Welcome! Nawah! Hau Kola! Bienvenidios! Jambo! Cualli Tlaneci!

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 and engages them in a year long program whose 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. The grand finale of the year is an academic "knowledge bowl" between/among participating high school teams.

JTOH also participates in numerous community events and works with the Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts, an organization 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 on a year round basis.

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 teacher's ability 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 2011-2012 School Year

Journey Through Our Heritage through MSCD

- JTOH employed 9 Metropolitan State College of Denver work study students for the fall and spring semester of 2011/2012 and 8 volunteers for work in local high schools and office organization.
- JTOH Team logged 5815.11 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 has recruited many area high schools to participate with the JTOH high school program: ACE Community Challenge Charter School, Alameda High School, Brady Exploration, Brighton High School, East High School, Escuela Tlatelolco, Inner City Parish, Lakewood High School, Lincoln High School, Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts, North High School, Pagosa Springs High School, PAIYL (Program of American Indian Youth Leaders), Salida High School, Sheridan High School, Thomas Jefferson High School, William Smith High School.
- Of the fourteen high schools there were 15 teams assembled and 81 participants, 12 Metro mentors and 13 teachers involved in the program this year. This year we gave twelve stipends to high school seniors for graduation and encouragement to pursue higher education.
JTOH Student Organized Events and Partnerships 2011-2012:

MSCD Department of Chicana/o Studies with MSCD President’s Office of Cultural Diversity

Mauricio Saravia Poetry & More Series
April 27th, 2012 Mauricio Saravia Poetry & More Series- Café Cultura Poetry and Music Jam

Colorado Folk Arts Council

Aurora Fox Cultural Concerts Series 2011-2012
December 14th, 2011 Indigenous Tribute to the Winter Holidays- Huitzliopochtli Aztec Dancers, Adrian Molina Spoken Word
January 18th, 2012 Martin Luther King Jr. Day– Grand By Design, Black Hands Drum Ensemble
February 15th, 2012 Black History Month– Cleo Parker Robinson Dance
March 14th, 2012 Papi, Me & Cesar Chavez– El Centro Su Teatro
April 25th, 2012 National Poetry Month- Michael Heralda
May 2nd, 2012 Cinco de Mayo Celebration– Fiesta Colorado,
Academia de Ballet Folklorico Nezahualcoyotl

Community College of Aurora Cultural Series 2011-2012
September 28th, 2011 Hispanic Cultural Month – Huitzliopochtli Aztec Dancers
November 9th, 2011 Native American Month – Medicine Heart Dancers
February 7th, 2012 Black History Month – Grand by Design, Black Hands Drum Ensemble

Hannah Kahn Dance Company
December 7th, 2011 Special Presentation at Meadow Point Elementary– Hannah Kahn Dance Company

JTOH Competitive Events

Each of the following events is worth up to a maximum of 500 points or partial points for all high school teams. The JTOH hosted fourteen high school teams during the season.

September 29th, 2011 - JTOH: Welcome Back Ceremony w/David Young
December 9th, 2011 - St. Cajetan’s Journey Through Our Heritage: Cultural Expressions
February 27th, 2012 - JTOH Literary Journal Deadline via email jtoh2011@hotmail.com
April 20th, 2012 - JTOH Jeopardy Style Competition at St. Catejan’s
May 17th, 2012 - JTOH Awards Ceremony at the Tivoli Commons Auraria Campus
May 18th, 2012 – JTOH Award Ceremony Tivoli Commons and BBQ
JTOH Special Events

Summer 2011:

June 4th – July 15th, 2011 - La Alma Summer Camp: Metropolitan State College of Denver in partnership with Judy Montero and Denver Parks and Recreation

Fall 2011 Semester:

August 22nd - 24th, 2011 - MSCD Welcome Week at the Tivoli Commons
August 26th-27th, 2011 - San Lorenzo Fall Ceremony - Sisters Of Color United
August 28th, 2011 - Chili Harvest Festival featuring Huitzliopochtli Aztec Dancers
August 31st, 2011 - Growhaus Food Co-op

September 1st, 2011 - Student Org Fair, student involvement and tour, Tivoli Commons
September 10th, 2011 - “Cointelpro” at Su Teatro 721 Santa Fe
September 11th, 2011 - United We Stand Invesco Field with Sisters of Color United
September 14th-15th, 2011 - Auraria Campus Fall Festival, Tivoli Commons
September 15th, 2011 - Hispanic Heritage Celebration, Tivoli Commons

October and November Dia de los Muertos and Other Events
October 6th,7th, 2011 - 2nd Annual JTOH Community Art Show, CHAC Art Gallery
October 10th, 2011 - MSCD Campus Immigration Awareness Day
October 16th, 2011 - JTOH Chicano Arts and Humanities Council Altar Pick-Up
October 18th -20th, 2011- Richard T. Castro Distinguished Visiting Professorship with Sonia Nazario
October 21st, 2011 - CHAC Dia de Los Muertos Celebration

