



“XITO Xican@ Institute for Teaching and Organizing Conference”

Proposed Motion: Approve \$575.00 from Operating Enhancement [FXXENH] for AS Social Issues Resource Center Coordinator Aleyda Cervantes to attend conference

Sponsor: *AS VP for Diversity, Abby Ramos*

Persons of Contact: *Abby Ramos, Aleyda Cervantes as.sirc@wwu.edu*

Guest Speaker: *Aleyda Cervantes*

Date: 11/2/15

Attached Document

Background & Context

Since the passing prohibition of Ethnic Studies, especially of Chican@ studies in Arizona, a group of educators saw the lack of opportunities for teachers to improve their practices in meeting the needs of students of color through “culturally, authentic and research based methodology. Xito strives to support Xicacan@/ Latin@ community through teacher preparation, social justice pedagogy, and community organizing . Xito’s practices are steeped in Xican@ indigenous epistemology which drives the intentions, structures, and practices of the institute.

Every year XITO holds a 3-day conference for community organizers, teachers and activists in different states of the country.

This year it will be held at La Cima, a latino leadership camp located at Cibus Learning Center in Randle Washington, from February 26-28, 2016. During the conference XITO, will share their best practices in meeting the needs of students of color through a culturally responsive approach. “By 2016, half of all children born in Washington State will be Latin@.”

The purpose of the conference if for XITO will share their best practices in meeting the needs of students of color through a culturally responsive approach and expand the knowledge of educators and community organizers.

“XITO TAKES IN LAK'ECH TO WASHINGTON STATE

This 3-day institute is an opportunity for educators, activists and community organizers throughout the great northwest to engage in and learn about the theories and methodologies behind the successes of the former Tucson Mexican American Studies Program. This gathering is not a conference but rather an intensive professional development opportunity that participants can bring back to their own communities. XITO facilitators will share the

liberatory, research-based pedagogy and community organizing skills that led to the success of K-12 youth of color and communities of color in general.

Summary of Proposal

This year is the first time that XITO will hold their conference here in Washington. The total cost for registration, is \$575.00 that includes 3-day institute content and materials, clock hours, lodging and meals.

Currently, I am the coordinator of the Social Issues Resource Center and going to this conference will add to bringing new perspectives and grassroots organizing to the office, as well as diversity of perspectives. Since my freshman year of college I have been an active member of MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán) and I have volunteered in the Latinx community here in Whatcom County. From going to health fairs and translating for my community to working along Familias Unidas por la Justicia for farmworkers rights. We also work closely with high school students and I want learn more about pedagogy practices and way to support them, especially since we don't have that support here in Western to learn more about our roots and how they apply in a classroom setting.

Also, I'm part of the Education and Social justice minor, and the knowledge from the conference can be applied to both my major and minor, since I'm planning on concentrating on journalism, creative writing and grassroots organizing and this conference could be part of my concentration. Furthermore, this year we are having our regional MEChA conference here at Western and in order to improve the type of workshops and type of conference we are planning.

In addition to this, the Latino Student Union (LSU) and MEChA are having a conversation about having an annual Latinx

This proposal is to ask for fund from the AS Operating Enhancement Fund as form of a grant in order to be able to attend to the conference.

Fiscal Impacts

575.00 from Operating Enhancement [FXXENH]

Rationale

Attending this conference will enrich the perspectives of Western, especially because it will bring a completely different way communities organize as well as teaching. I'll be able to apply the knowledge I gain from this conference in the SIRC, MEChA, my own studies as well as my community. As a student in this institution and an AS employee I want to bring multiple perspectives to campus and my work space and I strongly believe this conference will help me do so.

