Welcome to Journey Through Our Heritage (JTOH) one of the nation’s most innovative and unique multi-cultural educational programs sponsored by Metropolitan State College of Denver (MSCD) Department of Chicano/Chicana Studies and Department of African/African American Studies. JTOH partners MSCD students with local high school students from impacted neighborhoods and engages them in a year long program. Our goal is to enhance current public school curricula in the areas of African/African American, Native American, Mexicana/o, Red Bones, Métis, Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies. In addition we strive to provide positive roles models for our teens and engage our college students in service learning opportunities. The grand finale of the year is an academic “knowledge bowl” between/among participating high school teams.

JTOH students participate in numerous community wide events and volunteer with many local non profits. In 2010-2011 the JTOH program was awarded a Colorado Department of Public Safety Division of Criminal Justice, Youth Team Grant. Metro State College of Denver, Hispanic Serving Institute, also contributed funding to the JTOH program.

The JTOH program received several awards for their community service efforts. The JTOH nonprofit, David Young of Only. One Inc. was nominated by students for several awards. Mr. Young received the 2011 MSCD Latino Summit Leadership Award and the Cesar Chavez Peace and Justice Community Service Award 2011.

MSCD 10th Annual Student Involvement Leadership Awards went to Domonic Velarde for Senior Leadership Award, Maria Lozano for Outstanding Student Employee Project Award and Cesar Chavez Peace and Justice Youth Award 2011, and the JTOH student organization for Roadrunner Spirit Student Organization Award.

Senior Maria Lozano and Sophomore Karissa Garcia presented a paper on the JTOH program to the 2011he National Association of Chicano/Chicana Studies Conference.

**Our Mission:**

Journey Through Our Heritage promotes self empowerment, develops leaders and engages students with community leaders and organizations in order to increase cultural and historical knowledge bases through involvement in healthy competition, rigorous academic study and community service via the use of history, creative & cultural arts, and language.

**Our Impact Goals:**

- To expose K-12 students and college students to indigenous values, traditions, practices and visual/performing arts.
- To support high school partnerships with college student mentors who lead students through rigorous interdisciplinary competition designed to challenge and inspire young minds through Chicana/o Studies and alternative curricula.
To facilitate the infusion of cultural and historical contributions of Latinas/os and other predominant ethnic groups, resulting in the success of all students.

To create a formal connection between MSCD students in the Chicano Studies program and GED/high school students state-wide.

To embrace and promote diversity by broadening participating high school teachers’ abilities to teach a more culturally inclusive curriculum.

To engage, collaborate and work with communities by building relationships with program administrators, community organizations, schools and potential partners who desire to participate in the program.

To partner with non-profit organizations to increase our community impact through emphasizing collaboration and promoting cultural awareness through events and volunteer work.

**Outcome and Results for the 2010-2011 School Year**

**Journey Through Our Heritage Work-study program through MSCD**

- JTOH employed 19 Metropolitan State College work study students for the fall and spring semesters of 2010/2011 for work in local high schools and office organization.
- JTOH Team logged 6111 hours, aiding special events on and off campus, special events co-sponsored by JTOH. Students participated in planning committees, volunteer coordinating of events, data entry, website building, financial budgeting and tracking, graphic design, tutoring, mentoring and community service learning.
- JTOH recruited ten area high schools to participate with the JTOH high school program and three more partners for the 2012-2012 school year: North High School, Lincoln High School, La Academia Inner City Parish, Escuela Tlatelolco, Alameda High School, West High School, Lakewood High School, South High School, Brady Exploration and Program of American Indian Youth Leaders (PAIYL), Denver Justice High School (2011-2012), East High School (2011-2012), Jefferson High School (2011-2012).
- Of the ten high schools there were 11 teams assembled and 77 participants, 12 Metro mentors and 10 teachers involved in the program this year. This year we gave six stipends to high school seniors for graduation and encouragement to pursue higher education.
- The JTOH website, run by JTOH work-study students, required over 833 hours of development and continues to be updated on a weekly basis.
**JTOH Student Organized Events and Partnerships 2010-2011:**

**JTOH Student-Organized Events**

October 15th, 2010 - Welcome Back Kick-Off Ceremony  
December 9th, 2010 – Cultural Expression Exhibit and Competition  
April 22nd, 2011 - Café Cultura Poetry Month Finale  
April 29th, 2011 – Jeopardy Style Competition  
May 20th, 2011 – Awards Ceremony and Send-Off

**JTOH Events Co-Sponsored with Other Organizations**

**Cesar Chavez Peace and Justice Committee**

March 16th, 2011 10th annual Cesar Chavez Celebration
Colorado Folk Arts Council

Aurora Fox Cultural Concerts Series 2010-2011
October 6th, 2010 Aurora Fox Concert Series Opening - Cleo Parker Robinson Dance
October 21st, 2010 Omecuihuatl Rising – Asia Fajardo Wright
November 3rd, 2010 Dia de Los Muertos – Chimatonalli Aztec Dancers
December 8th, 2010 JTOH Holiday Spectacular – El Centro Su Teatro
January 19th, 2011 Martin Luther King Jr. Event - City of Aurora Community Relations Committee, Cultural Legacy Series
February 16th, 2011 Black History Month – City of Aurora Community Relations Committee Cultural Legacy Series
March 16th, 2011 Pow Wow Celebration – Seven Falls Dancers
April 20th, 2011 National Poetry Month – Soulaju (Adrian Molina & Aja)
May 4th, 2011 Cinco de Mayo featuring Fiesta Colorado – Fiesta Colorado Dance Company
May 5th, 2011 JTOH Cinco Celebration featuring Mono Verde – Mono Verde

Community College of Aurora Cultural Series 2010-2011
September 22nd, 2010 Hispanic Cultural Month – Fiesta Colorado Dance Company
November 3rd, 2010 Native American Month – Seven Falls Dancers
February 22nd, 2011 Black History Month - City of Aurora Community Relations Committee, Cultural Legacy Series

Mauricio Saravia April Poetry Series
April 18th, 2011 “Words That Speak” – Boys and Girls Club
April 19th, 2011 “Words from the Heart” – Denver Women’s Press Club
April 20th, 2011 “Words to Empower” – Colorado Folk Arts Council
April 22nd, 2011 “Words that Open Doors” – MSCD Café Cultura

Denver Women’s Press Club
April 16th, 2011 “Words from the Heart: Writing Your Personal Story, How to do it and How to sell it”

La Raza Youth Conference
April 23rd, 2011 20th Annual La Raza Youth Leadership Conference

Metropolitan State College of Denver, Department of Chicana/o Studies
October 7th, 2010 Dolores Huerta Day
November 2nd, 2010 Campus Dia de Los Muertos
November 2nd, 2010 Richard T. Castro Visiting Professorship
February 17th, 2011 Mayan New Year Celebration
March 18th, 2011 Corky Gonzales Symposium
April 25th, 2011 4th Annual Lalo Delgado Poetry Event
Rocky Mountain Storytellers
October 14-16th, 2010 Peace & Justice Conference “Healing Wounds Through Story”

Various Denver Artists, Associations and Musicians
October 2nd, 2010 “Omecihuatl Rising” – Asia Fajardo-Wright
October 29th, 2010 Pirate Art Gallery Dia de los Muertos – Pirate Art Gallery
November 20th, 2010 Mexican Revolution Celebration at St. Cajetan’s – Casa Maya

New for 2011
Student Anthology:
JTOH produced a professionally edited anthology of student essays on the significance of culture and history. These reflective writings were bound into a booklet and distributed to all 77 students. In addition this year’s anthology includes poetry from Crawford Elementary Students, High School Students and Metropolitan State College JTOH students.

