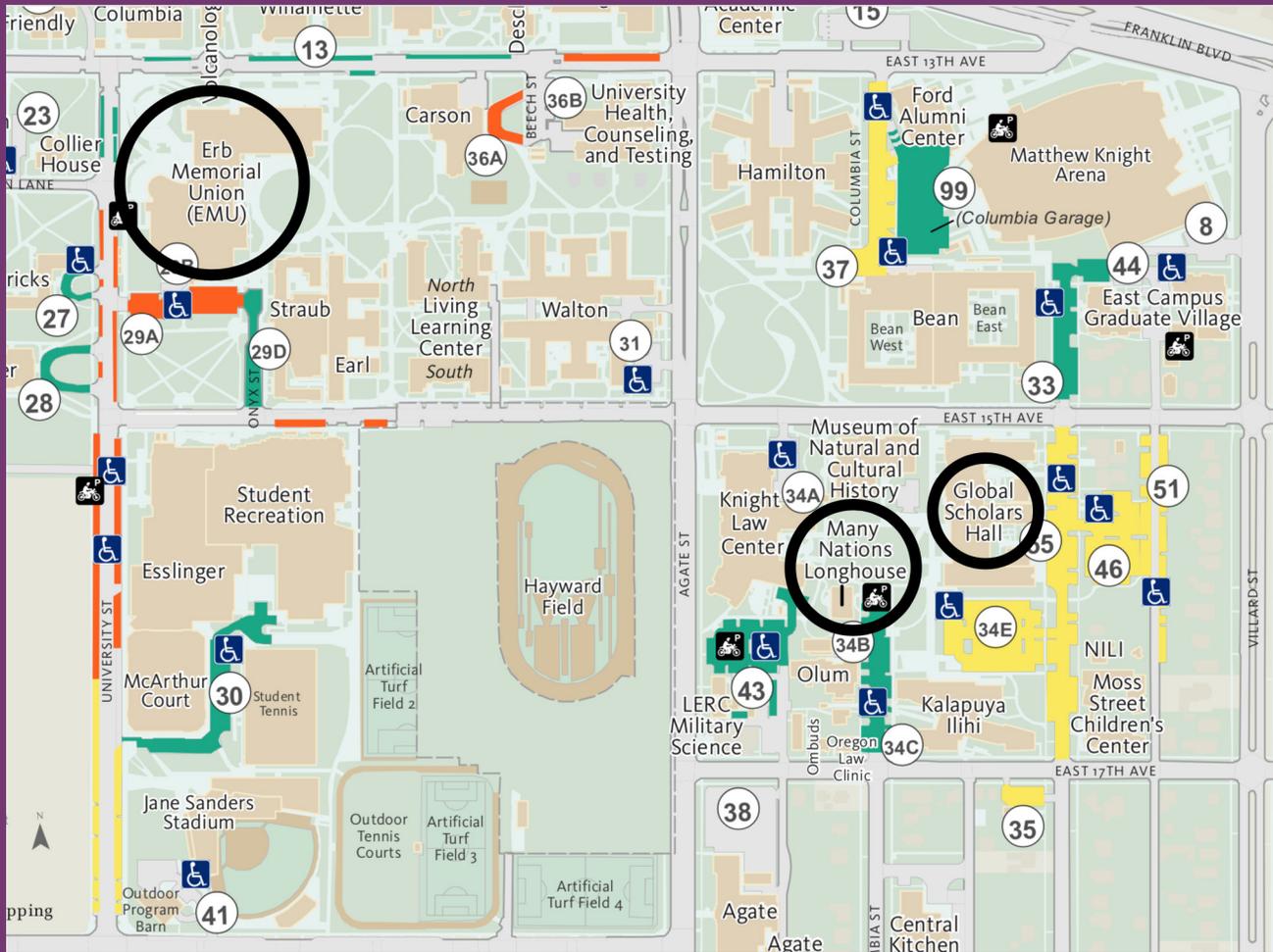
## the party of color

Back to Our Roots Baile is an event that celebrates three main aspects of the Latinx culture: music, dancing and community! This is a chance for us to enjoy our rich culture through sharing the dance floor together. Party of Color is meant for all students of color to integrate themselves with each other and learn about each other's culture through a fun social event. With Jill Torres as our DJ for the baile, we'll be dancing the night away — ¡Vamos Mi Gente!

## resolution circle - sunday

A resolution circle is a time to give a state of the region, as well as update our region and its partners on what we've been working on individually and collaboratively. It's also a time for major decisions to be made for the region and elections to be held for the next MESA Directiva.