November 1st, 2011 - Day of the Dead Pirate Art Gallery Altar Drop Off
November 2nd, 2011 – Dia de los Muertos at St. Cajetan’s, Auraria Campus
November 2nd, 2011 – Dia de los Muertos Community Celebration at Clare Gardens
November 4th, 2011 – Pirate Art Gallery Dia de Los Muertos Celebration
Spring 2011 Semester:

February 10th, 2012 - CHAC Heart Show featuring Journey Through Our Heritage
February 16th, 2012 - Black World Conference at the Auraria Campus
February 20th-22nd, 2012 – Mayan New Year Celebration with Sisters of Color

March 2nd, 2012 - Woman's World Conference at the Auraria Campus
March 19th, 2012 - Latino Leadership & Cesar Chavez Tribute:
JTOH President Jay Jaramillo and JTOH Secretary Karissa Garcia awarded
March 31st, 2012 - Cesar Chavez March

April 13th, 2012 - Café Cultura Collective at Inner City Parish featuring Ara Cruz
April 21st, 2012 - Mauricio Saravia Poetry Series / Denver Public Schools
Teacher Recertification Workshop at CHAC Art Gallery
  ·  9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Identifying Your Students Heritage
  ·  10:45 AM - 12:00 PM Utilizing art in classroom
  ·  1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Utilizing Cultural Storytelling in the Classroom
  ·  2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Utilizing Movement through Danza
  ·  3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Keynote speaker, David Young
April 24th, 2012 - Lalo Delgado Poetry Festival at St. Cajetans
April 26th, 2012 - Mauricio Saravia Poetry Series feat. Michael Heralda w/ Aztec Stories
MSCD Campus Roger Braun Lounge, Sessions: at 8:00 PM/9:30 AM/11:00 AM/2:00 PM
April 27th, 2012 - Mauricio Saravia Poetry MSCD Café Cultura
  Poetry w/Michael Heralda/David Young Adrian Molina and Ara Cruz
April 28th 2012 - La Raza Youth Conference - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the MSCD Campus
April 28th, 2012 - Mauricio Saravia Poetry Series Michael Heralda w/ Aztec Stories
Women’s Press Club Spring Seminar, Denver Woman's Press Club
Boulder Library: 1:00 p.m. 1001 Arapahoe Avenue Boulder, CO 80302
Grand Finale Fiesta: 5:30 p.m. – CHAC Art Gallery

May 3rd, 2012 – JTOH Cinco de Mayo Celebration

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 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 two 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 classroom 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 Demonic 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

ACE Community Challenge
Charter School
Principal: Eloy Chavez

Sponsoring Teachers:
Maureen King, Sara White
Phone: 720-690-2800, 720-429-7700

Contact Info:
948 Santa Fe Drive
Denver, CO 80204
Phone: (303) 436-9588
Fax: (303) 436-0919

JTOH Mentor:
Arlette Lucero
Phone: 303-445-7354
Email: arletteluc@msn.com

Alameda High School
Title I School
Principal: Susie Vanscoyk

Statistics*:
2.3 % Native American
8.6 % Asian
2.5 % Black
59.4 % Hispanic
27.2 % White

JTOH Mentor:
Karissa Garcia
Phone: 720-338-9044
Email: kgarci44@mscd.edu

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

Brady Exploration
Title I School
Principal: Troy Braley

Statistics*:
1.4 % Native American
3.7 % Asian
1.8 % Black
18.3 % Latino
74.8 % White

JTOH Mentors:
Rachel Summers
Cell: 720-903-6268
Email: rachel.summers@hotmail.com

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
Brighton High School
Title I School
Principal: John L. Biner

Contact Info:
270 South 8th Avenue
Brighton, CO 80601
Phone: 303-655-4200

Sponsoring Teacher or Contact:
Contact: Rosanne Himes
Phone: 303-655-4200

Statistics*:
2.3 % Native American
8.6 % Asian
2.5 % Black
59.4 % Hispanic
27.2 % White

JTOH Mentor:
Desirae Sarabia
Phone: 720-496-6776
Email: dsarabia@mscd.edu

Denver Justice High School

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

East High School
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

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@ecuelatlacetolco.org
Monica Garcia
Email: monica@escuelatlacetolco.org

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

JTOH Mentors:
Jay Jaramillo
Cell: 720-620-6203
Email: jjaram22@mscd.edu
**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

JTOH Mentors:
Monica Crespo
Cell: 720-771-0488
Email: mcrespob@mscd.edu

Alex Garcia (Sigma Lambda Beta)
Cell: 915-539-9147
Email: agarc106@mscd.edu

**Jefferson High School**
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

**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

**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

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

JTOH Mentor:
Diana Chavez
Cell: 720-939-1654
Email: dchave53@mscd.edu
North High School
Title I School
Principal: Ed Salem