High School Partnership Information and Demographics:
The Journey Through Our Heritage program inherently emphasizes indigenous students; however, it also embraces participants from other groups. Furthermore, the schools recruited in this year’s program do have high concentrations of Chicanos/as, Mexican-Americans, and Latinos/as.

School Partnership Goals

Journey Through Our Heritage developed three main goals when the program applied for funding last year.

1) To encourage the inclusion of indigenous history and culture into mainstream curricula of the high schools.
2) To create a direct connection to a college or university for high school or GED students. With positive role models to emulate.
3) To empower students in high school to able to make positive choices about their future, to avoid negative stereotyping and to encourage positive engagement with the community.

These goals were met by partnering nine JTOH Metro work study students with each of the nine high schools. Each Metro mentor spent time at the high schools working in a class room setting.
as tutors; they conducted after school team building workshops for the JTOH competition events and helped to host all of the events.

These activities not only introduced our JTOH curriculum into the schools but helped forge a strong bond between our mentors and the high schools. In order to meet these goals the program utilized the expertise of college professors, administrators, teachers, authors, community members, the business community, and college mentors.

**Demographics and Statistical Data**

The ten year history of the JTOH program has been highly successful in many ways. One of the most important challenges facing the JTOH was how to produce concrete evidence of its success.

In 2010/2011 with full-time coordinator Dr. Renee Fajardo and the addition of a part time Information Technician (IT) work study student Domonic Velarde, the JTOH program was able to begin the process of collecting data to document success with statistical back up. The following data is the results of that documentation:

**Demographics of High Schools in Partnership with JTOH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Statistics*</th>
<th>JTOH Mentors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West High School</td>
<td>5.2% White 5.3% Black 86.3% Latino</td>
<td>James Ecoffey Cell: 720-365-3862 Email: <a href="mailto:jeoffey@mscd.edu">jeoffey@mscd.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North High School</td>
<td>8.6% White 3.4% African American 85.4% Latino</td>
<td>Peach Dance Cell: 720-429-1337 Email: <a href="mailto:bdance@mscd.edu">bdance@mscd.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**West High School**
- Title I School
- Principal: Mr. Jorge Loera
- Contact Info:
  - 951 Elati Street
  - Denver, Colorado 80204-3939

**Sponsoring Teachers:**
- Nicholas Childers
  - Work: (720) 423-5511
  - Email: Nicholas_Childers@dpsk12.org

- Frances Munoz
  - Work: 720-423-5519
  - Email: Frances_munoz@dpsk12.org

---

**North High School**
- Title I School
- Principal: Ed Salem

---
Lincoln High School
Title I School
Principal: Antonio Esquibel
Contact Info:
2285 South Federal Blvd.
Denver, CO 80219-5433
Phone: 720-423-5000
Fax: 720-423-5098
Sponsoring Teacher:
Mark Delgado
Work: 720-423-5253
Cell: 303-349-2635
JTOH Mentor:
Maria Lozano
Cell: 720-334-0417
Email: mlozano2@mscd.edu

Statistics*:
4.3% White
1.7% African American
90.3% Latino
1.3% Native American
2.5% Asian

Escuela Tlateloco
Title I School
Principal: Nita Gonzalez C.D. Bacca
Contact Info:
2949 Federal Blvd.
Denver, CO 80211
Phone: 303-964-8993
Fax: 720-401-3355
Sponsoring Teachers or Contacts:
Betty C’de Baca
Email: betty@ecuelatlatelolco.org
Monica Garcia
Email: monica@escuelatlateloco.org
JTOH Mentors:
Jay Jaramillo
Cell: 720-620-6203
Email: jjaram22@mscd.edu
Sheree Brown
Cell: 720-255-7692
Email: sbrown128@mscd.edu

Statistics*:
51.9% White
31.7% Latino
15.6% Other Race
11.1% Black
3.7% Two or more races
2.2% American Indian
0.8% Vietnamese

Brady Exploration
JTOH Mentor:
Yesina Parra
Cell: 720-290-3646
Email: yparraca@mscd.edu

Statistics*:
1.4% Native American
1.3% Asian

Statistics*:
4.3% White
1.7% African American
90.3% Latino
1.3% Native American
2.5% Asian
Title I School
Principal: Troy Braley
Contact Info:
5220 W. Ohio Ave
Lakewood, CO 80226
Phone: 303-982-6722
Fax: 303-982-6723
Sponsoring Teacher or Contact:
Scott Peth
Email: speth@jeffco.k12.co.us

1.4 % Native American
3.7 % Asian
1.8 % Black
18.3 % Latino
74.8 % White
JTOH Mentors:
Jacob Acotsa
Cell: 720-569-0798
Email: jacosta7@mscd.edu
Rachel Summers
Cell: 720-903-6268
Email: rachel.summers@hotmail.com

Lakewood High School
Title I School
Principal: Ron Castagna
Contact Info:
9700 West 8th Avenue
Lakewood, CO 80215-5807
Phone: 303-982-6500
Fax: 303-982-7097
Sponsoring Teacher or Contact:
Seena Harjo
Cell:303-982-0385
Email: sharjo@jeffco.k12.co.us

Statistics*:
2.0 % Native American
6.0 % Asian
2.4 % Black
21.4 % Hispanic
68.2 % White
JTOH Mentor:
Sophia Bagola
Cell: 720-519-7931
Email: smbagola@live.com

South High School
Title I School
Principal: Stephen Wera
Contact Info:
1700 East Louisiana Avenue
Denver, CO 80210-1810
Phone: 720-423-6000
Fax: 720-423-6280
Sponsoring Teacher or Contact:
Jessica Robles
Email: Jessica_robles@dpsk12.org

Statistics*:
28.4% White
24.1% African American
33.9% Latino
1.2% Native American
12.4% Asian
JTOH Mentor:
Karissa A. Garcia
Cell: 303-523-8223
Email: kgarcia44@mscd.edu
Jefferson High School (2011-2012)
Title I School
Principal: Mike Little

Contact Info:
2305 Pierce St.
Edgewater, CO 80214
Phone: 303-982-6056
Fax: 303-982-6057

Statistics*:
2.7 % Native American
0.7 % Asian
4.3 % Black
73.6 % Latino
18.7 % White

Alameda High School
Title I School
Principal: Susie Vanscoyk

Contact Info:
1255 S Wadsworth Blvd
Lakewood, CO 80232-5406
Phone: 303-982-8160
Fax: 303-982-8161

Sponsoring Teacher or Contact:
John Sullivan
Phone: 303-982-8160

Statistics*:
2.3 % Native American
8.6 % Asian
2.5 % Black
59.4 % Hispanic
27.2 % White
JTOH Mentor:
Reyna Lozano
Phone: 303-618-8616
Email: rlozano5@mscd.edu

East High School (2011-2012)
Title I School
Principal: John Youngquist

Contact Info:
1600 City Park Esplanade
Denver, CO 80206-1429
Phone: (720) 423-8300

Sponsoring Teacher or Contact:
Mario Ortiz

Statistics*:
45.5% White
31.9% Black
19.4% Latino
1% Native American
2.1% Asian
Inner City Parish

Principal: Charlene Ramirez
Contact Info:
910 Galapago Street
Denver, CO  80204
Phone: 303-629-0637

Sponsoring Teacher or Contact:
Mark Paul
303-629-0632

Program of American Indian Youth Leaders

Contact Info:
1975 Oak St. Lakewood, CO 80215
Phone: 303-238-8207
Fax: 303-237-4210

Teacher or Contact: Carrie Howell
denverpaiyl@gmail.com

Denver Justice High School  (2011-2012)

Contact Info:
4760 Shoshone St.
Denver, CO 80211
Phone: 303-480-5610
Fax: 303-480-5613

*Statistics provided by Denver Public Schools

JTOH Student Outreach Programs

Aurora Fox Cultural Concerts Series 2010-2011
The JTOH program reached out to 2600 Denver Metropolitan area students through collaboration with the Colorado Folk Arts Council (a non profit 501 (c) 3), Cultural Concerts on Colfax series. This monthly concert series features multicultural performance groups from
numerous disciplines including Pow Wow dancers, African drummers and Aztec dancing, musicians and the internationally recognized Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Company. The primary goal of the concerts is to expose students to the rich and vibrant cultural heritage of the performing arts in Colorado. The JTOH mentors were able to present information about Metropolitan State College of Denver (MSCD) and the JTOH program the concerts with partnership with the Aurora Fox Theatre. Through this partnership we hope build a strong MSCD and JTOH presence in the schools state wide.