# Parking and Conference Locations



\* parking locations in yellow

university of oregon



SAT. FEB 23

# MERCADO

MANY NATIONS LONGHOUSE 6-8 PM

vendors: @lxoq\_arte @yarbsandroots @deedeeoho @sara\_b\_coyote

support your  
local woc  
vendors!

native  
jewelry

+

handmade natural  
body products

+

free chair  
massages

accepting cash and venmo

\*all exchanges of money must be made outside

# food menu

## sat.

**Continental Breakfast: Coffee, Tea, Juice, Milk, Cereal, Fruit, Assorted Baked Breakfast Bread**

**Lunch: Enchiladas, Arroz y Frijoles, Chips, Salsa, Horchata, Jamaica**

**Dinner: Chicken Fajitas, Arroz y Frijoles, Chips, Salsa, Horchata, Jamaica**

## sun.

**Continental Breakfast: Coffee, Tea, Juice, Milk, Cereal, Fruit, Assorted Baked Breakfast Bread**

## **KAT LAZO**

**Keynote Speaker**

**Kat Lazo is a director, producer and host. As well as the Internet's favorite no-nonsense Latina who tells it how it is. The half Colombian - half Peruvian New Yorker has made a name for herself for educating folks on all things Latinidad.**



**As a video producer for the Latino digital platform Mitú, she's most known for her series - "The Kat Call". She developed and hosted The Kat Call series, where she debunked taboos and misconceptions about the Latino community.**

**The series as a whole has garnered over 15 million views. Kat attended NYC's prestigious LaGuardia High School of The Performing Arts where she studied classical theater and began auditioning at 16 yrs old. But after years of casting directors asking her to "say it a little more urban" or "can you give us a neck roll" she decided to take things into her own hands and make her own media.**

**Recently, she's worked as an associate producer on a universal and mass appeal documentary about Reggaeton and she's also hosted the Thrillist travel series Barrio USA, exploring "the vibrant world of Latinx culture all over America."**

# JOEL IBOA

## Guest Speaker

Joel is the Coalition Coordinator for Causa Oregon. He manages One Oregon, a statewide coalition of over 100+ organizations that defend against anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim policies and ballot measures and works to ensure that all Oregonians, regardless of country of birth, are treated with dignity and respect. The proud son of immigrants, Joel was born and raised in Eugene. He majored in Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Oregon. Honing his skills in Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA) as well as other social justice groups as a student, Joel worked on the No on 105 campaign and fought to protect Oregon's 32 year old Sanctuary Law helping defeat the ballot measure by a 27 point margin this past election cycle. Joel serves as Chair for the Human Rights Commission (City of Eugene), as well as the youngest appointed Chair for the Governor's Environmental Justice Task Force.



# YOMAIRA TARULA

## Guest Speaker

**Yomaira Janet Tarula-Aranda is a first generation, fourth year student majoring in Ethnic Studies with a double minor in Spanish and Planning, Public Policy and Management at the University of Oregon. She has a passion for social justice and has dedicated her undergraduate career as a**



**student organizer serving her Latinx community and students of color on the UO campus. Yomaira started as a student organizer on the University of Oregon Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx de Aztlán (M.E.Ch.A) board serving as the GANAS coordinator. GANAS is an after school program for Latinx middle school students. This past year she served as the director of the Raza Unida Conference, which is an opportunity for local Latinx youth to gain information on how to access higher education, while also educating on various topics that impact Latinx communities. She now currently serves at the UO MEChA co-political director. Yomaira has been empowered to push back white nationalist agendas and its hateful narrative by participating in the Campus Defending Democracy Fellowship through the Western States Center, researching and strategizing how to counteract white nationalist activity on campus. Last term she had the opportunity to intern for Causa, the leading organization in the state of Oregon when it comes to immigrant advocacy, coalition building and civic engagement within the Latinx community. She is proud to have been apart of the efforts that defeated Measure 105. On her free time she loves to hike, read or write poetry.**

**This conference would not have been possible without the help of our donors. The University of Oregon MEChA Chapter would like to humbly thank the following groups for donating to this vital cause:**

**University of Oregon Multicultural Center  
Associated Students of the University of Oregon  
University of Oregon Student Sustainability Center  
University of Oregon Office of the Dean of Students  
University of Oregon Department of Ethnic Studies  
University of Oregon Division of Equity and Inclusion  
University of Oregon Latinx Strategist Group**

**It is with their support that we were able to accomplish an event that has reached the lives of over one hundred students and community members. Donor support has allowed for the legacy of MEChA to continue and thrive. Thank you.**

**If you would like to stay updated with the UO MEChA Chapter, feel free to follow us on Instagram @uo.mecha, and Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/UOMECHA/](http://www.facebook.com/UOMECHA/) For other inquiries, you may contact us at [mecha@uoregon.com](mailto:mecha@uoregon.com) or [uomecha@gmail.com](mailto:uomecha@gmail.com)**

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