Contact Info:
2960 Speer Blvd.
Denver, CO 80211-3795
Phone: 720-423-2700
Fax: 720-423-2821

Sponsoring Teacher:
Jocelyn Palomino
Phone: 720-423-2948
Email: Jocelyn_palomino@dpsk12.org

Statistics*:
8.6% White
3.4% African American
85.4% Latino
1.4% Native American
1.3% Asian

JTOH Mentor:
Jacob Acosta, Stephanie Porteous
Cell: (720) 329-9473
Email: rporteous@mscd.edu

Pagosa Springs High School
Principal: David Hamilton

Contact Info:
800 S 8th St
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Phone: 970-264-2231
Fax: 970-264-2239

Teacher or Contact: Mable Barber

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

Salida High School
Principal: Dan Estell

Contact Info:
310 E 9th Street
Salida, CO 81201
Phone: 719-530-5252
Fax: 719-539-6220

Teacher or Contact: Miguel Steffan Morris
mmorris@salida.k12.co.us
**Sheridan High School**  
Principal: Michele Kelley

Contact Info:  
3201 W. Oxford Ave.  
Sheridan, CO 80236  
Phone: 720-833-6747  
Fax: 720-833-6833

Teacher or Contact: Craig Thompson  
cthompson@ssc12.org

**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

**Thomas Jefferson High School**  
Principal: Sandra Just

Contact Info:  
3950 South Holly St.  
Denver, CO 80237  
Phone: 720-423-7000  
Fax: 720-423-7047

**William Smith High School**  
Principal: Jane Shirley

Contact Info:  
400 Airport Boulevard  
Aurora, CO 80011  
Phone: 303-364-8715  
Fax: 303-326-1278

Teacher or Contact: Laren Victor  
levictor@aps.k12.co.us.com

**JTOH Mentor:**  
Karissa A. Garcia  
Cell: 303-523-8223  
Email: kgarci44@mscd.edu

- 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: kgarci44@mscd.edu

- 1.1% Native American
- 3.2% Asian
- 16.3% Black
- 41.8% Hispanic
- 31.9% White
- 0.7% Pacific Islander
- 5.0% Mixed

*Statistics provided by Denver Public Schools*
JTOH Student Outreach Programs

Aurora Fox Cultural Concerts Series 2011-2012
The JTOH program reached out to 1673 Denver Metropolitan area students through collaboration with the Colorado Folk Arts Council (a non profit 501 (c) 3), through the 16th annual Cultural Concerts on Colfax series. This concert series features multicultural performance groups from numerous disciplines including Native American Pow Wow dancers, African drummers and Aztec dancing, the internationally recognized Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Company and Michael Heralda (who holds current exhibits at the Smithsonian Museum for his series Aztec Stories). The primary goal of the concerts is to expose students to the rich and vibrant cultural heritage of the performing arts both in Colorado and Nationally. 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 as well as strong partnerships with local artists, dancers and musicians.

Mentoring
The JTOH mentors from MSCD were responsible for mentoring 81 individual competitive team members from fourteen high schools for a total of 1500 student contacts initiated by JTOH mentors. A total of 1576.5 hours were put in by MSCD JTOH mentors coaching and mentoring team members. The teams attended events on and off the MSCD campus. Each team member received a participation medallion for their efforts in the competitions. Through the partnering and establishment of core volunteers JTOH was able to reach many students and expand the influence of JTOH partnering with Pagosa Springs High School in Pagosa Springs, CO (276.5 miles from Denver!).

![Total Work Study Hours 2011-2012](chart1.png)

![Total Volunteer Hours 2011-2012](chart2.png)
Aggregate Student Contacts
Fall and Spring 2012

Total = 4035 Contacts
Journey Through Our Heritage 2012/2013

For the 2012/2013 season the Journey Through Our Heritage program has selected the theme of Caretakers of the Earth. This upcoming year Metropolitan State College of Denver will be transitioning to Metropolitan State University of Denver, college mentors will plan several new events and continue to improve the competition portion of the JTOH project.

2012/2013 Season at a Glance

Competition Events (All dates are tentative)
Each of the following events is worth up to a maximum of 500 points or partial points for all high school teams. The JTOH will host nine high school teams during the season.