**Mentoring**
The JTOH mentors from MSCD were responsible for mentoring 77 individual competitive team members from ten high schools and a total of 426 students impacted by JTOH mentors. A total of 435 hours were put in by MSCD JTOH mentors coaching and mentoring team members. The teams attended many events on and off the MSCD campus. Each team member received a participation medallion for their efforts in the competitions.
Program Evaluations
The JTOH program realizes that the continued success of this program is dependent upon an ability to gather and analyze statistical data and student/teacher evaluations on a yearly basis. In 2010 we instituted several new policies. Program evaluations are now conducted by all JTOH mentors at the end of the school year. Each high school team member and their sponsoring teachers are given the opportunity to evaluate the program. The JTOH college mentors also fill out their own evaluation forms.

Below is a synopsis of all evaluations we received from the nine participating 2009-2010 JTOH program.
(2011 Evaluations will be completed May 20th, 2011)

JTOH Total Evaluations for All High Schools 2010-2011
(Nine participating high schools with individual 77 team members)

Evaluations on Essay Expression Competition
Essay Competition Written Essay Contest
• 72/72 students would like to keep this portion of the competition.
• 72/72 students would like an art project.
• 57/72 students would like a poetry slam.
• 35/72 students would like a cooking project.

Comments of what they liked about the Essay Expression:
• “I love the challenge of writing about history”
• “Helped me learn about my people.”
“It was great to be able to express our feelings in print.”

Evaluations on the Cultural Expressions Contest

- 72/72 students liked this year’s open ended questions.
- 72/72 students thought the time limit adequate
- 72/72 students thought the mentoring help was adequate.

Comments of what they liked about the competition:
- “It was a lot of fun
- “I liked learning more about my culture and facts no one else knew.”
- “It was very interesting to see other peoples skits.”

Comments of what they didn’t like about the written essay:
- “Needed more time to plan our skit.”
- “We spent too much time on the mural.”
- “We needed more time to research our topic.”

With regards to Jeopardy Style

Jeopardy Style Competition:
- 49/72 students thought they had enough time to read the study guide.
- 60/72 students felt the material was interesting.
- 68/72 students felt the questions were fair.
- 70/72 students felt time allowed to answer questions was fair.
- 65/72 students felt the rules were fair.

Comments of what they liked about the competition:
- “It was really fun and got to meet other people.”
- “It was fun.”
- “The competition was fair. This year we had plenty of time to study.”
- “It was a great learning experience. I had a blast!”
- “The study guide was fun and helpful.”

Comments of what they didn’t like about the competition:
- “I really think the dry erase boards were boring “
- “The time was way too long for answers”.

Based on the input gathered from these evaluations several changes will be made in 2010/2011 JTOH competition.
- Reorganize the structure of the written essay portion of the competition to meet the needs of the students by choosing question that are more relevant and timely for the high schools;
• Allow more study time for the jeopardy style competition questions and institute a training session for all mentors on how to teach the jeopardy style questions; and
• Add an art component and a poetry slam for the upcoming year.

Journey Through Our Heritage 2011/2012

For the 2011/2012 season the Journey Through Our Heritage program has selected the theme, Visions of Aztlan: From Africa to the Americas. This year MSCD college mentors will plan several new events and continue to improve the competition portion of the JTOH project.

2011/2012 Season at a Glance

Competition Events (All dates are tentative)

Each of the following events is worth up to a maximum of 100 points or partial points for all high school teams. The JTOH will host nine high school teams during the season.

Aug. 24th On campus fall kick off 10-2PM. Cultural Fair and Demonstrations.

Sept. 24th Welcome Back 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM St. Cajetan’s Slam poetry with Molina de Solei & Aju and Rocky Mountain Storytellers Conference (100 points for attending to all teams)

Dec. 10th 6:00 PM Cultural Expression Competition St. Cajetan’s

Feb. 15th Written Essays due for JTOH via e-mail

March 19th 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Jeopardy Style Competition St. Cajetan’s

April 30th 6:30 PM Café Cultura Poetry Slam Event St. Cajetan’s (100 pts. for attending to all teams)

May 21th 6:00 PM Award Ceremony Tivoli Commons and Barbeque (rain site St. Cajetan’s)

Special Events

During the course of the year high school teams may earn extra bonus points by attending special events. You must sign in with your mentors. Each special event is worth an extra 25 points.

Oct. 2nd 6:00 PM-Chicano Humanities Arts Council (CHAC) Art Show
Peace and Justice: Reflections of conflict and resolution featuring art of JTOH team mentors. Opening reception with Azteca Art Colorado.

Oct 8th 10:00 AM -2:00 PM Castro Visiting Professorship

TBA

Spring of 2012
March 31, Metro State College Cesar Chavez celebration on campus
TBA Lalo Delgado Poetry Festival
April 16th Denver Women’s Press Club Peace and Justice Poetry seminar
TBA Metro State College Cinco de Mayo
TBA Sisters of Color United for Education: Spring Health Fair
TBA Spring Break United for Education: Spring Health Fair
TBA Genecario Apache Summer camp

JTOH Partnerships with Non-Profit Organizations:

Colorado Folk Arts Council
The Colorado Folk Arts Council (CFAC) was organized in June of 1968 by a group of culturally active individuals to represent organized groups of various elements of Folk Arts (music, dancing, crafts, etc.) that would be a clearing house of information, distribute information and sponsor workshops and other events of orientation and understanding of people and cultures. The CFAC was incorporated as a non-profit organization on July 28, 1969 in the State of Colorado.
2890 Newland Street Wheat Ridge, CO 80214-8036 (303) 232-5542 http://www.colofolkarts.org

Sisters of Color United for Education
In 1991, Sisters of Color United, was established as a nonprofit organization with the vision of advocating for health equity and improved quality of life. Our organization’s goals are to improve peoples’ health, wellness, and quality of life by educating families about healthy lifestyles and increasing their access to health services by removing language and cultural barriers. SISTERS host the oldest Promotora de Salud program in Colorado. Promotor/a de Salud is a health promotion and harm reduction education and advocacy program. Although only recently recognized by the Center for Disease Control as a best practice for its effectiveness in Latino communities, Promotoras de Salud are well known throughout Mexico and Central America as front line community health workers. Our health promotion and harm reduction education utilizes a unique and culturally relevant holistic curriculum – Mind, Body, Spirit – and empowers participants to access meaningful healthcare and support services through community activism, advocacy, information exchange, referrals, and art as social justice.
W. 8th Ave Denver CO, 80204 (303) 446-8800 Fax: (303) 446-8799 http://www.socue.org

Chicano Humanities Arts Council
The Chicano Humanities & Arts Council (CHAC) was founded in 1978 by a group of visual and performing artists. The organization was established as a place where Chicano/Latino artists were provided with a venue to explore visual and performance art and promote and preserve the Chicano/Latino culture through the expression of the arts.
772 Santa Fe Drive Denver, CO 80204-4429 (303) 571-0440 http://www.chacweb.org
Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Studio
Cleo Parker Robinson Dance is an international, cross-cultural, dance-arts and educational institution rooted in African American traditions and dedicated to excellence in providing instruction, performances and community programs, for intergenerational students, artists and audiences. Guided by a vision of dance as the universal language of movement that celebrates performance, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance is committed to honoring diversity and inclusiveness throughout the global community. 
119 Park Avenue West Denver, CO 80205-3209 (303) 295-1759 http://www.cleoparkerdance.org

Library People
Library People is a statewide, not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping libraries with library collections, services and programs through grants, technical assistance, connections, and advocacy. Library People work toward quality library service for Colorado residents by providing advocacy, support, and coordination of service projects to enable libraries of all types, especially small and rural libraries, to meet community needs.
(303) 938-8766 http://www.librarypeople.org

Denver Woman’s Press Club
The Denver Woman’s Press Club honors its heritage, functioning as a stimulating gathering place for people in literary, journalistic and media endeavors by promoting the cultivation of friendship and providing moral support to members; encouraging through educational and philanthropic means the pursuit of writing.
1325 Logan Street Denver, CO 80203-2308 (303) 839-1519 http://www.dwpconline.org

Grand Design Inc.
Grand Design is dedicated to preserving and keeping alive, primarily the performing arts of African Americans, yet inclusive of other cultural performing arts; to provide entertainment and brassier the awareness of the public and an appreciation by the public through performances, concerts, presentations, visual art exhibits and cultural awareness training for the benefit of the residents in Aurora and the metropolitan area.
http://www.grandbydesign.org

Boys and Girls Club of Metro Denver
Since 1961, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver has been helping kids from tough neighborhoods in the Denver area stay out of trouble, stay in school, and succeed in life. The organization owns and operates eight safe neighborhood branches where kids can spend time after school and during the summer.
2017 West 9th Avenue Denver, CO 80204 (303) 892-9200 http://www.bgcmd.org

Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts
The Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts is called to spread the Gospel primarily to the some 5000 kids that can be found on every street corner, trailer park and parking lot in their neighborhood in Denver. Their strategy to do this is through the formation of the Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts. By combining state-of-the-art technology and the passion of dedicated staff and volunteer teachers and a dream of inspiring future generations to engage their culture and leave their mark via drama, dance, photography, film-making, musical instruments, graphic design, voice, poetry, etc.
4201 W. Kentucky Ave., Denver, CO 80219 (303) 949-4674
http://www.joncompassionministries.org/ministries/mauriciosaraviaacademy.html

Only One Inc.
Only One Inc. was established by David Young in 1989 with the motivation and dedication towards creating
social change. This non-profit implemented a program that addresses health prevention because of the high rates of diabetes, cancer, STDs and issues around health and food habits among the Chicana/o, indigenous and Mexican communities. Only One Inc. works with the community to teach about sex education, alcohol, curanderismo and cultural awareness. In order to enhance their health, first individuals have to value themselves and have a sense of self. That is why teaching youth about culture is very important. In 1991, recognizing the significant need for HIV prevention in the Latino community, Only One worked closely with leaders from the Chicano/Latino communities to establish HIV prevention/service programs in Denver. In 1998, the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment contracted with Only One Inc. to assess the HIV prevention needs of the Native American Urban community in the Denver/Boulder Metro Area. Based on the findings of that assessment the Wapia Project, a prevention project targeting Native American Youth was initiated. Only One continues to provide year-round projects and activities for the Chicano, Mexicano, and Native American communities with a commitment to improving the well-being of its consistency. (720) 980-9639

Mana Pottery Studio
Over the last six decades, deep in the heart of Aravaipa Valley in southeastern Arizona, Mana Pottery has been producing unique and stunning American Southwestern art. Multi-colored, hand painted renditions of desert life on handcrafted earthenware provides an inspiring visual feast in the context of everyday functionality. The workmanship that goes into each piece is the meditation of three artists: Immanuel (Mana) Trujillo, who has been making visionary art for sixty years, and Anne Zapf and Matthew Kent, who have been making Mana Pottery for 30 years
30800 W. Bonita Klondyke Rd., Wilcox, AZ 85643 http://manapottery.com

Casa Mayan
Auraria Casa Mayan Heritage, an organization dedicated to preserving the history of Auraria and the legacy of the Casa Mayan restaurant. The organization was founded by Gregorio Alcaro and Trinidad "Trini" Gonzalez, descendants of Ramon and Carolina Gonzalez Alcaro, a Denver architect who was 10 years old when the displacement happened, said the ceremony and memorial "represent a milestone in the way the campus has worked with the community and formed relationships." His cousin, writer and lecturer Trini Gonzalez, added, "Good morning, Aurarians. Welcome home."
(303) 388-5174, tghuss@comcast.net

Casa de la Esperanza
Casa de la Esperanza (House of Hope) a 32-unit residential community owned and operated by the Boulder County Housing Authority in the City of Longmont. The Casa de la Esperanza (Casa) Resident Services Program offers an “after-school” program and academic center which provides educational and recreational services to Casa residents, allowing them greater access to opportunity and success by promoting higher education and computer skills and computer access.
1520 South Emery Street, Longmont, CO (303) 485-6287

GrowHaus
The GrowHaus is an indoor farm, marketplace and educational center in Denver's Elyria-Swansea neighborhood. Our goal is to provide healthy, affordable food for the surrounding community and raise awareness about issues of food justice and sustainability.
http://www.thegrowhaus.com/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Duration</th>
<th>Award Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Higher Education Serving Institute</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Serving Institute Initiative</td>
<td>$19,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Juvenile Justice Youth Team Grant</td>
<td>$4,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Folk Arts Council</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro State College Work Study</td>
<td>$61,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$177,109</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Journey Through Our Heritage Program Staff:

Department Chairman of Chicana/o Studies Department and Associate Professor at Metropolitan State College of Denver:

Ramon Del Castillo, Ph. D.

Ramon Del Castillo is currently Associate Professor and Chair of the Chicana/o Studies Department at Metropolitan State College of Denver. He possesses a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology and Mexican American Studies from the University of Northern Colorado. His Masters Degrees are in Social Science and Public Administration and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado at Denver.

Dr. Del Castillo is a past columnist for the Rocky Mountain News and a current columnist for El Semanario. His critical essays cover the plight of the Chicana/o in American society. His awards include the prestigious Colorado State Division of Civil Right’s Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award (1998); the “Spirit of Tlatelolco Award,” (2005); the Latino and Latina Student Law Association Community Humanitarian Award (2005); the Cesar Chavez Peace and Justice Committee’s Founders Award (2008); the Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales Civil Rights Award (2009) the Espiritu de Aztlan Award from Metro College (2010.)

Ramon is published in his discipline. His poetry publications/books include: Tales from a Michoacano; Broken Concrete; From the Corazon of a Bato Loco; and When the Owl Can’t See at Night; Chile Colorado, a CD with three local poets and a storyteller used in the Chicana/o Studies Department curriculum; poetry unit in El Alma de la Raza curriculum, used in Denver Public Schools; and Cantos Al Sexto Sol: An Anthology of Aztlanahuac Writing; Cool Salsa edited by Lori M. Carlson and Encyclopedia Chicana.
Journey Through Our Heritage
Program Coordinator:

Dr. Renee Fajardo

Dr. Fajardo has long been an advocate of children’s and family rights. Her work with art education, literacy, and community programming have crossed all borders and boundaries. The former director of the Crossover Project, a nonprofit cultural arts education program, Dr. Fajardo has organized summer camps for at risk children, implemented high school cultural workshops, and helped provide cultural programming to thousands of students in the past 15 years.

As a board member of many cultural-nonprofit organizations throughout the state of Colorado, Dr. Fajardo has extensive knowledge of cultural, ceremonial, and community traditions of numerous indigenous people. Her own Chicana/Native American (Picuris Pueblo) and European roots allow her to be sensitive to the many nuances that face today students of color.

A Denver native and graduate of the University of Nebraska, she is also a freelance writer specializing in the South West. She has published articles dealing with subjects ranging from the migrant farm worker crisis in America to the importance of cultural art in impoverished neighborhoods to profiling success stories of immigrant families who own their own businesses.

She is also the co-author of the Holy Mole Guacamole Tummy Tale series with Carl Ruby, a series of four children’s books on food, culture, and family. She co-produced the Return of the Corn Mothers exhibition, a Colorado Endowment for the Humanities Award recipient for 2009, along with master photographer Todd Pierson. She strongly believes that community is family and through our connection to our past and ancestral ways we can empathize with others in a compassionate way.

Office Administrator: Mercedes Salazar

Regis University Denver, Colorado
M.S.M., Master of Science in Management Leadership 1995,
B.S.B.A. Bachelor of Science in Business Administration 1990
Certificate in Spanish 1974 Attended University of Mexico City

Mercedes assists the department Chair, Faculty and Students in the Chicana/o Studies Department with the main focus of the retention and success of students completing their education. She manages the budget and prepares course schedules, through the Metro Banner computer system. Mercedes participates in staff meetings and supervises work study students. She assists in the
planning of the following activities; Richard T. Castro Distinguished Professorship, Corky Gonzales Annual Symposium, Cesar Chavez, Corn Mothers Project, Journey Through Our Heritage and the Lalo Delgado Poetry Festival.

As the Fiscal Manager of these events she maintains an accurate budget, by contacting the caterers, entertainment, speakers, room reservation and obtaining visual equipment and supplies for the event. Mercedes develops all flyers, invitations and works close with the campus public relations and media departments to assure a successful event. She has also developed an email list of CHS majors and minors and other Latino surname students throughout the Auraria campus for recruitment and invitations to events.

**Information Technology:**

**Domonic Velarde**

Domonic Velarde is a native of Denver, Colorado and a senior at Metropolitan State College of Denver. He will graduate spring of 2011 with a Bachelor of Science in the Independent Degree Program - IT Programming, Web, and Database Development as well as a Minor in English with a Writing Emphasis.

I am honored to be the Webmaster for the Journey Through Our Heritage Project and the Chicana/o Studies Department at Metropolitan State College of Denver. I started with the Journey Through Our Heritage Project in 2008 as a mentor. The experience taught me valuable skills in being able to connect with today's younger generation. I found through mentoring that many of the students had the same questions I did about our cultural roots. It empowered me to reconnect with my heritage and rediscover things I did not even know I had lost. Since then I have progressed to serving as IT to the Journey Project, and finally culminating in an internship as the Webmaster for the Journey Through Our Heritage Project and the Chicana/o Studies Department. – Domonic Velarde

**MSCD College Mentors:**

**Adrian Tijerina**

**Colorado Folk Arts Council (CFAC)**

My name is Adrian Tijerina. I am a Music Education Major and Chicana/o Studies Minor at Metropolitan State College of Denver. My date of graduation will be spring of 2013. I am from San Diego, California and moved here to attend school here at Metro.

The non-profit organization I work with is the Colorado Folk Arts Council (CFAC), which is one of the oldest multicultural organizations in the state of Colorado. The CFAC was founded in 1968 by a group of individuals who represented organized groups
that were culturally active in different elements of Folk Arts (i.e. music, dance, crafts, storytelling, etc.). Their first community activities took place on May 18th, 1969 when the CFAC helped to organize ethnic group participation for the opening of the new convention center in Denver. The first CFAC festival took place on stage at the Central City Opera House on July 25th, 1971. The first annual International Heritage Festival was presented at the University of Denver arena in 1976 to commemorate the Colorado Centennial celebrations.

The Colorado Folk Arts Council works with many schools, businesses and government programs to present ethnic folk arts in the community. Their street address is 2890 Newland Street in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. The CFAC president Ron Gehauf’s phone number is 303.232.5542. The CFAC website is http://www.colofolkarts.org. The CFAC became an official non-profit organization on July 28th of 1969. Their mission statement is: To encourage the preservation of ethnic cultural arts, history and traditions through educational workshops, youth team building, public performances, and community projects. This is a very noble mission seeing as how important it is to preserve cultural identities in today’s society.

As a music education major, I am excited to be working with the Colorado Folk Arts Council to help as much as possible in making Hispanic community impact well known. I currently am working on the 2010-2011 Colorado Folk Arts Program Guide. This catalogue is a compiling of ethnic artists from all around the state of Colorado. The task has truly become a labor of love for me, there are many things to accomplish but I am excited with what this catalogue will offer when it is complete. I also am helping with Journey Through Our Heritage’s 2010-2011 Aurora Fox concert series which includes helping to organize performance dates and the artists who will be performing through Metro State’s Journey Through Our Heritage program and the Colorado Folk Arts Council. In the planning of the concert series, I also have met with Grand Design a non-profit organization in Aurora, Colorado to collaborate on a performance that specifically showcases the African American artists and storytellers in the community. I am very excited to be part of this non-profit organization. I believe whole-heartedly in its mission, purpose, and impact in the communities throughout Colorado.

**Jay Michael Jaramillo**

**Chicano Humanities & Arts Council (CHAC)**

**Escuela Tlatelolco**

My name is Jay Michael Jaramillo. I was born and raised in Colorado. I have attended Metropolitan State College of Denver since Fall 2008, where I plan to graduate in 2012, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing along with a minor in Chicano Studies.

As a Marketing Major, I have gained experience in my field of concentration while working for the Journey Through Our Heritage Program. It has enabled me to work with my peers and faculty of each of the Tri-Institutional Colleges at Auraria; including engaging in committee meetings, being the lead for MSCD for community events such as the Latino Leadership Summit and Rudolfo “Corky” Gonzales Symposium. In addition, I worked for MSCD’s Admissions Office where I assumed the role as an ambassador to the college.
I am a mentor to students at Escuela Tlatelolco- a center for Chicano culture education and arts. I enjoy empowering young people to explore their heritage, to establish their identity and promote their self confidence in the process. I truly enjoy teaching curriculum that is not taught in the schools, reintroducing students to drawing/painting, and showing the students how to write essays/poetry like a college-bound student. Learn more about Escuela Tlatelolco: www.escuelatlatelolco.org/

I have been immersed in art my entire life; My father, Jerry Jaramillo, is an influential artist in the Denver and Latino Community and is one of the Co-Founders of Chicano Humanities & Arts Council (CHAC). Beginning at a young age, I worked for my father, which has given me valuable experience and knowledge of fine arts as a trade. I share the same passion for art as my father, which is why I have created and exhibited my own artwork at CHAC since 2003.

I was paired with the nonprofit, Chicano Humanities and Arts Council (CHAC) which serves the Denver and Latino Community as a place where artists are provided with a venue to explore visual and performing arts. Further, serving the mission to promote and preserve the Chicano/Latino culture through the expression of the arts and education. Introduce yourself to Colorado’s culture: www.chacweb.org

Many art exhibitions such as “El Dia de los Muertos” and “Milagros del Corazon” where I donated my art to the gallery. In March 2011’s “New Beginnings” exhibit I premiered as a featured artist where I gained firsthand experience of how to curate, coordinate, facilitate and promote an art exhibition.

Ultimately, I believe my calling in life is to advance the presence of my father's artwork, to solidify his legacy as a true Chicano movement artist. I truly feel my father and his comrades who founded CHAC deserve to have their names and their accomplishments documented in Chicano/Colorado history. See my vision, captured in MSCD’s article about me: www.mscd.edu/impact/profiles/jaramillo.shtml

My goal is to strive to the utmost of my ability in linking The Chicano Humanities & Arts Council with Journey Through Our Heritage, making the organizations synonymous with each other; as well as acclimating the students I mentor to the Auraria campus and preparing them to become college scholars.

CHAC Gallery is located along the Santa Fe Art District.
772 Santa Fe Drive
Denver, CO 80204
www.chacweb.org
CHAC's Executive Director - Crystal O'Brien
CHAC's business Phone: 303-571-0440

Alex Garcia

Only One Inc. / La Academia

I am Alex Garcia a student at Metro State College with a Music Major. I'm currently a sophomore and plan to graduate by Spring 2013. I am from El Paso, Tx and moved to Colorado when I was a sophomore in high school, almost five years ago.
For the time that I have been working with David Young, I have learned about the indigenous culture and traditions. David Young is a *curandero* and a Chicano activist that practices the Temazcal (also known as a sweat lodge) every month. He uses this kind of spiritual events to bring people together and invites everyone in the community to be part of the Temazcal. The meaning for gathering people during a Temazcal is because it is a spiritual ceremony that creates an ambience of leaving negative energies in the past, leading to positive relationships and actions. He teaches history and indigenous culture to high school students. I have visited high schools with David Young and performed Chicano/a songs and had discussions about college experience and motivations for them to seek a higher education.

Being part of Journey Through Our Heritage is I've experienced opportunities that relate to the passion that I have for music. By being able to work with David Young, I’ve had the opportunity to play guitar for Dolores Huerta when she visited Metropolitan State College of Denver on October 7, 2010. I played with David Young 5 songs and at the end we sang “Las Mañanitas” for Dolores Huerta because it was her birthday. That was a great experience for me, I never thought I would play “Las Mañanitas” for Dolores Huerta and it was something important because she has been a great person and activist for our community that it was a pleasure to be able to play in her birthday.

The experience that I’ve had by working with David Young and Only One Inc. has been very inspiring and has helped me to learn about my heritage having more reasons to be proud of it. It is a big influence that inspires me to become a positive influence for other students and help them be as motivated as I am to embrace their heritage and traditions. It is an experience that encourages me to learn more and creates an enthusiasm towards achieving my college education.

**Essence Montoya**  
*Servicios De La Raza/ Denver Justice*

My name is Essence Marie Montoya. I am a Biology Major at Metropolitan State College of Denver. My date of graduation is 2015. I was born and raised in Denver, Colorado although my family stems from the San Luis Valley area and New Mexico area.

I work at Servicios De La Raza which is one of the most dedicated neighborhood non-profits that I have worked for. At this non-profit I work with Fabien Ortega who is one the most unique guys I have met. The most exciting thing that I do is help in the food bank. I bring in all the groceries that were given to the non-profit for the community. Servicios has multiple resources available for the community such as the La Gente Program for HIV testing and other tests, GED classes, math tutoring and many other resources. This non-profit is an eye opener for me because I didn’t realize how much they do in such a small building. I was first introduced to this non-profit when I was looking for a summer job. I then signed up with the WIA program which helps youth from 16 to 21 get job, glasses, take courses and many other things that they provide.
Another non-profit I work for is Denver Justice High School which is one of the best places I decided to volunteer at because I get to experience the high school life again. At Denver Justice I work in the office with all the paperwork that needs to be filed or sent to a classroom. I also serve lunch to the students which helps me bond with the students more. I have worked in the math classroom tutoring students and I find this very exciting which makes me see myself in the future tutoring students. Working with the youth has taught me to be free and live a little because when I first arrived at the school every day I was there I was asked if I was scared. I laughed it off but I soon realized in order to get to know the youth more I got to begin conversing and build a relationship with them. I now feel close to the youth and every Friday I spend with them is a great day well spent. When I graduated from Denver Big Picture High School I never thought I was going to set foot into another high school again but I’m glad I got the opportunity once again. I am going to Metro in order to begin my college life in order to become a Pediatrician. Becoming a Pediatrician is one of my life long dreams and it will come true in the near future. I previously worked at Denver Health as a volunteer and I noticed there were very few Latina as nurses and I didn’t see any Latina doctors so I personally want to say I will be one of the Latinas that were missing at Denver Health. I also want to become a pediatrician to help out the families in need that live in my community because I have viewed several people that have gotten great jobs and left the community and never came back to share their wealth or expertise in the field. I have a big vision of opening a doctor’s office that will be for families who need a little helping hand with their or their child’s health instead of going to another hospital and being discriminated against.

Jacob Acosta
Brady Exploration

My name is Jacob Acosta. I am a freshman at Metropolitan State College of Denver. I am currently majoring in journalism. I enjoy this as a major because I would like to become a sports writer someday. I also work in the Chicano Studies Department and an organization known as Journey Through Our Heritage. Journey through our heritage JTOH is an organization that mainly focuses on the community and the people. Journey Through Our Heritage also reaches out to the young people in the community and inner city high schools. All of the mentors in JTOH are students currently enrolled in college, each one of us works and mentors at different high schools and nonprofit organizations throughout the city. The purpose of us working at these high schools is too
attempt to recruit students into furthering their education and a college of some sort. I mentor at Brady exploration high school. I have been working there since the beginning of my freshman semester, I have created such a good bond with my students that I don’t even feel like their mentor I feel like more of a friend, we meet weekly and prepare for upcoming events that come up throughout the year such as the cultural expression event and the jeopardy event. Each of these events is educational and tests the student’s knowledge. I also work at the Boys and Girls Club. The Boys and Girls Club is a community organization geared towards kids ages 7-19. The Boys and Girls Club hold many events as well and take the children on field trips from the museums to the Rockies games. The Boys and Girls Club is one of the happiest environments I’ve ever worked in. I am very happy to work for these different organizations and high schools. I will also continue to further my own education so I could possibly help out others in the future.

Reyna Lozano

Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts / Alameda High School

My name is Reyna Erica Lozano. I am a sophomore at Metropolitan State College of Denver pursuing a Business Management Bachelors degree and minor in French. I was born here in Denver, Colorado in 1991 and was raised in a Mexican family who only knew how to speak Spanish. Growing up presented many challenges such as economic problems and racial prejudice and language barriers lack of self esteem due to the fact I was bilingual. Over time I learned to overcome these challenges and learn new things.

I work with a non-profit called Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts. My duty as a coordinator assistant is to read to the kids and help them with their homework, help cook supper for the kids to eat, teach the painting class to the kids and helping them paint, and work the store of prizes for the kids. To work for this non-profit is a real honor because it has allowed me to connect with the little kids and get more involved with the community.

In addition to working with a non-profit organization I work with a high school. I graduated from Alameda High School and throughout the four years I really enjoyed working in many extracurricular activities. Since I started working with Journey Through Our Heritage I needed to work with a high school and I decided to work with Alameda. My duty at my high school is to work as a mentor and tutor with a group of high school students. I get with them once a week and help prepare them for our events. I have had the opportunity to bond with my students and give them advice and help them follow the right path.

Through my experiences working with Journey Through Our Heritage, the community outreach, and high school, I have discovered the urging desire to work in something similar in the future. I hope to one day own my own business and work with many different organizations. I also plan to make a change in peoples lives, most importantly the younger generation because I feel that it is important to mentor...
them so when they grow up they can be someone very important in the future. I believe that they are the leaders of the future and we have to guide them in the right way.

Maria Lozano
Lincoln High School/Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts

My name is Maria Lozano and this is my third year at Metro, studying towards nursing, and this is also my third year with Journey Through Our Heritage (JTOH). I was born in Denver, Colorado and am a first generation Mexican American. I was interested in working with JTOH when I had History of Mesoamerica my freshman year since Professor Helen Giron-Mushfig told me about this work study opportunity, when she was the program coordinator at that time. I was assigned to work with Lincoln High School and have been with them since then.

When I started working with Lincoln High School, I struggled very much with my leadership skills because I had recently graduated from high school and I was basically in charge of mentoring students who were very close to my age. Fortunately, the two students I had were able to win second place in one of the competitions. I have been able to surpass this struggle and been able to have my students, who were a team of twelve students, win first place in cultural expression and jeopardy competition, and first grand prize last year. This year, my four students were able to win first place in the cultural expression. I have greatly enjoyed working with Lincoln High School since I have developed a great relationship with the students in the team as well as the sponsoring teacher Mark Delgado. I help Mark Delgado with his Hispano American History class every Friday as a teacher assistant where I go around the classroom and help the students. I recruit the students from his classes to be with JTOH, where I meet them after school. I have been able to bond really well with all the students I have had since we have a good time with each other when we are preparing for the competitions.

I was assigned to work with Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts this school year. I am the coordinator’s assistant for their after school program for children ages 4 to 12. A typical day helping this program starts with reading to the children followed by snack time. They then go to whatever art class they chose. I have helped out in the painting and ceramic art class. After their class they go to the prize store where they choose a prize from the points they have earned that week or from the points they have saved. I’m in charge of giving them the points as well as determining which prizes they can get based on their points.

I have accomplished so much by being with JTOH. I have maintained my sense of identity and learned about many cultures which will later help with my nursing career since I am going to work with people from many cultures. This year I was honored to have received the Cesar Chavez Leadership
Award at the Community Cesar Chavez March on March 26. I have also been happy to attend the NACCS conference March 30-April 2 and represent JTOH by presenting in one of their sessions.

Sophia Bagola
Program of American Indian Youth Leaders (PAIYL)

My name is Sophia Bagola; I am from the Oglala Lakota Sioux Tribe. I am a Political Science Major and Native American Studies Minor at Metropolitan State College of Denver (MSCD). I will be graduating in summer 2011. Since I have been at Metro I have been challenged to think critically and intellectually about the current educational system and the way it relates to the global environment. I am eager to attend graduate school and someday go back to my reservation and teach and show positive leadership.

I am currently working for the Journey Through our Heritage at MSCD. The program is wonderful and has been the most challenging and rewarding experience I have had since I have been a student. In this program I have had the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of working creatively with Indian youth. I am

I have been working with the Indian Education office of Lakewood, which is a non-profit organization that works with Indian students. This program is supportive of the “No Child Left Behind Act”, and it is the goal of every worker to outreach to Indian students for the purpose of tutoring and mentoring students in grades ranging from k-12. While working out of the Indian Ed. Office I have gained knowledge and skills of working in a professional setting with great responsibilities and confidentiality.

B. Peach Dance

Library People

My name is B. Peach Dance and I am a junior at Metropolitan State College of Denver. I was born and raised in the Denver area, graduated from East high school on the honor role in 2009. I am majoring in modern languages–Spanish in 2012. I am receiving a minor in dance and participate in an activity called Winter Guard with a professional troupe. This activity consists of spinning flags, rifles, and sabers in an indoor environment to a music as opposed to on a field to a marching band (color/fall guard). Although I do not do this activity through Metro State, it has taught me many important life lessons in
conjunction with my college experiences including, social academic, and professional maturity.

I am a work study in the Chicana/o Studies Department for the Journey Through Our Heritage program. This program matches work-study students with a non-profit organization and I have been matched with Library People. Library People is a nonprofit organization that provides advocacy, support, and coordination of service projects to enable libraries of all types, especially small and rural libraries, to meet community needs. Incorporated in 1984 as a Colorado nonprofit, Library People began as an activist group to meet statewide issues of support for libraries. Many people came from local libraries’ Friends groups. After several years, and the resolution of the original issue, the group went on hiatus. Library People began a new phase in its existence in 2005, by recruiting Board members, initiating special projects, and developing ties to local library staff and local Friends groups.

Currently, Library People helps libraries with services and programs through grants, technical assistance, connections, and advocacy. Among its activities are a statewide network of local Friends and library supporters; annual Rural Library Enrichment Project grants; a Best Friend Award; a quarterly E-Flash news bulletin; and the Authors Appearances project. A new partnership through Metropolitan State College of Denver is focusing on outreach to Latinos on behalf of libraries. Library People: 2207 Bluebell Ave, Boulder, CO 80302, www.librarypeople.org, libraryPeopleColorado@yahoo.com, 303-394-3710.

Being a book lover and having been to the library many times in many places, working with library people is a nice fit. Since this organization is relatively behind on the development scale, it is exciting that I have such a close influence on the development of the organization itself, and the libraries, and in turn communities it serves. I am currently researching the greatest need of services from Library People by looking at different counties’ library services and resources, and beginning a statewide Friends network database.

Monica Crespo
La Academia Inner City Parish

My name is Monica Crespo; I was born and raised in Guanajuato, Mexico until the age of ten when I was brought to Colorado along with my two brothers and my parents. I graduated from Niwot High School in June 2009. I am pursuing a career in the Chicano Studies field and I am anticipating graduating from Metropolitan State College of Denver in the fall of 2013. I am one of the Chicana/o Studies work study students at Metro State involved in the Journey Through Our Heritage program. I am very pleased to say that the program has allowed me the opportunity to work with
students of a local high school and several nonprofit organizations, such as Only One Inc. and Sisters of Color United for Education.

Only One Inc. is a nonprofit organization that focuses on addressing health disparity issues impacting indigenous communities related to mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. While working with David Young, the founder of this nonprofit organization, I got the opportunity to participate in sacred ceremonies such as sweat lodges and the Mayan New Year ceremony. I also feel that my understanding in the curanderismo field has greatly impacted my life in a positive way. Working at Sisters of Color was also a wonderful experience because I was able to witness the great impact that this organization makes in the community and in the lives of many women of color like myself. Sisters of Color has been providing the community with a safe and supportive environment for almost twenty years.

Although community service is a big part of the JTOH program, the partnership with the local high schools is vital to keep the program running. Like all the work studies from JTOH, I have been partnered with a High School; La Academia Inner City Parish, an alternative high school. I am on my second year with La Academia, and I have to say that it has and still is an amazing experience working with kids who have had a rough past are now trying to better themselves and their education.

Avalon Fajardo-Anstine
Colorado Folk Arts Council

My name is Avalon Fajrdo-Anstine. I am a Human Nutrition major with a minor is Spanish. My Graduating semester will be Spring of 2014. I am a Denver native from a large Chicano family.

Currently, I am part of the AmeriCorps UCAN serve program and am involved with the JTOH program here at Metropolitan State College of Denver. Through the JTOH program I work with numerous non-profit organizations that help with children in our community. Many of the members of JTOH work within the urban schools with students, instilling a strong education value in them and encouraging them to pursue a higher education. Recently, the JTOH program coordinated the Cesar Chavez march, commemorating the community activist and even had a street name dedicated to him.

I am also an artist and dancer. I recently had a showing at CHAC art gallery, here in Denver alongside a fellow JTOH member. The show was up for the month of March 2011. The name of the show was “New Beginnings”, bringing in the next generation of CHAC artists, all were in their late teens and early twenties. I am also a flamenco dancer and part of the Aztec group Chimaltonali. This is a group that travels around the Denver Metro area, performing at schools and social events that promote cultural awareness. We have done workshops at many elementary schools.

I enjoy working with JTOH and the community. I am very proud to be working in the communities and helping people realize their potential and possibly their own passions. As a Nutrition
major I hope to help much more people improve their standard of life and give them useful knowledge. I hope to continue my journey helping the community and giving back to my community.

Karissa Garcia  
Sisters of Color United for Education / South High School

My name is Karissa Garcia. I am a sophomore at Metropolitan State College of Denver and I am a Criminal Justice Major and a Chicano/a Studies Minor. I was born and raised in Denver, CO and I transferred to Metro from Red Rocks Community College. My expected date of graduation is unknown, I am still thinking of either getting my Bachelors degree or pursuing a Masters degree.

I work with the non-profit organization, Sisters of Color United for Education in Denver. This organization was started back in 1990 by two women, one is Belinda Garcia. She is the chair of the organization and co-founder. These women recognized the staggering economic, cultural, political and social barriers that increased people of colors’ health risks, such as poverty, lack of formal education, unequal family power dynamics, and community stigmas associated with illness. For nearly twenty years Sisters has been sustaining programs to help the community. They have focused on providing a safe and supportive environment to the community (SOCUE.org).

My work at SOCUE lets me experience different types of individuals and be there first hand to help them with what they need. I have overseen meetings with other organizations and have helped out at events and parenting groups. The staff and volunteers at this organization have worked tirelessly to bring community closer and to be there as a helping hand and place of support. I have learned how to be a better leader from Belinda Garcia. She started her dream in 1990 and it still thrives to this day. The website for Sisters of Color is www.socue.org.

Along with my non-profit, I work with South High School students. Since this is my first year working with JTOH I picked South High School because of the vast diversity of students. I have the pleasure of working with two students, Amodj Manga and Ruth Nadia. Both of these girls are from Africa and are fluent in French and their native African languages. I also work with their ELA teacher Jessica Robles in her fifth period class on Fridays. I love working with an ELA class because of the diversity and how the students are much more eager to learn. There are students of all different backgrounds and come from different countries. I was anxious at first because of the language barriers, but as I grew to know the students it has been an amazing experience. I am so proud of my girls because they came in second place out of eleven schools at the Cultural Expression Competition. When I am at South I usually help the students with homework, take them to the library or I take them down individually if they need help. I hope to work with the same students for the rest of the time I work with JTOH.
Maurice Cates
Information Technology

My name is Maurice Cates I am 22 years old and am currently a junior attending Metropolitan State College of Denver in pursuit of my Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Hardware Repair. I am of, African American, Anglo, Mexican, and Native American decent. As far as cultural background goes I really don’t have much to be honest. But that is a reason why I am working with the JTOH department. I did not have many friends growing up, even now I still don’t have many (for different reason), but this position is slowly helping me to understand other cultures and for that I am extremely grateful.

I have a job that most people would not consider a real job or “sport” but many in the world do, albeit just on a much smaller scale. I am what is known as a Professional Gamer, meaning I am paid for playing a certain video game thanks to being a sponsored player. I made my break into this particular area by going out to what is considered to be the fighting game genre’s biggest event, The Evolution World Championships in 2009. My chosen games of choice are Street Fighter 3 and Street Fighter 4, the former being what I attended this event for. I had gone to Evo 2 years before in 2007 and placed decently (32nd overall in an event with a minimum of 1200 participants) but not enough to get recognized. I did not become a “big name” until 2010, when I entered the world championships and placed 5th place over all in Super Street Fighter 4, which for being an unknown player from a part of the country where street fighter does not have much of a community is a large accomplishment. I am now considered to be one of the top players in the world (being ranked as the 4th overall player in the world), and I receive many perks. My first perk is being one of the few players in the world to be paid for playing and also to be sponsored. While there are many sponsored players in the world I’m one of the few that is considered talented enough to be paid. I am currently sponsored by DMG or Dominion Method Gaming, a company that seeks and signs various fighting game competitors to contracts for their ranks. I am paid a monthly salary as well as having any out of state and sometimes even the country trips paid for including Airfare both ways as well as having my hotel room and all expenses paid for by the company. My main reason for enjoying being a pro gamer so much though is not because of the money or the perks, it’s because I get to meet other people that share the same interests and passion for gaming that I do. Yes that may sound “nerdy” to people that don’t understand the whole thing but just like there are other types of communities and cultures out there this too can be considered a community and even a culture by some. This is where the uses of social networking as well as my experiences in the Journey through Our Heritage program come into play.

While I may love being a pro Street Fighter player and having my name known all over the country and some parts of the world I would not be where I am today without a lot of hard work. However I realize that this is something I cannot do forever and at some point I will have to get a degree and become a “real member of society”. This is a part of the reason I work for the JTOH program as IT support in addition to my gaming career. I have always had an interest in computers and thanks to a couple of really great and talented teachers in addition to my own curiosity I consider myself to be a somewhat knowledgeable individual in the field of computers. I pretty much taught myself how to fix and even build computers and I don’t have what would be considered “real knowledge” among today’s
Joseph Abeyta  
Clare Gardens

The first day I arrived at Clare Gardens, I was met by many smiling children, glowing with innocence. One little girl by the name of Emily, scratched her chin while playing, and I accompanied her to the first aid station in which I put anti-biotical cream on her wound, and covered it with a band-aid as to avoid infection. This specific incident made me think of how I can impact others within the field of medicine. My name is Joseph Leonard Abeyta and I’m currently a second year student at Metropolitan State College of Denver. My major is Pre-Med, which took little convincing for me to select medicine as a career option. I was born in Denver, Colorado and grew up on the cusp of Lakewood and Denver around Sloans Lake. I attended Colfax Elementary and went on to Lake Middle School. I was enrolled in the “gifted and talented” program. While all my fellow peers were going off to North High School, I would commute an hour and a half every day to attend George Washington High School to attend their International Baccalaureate (IB) program. It was at this moment where I developed my love for the field of science, biology specifically. My instructor, Dr. Feirbern, was at one time a physician turned biology teacher and my mentor. He once told me if you love what you do you’ll never work a day in your life. I have used this model and applied it to my education and future career plans and throughout my life.

I work with Clare Gardens, a Non-Profit located at 28th and Osceola. This organization provides low-income housing for the people in the community. They also have a recreation center that provides a safe haven for the children within the community. They provide food services, recreational activities and have a computer lab. I work within the computer lab and allow the children to have access to the facility to play games, fill out job applications and use that time to help them with any tech needs as necessary. I enjoy all aspects of this position in that I grew up not too far from there and have a strong sense of connection with the community as well with these kids. More than anything else, I enjoy expressing to these children that they can do anything they want if they put forth a strong effort and work hard.
Letter from the Coordinator:

As the Coordinator of the Journey Through Our Heritage program at Metropolitan State College of Denver, I am very excited to be part of this wonderful project. The hard work and dedication of those who created the Journey has been a labor of love for many years. It is a great honor for me to continue this work.

Chicana/o Studies along with African/African American Studies believe that this unique program will instill in the hearts of our college students and the high school teams we work with the spirit of cooperation and stewardship that is the legacy of our ancestors. The Journey is about team work, community service, honoring our ancestors, knowing our history, excellence in academics, and striving for a better tomorrow by engaging the minds of our youth in thought provoking competition. We are all from indigenous people and the past has much to teach us about being caretakers of the Earth. As we embark on the newest leg of our journey together we invite you to join as we explore new horizons and celebrate the bright future of our students.

We look forward to a very productive 2011/2012 season. We are pleased to be forming new partnership and anticipate a wonderful journey to come.

Blessings,

_______________________

Dr. Renee Fajardo