**Sept. 29th**  Welcome Back 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM St. Cajetan’s
  Slam poetry and D.J. (100 points for attending to all teams)

**Dec. 19th**  6:00 PM Cultural Expression Competition St. Cajetan’s

**Feb. 27th**  Written Essays due for JTOH via e-mail

**April 20th**  6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Jeopardy Style Competition St. Cajetan’s

**AWARDS CEREMONY**

**May 18th**  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.

**Aug. 24th**  Fall Kick Off and Ceremony Tivoli Commons 11:30-1pm

**April 27th**  6:30 PM Café Cultura Poetry Slam Event St. Cajetan’s (100 pts. for attending to all teams)

**Oct. 7 6:00 PM-Chicano Humanities Arts Council (CHAC) Art Show**

featuring art of JTOH team mentors. Opening reception with Azteca Art Colorado.

**Oct 19th  10:00 AM -2:00 PM Castro Visiting Professorship**

**Spring of 2013**

March 31, Metro State College Cesar Chavez celebration on campus
Lalo Delgado Poetry Festival
Metro State College Cinco de Mayo
Sisters of Color United for Education: Spring Health Fair
Spring Break Community Service trip to Mana Studios
Genecario Apache Summer camp
ITOH 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 Youths 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/

JTOH Awards and Grants 2011/2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic Serving Institute Initiative</td>
<td>$ 19,500</td>
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<td>ACE Community Challenge Grant</td>
<td>$ 10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Juvenile Justice Youth Team Grant</td>
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<td>MSCD President’s Office of Diversity</td>
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<td>Metro State College Work Study</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 79,868</strong></td>
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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 UC 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.

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 Chairs, 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.
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.
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.
B. Peach Dance

Information Technology

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.
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 overall 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’
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 to college scholars.
Alex Garcia (Sigma Lambda Beda)  
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.

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 to 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 at. 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.

Maria Lozano
Lincoln High School

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 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.

I have also worked with a group of students who attend Lakewood High School. I really enjoy and benefit from this opportunity because this particular group of students is focused and aware. These students have enlightened me by showing me their awareness of the unique educational and culturally related academic needs. They themselves have made the conscious decision to attend Lakewood high for its challenging academics. They students understand the benefits of going to a school like this and travel far to do so.

Avalon Fajardo-Anstine
Colorado Folk Arts Council

My name is Avalon Fajardo-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 apart 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.
Diana Chavez

My name is Diana Chavez. I was born in Valle de Allende, Chihuahua but raised in Colorado. I am a history major and elementary education minor at Metropolitan State College of Denver. I plan to graduate by 2015.

This being my second year in college I have learned many new things that make me a great asset to Journey Through our Heritage as they to me. This will be my first year with Journey Through our Heritage and from what I have seen in the past is a great program. I cannot wait to start working at my selected high school and begin promoting self-awareness of one’s cultures and self worth to our community. Will work together as a team so at the end we can compete with other high schools and not only teach our values, but learn others values as well.

For my non-profit organization I will be working at Escuela Guadalupe in Mrs. Arlette Lucero’s art class. I will be assisting her with grades k-2nd grade, and with this experience I will go a long way. I will one day be teaching as well to similar grades. This will guide me through the simple understanding of children and what we as adult need to assist them with.

I am very enthusiastic to begin interactions with everyone, not only will I be helping others find out who they are but I will also figure new things about myself.

Desirae Sarabia
Brighton High School

Desirae Sarabia is currently a senior studying to achieve her B.A. at Metropolitan State College of Denver with a Chicana/o Studies Major and a Social Work Minor. Desirae is married with two daughters. She is a Colorado native but enjoys travel. She also enjoys engagement with her community and has volunteered with various organizations including District 27J, Chicano Arts and Humanities Council, City of Thornton and many others.

Desirae had spent her early career in the corporate field gaining skills in Finance and Accounting but found purpose in the non-profit sector while working at First Nations Development Institute, a Native non-profit located in Longmont, Colorado dealing with economic development in Native communities. She held various positions in the organization, from Office Manager to Finance/Executive Assistant focusing on accounting, human resources, and benefits. Later she was able to gain the position of Programs Associate for the Non-profit Capacity Building Department providing support on two grants, Health and Human Services, Strengthening Communities Fund (SCF) as well as a grant from the Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women providing non-profit capacity building to various coalitions and other native non-profit organizations.
While returning to Metro to finish her degree, and following the advice of Dr. Ramon Del Castillo, Desirae was led to a program called Journey Through Our Heritage (JTOH). JTOH is a mentor program that teams up college and high school students in a year long endeavor building confidence and providing leadership skills that motivate students to finish high school and pursue higher education. Under the leadership of Dr. Renee Fajardo, she is learning leadership skills. With these skills, she leads her students by example. Desirae shows them how to become productive, active members of their community all while celebrating their indigenous culture. As a mentor to the students at Brighton High School, she is excited to share about her culture and help her students find the motivation and power within themselves to do anything they want to do.

Desirae has also assumed the role of treasurer with the JTOH Student Organization and is a participant in the Center for Urban Connections, AmeriCorps and 1 Book/ 1 Project/ 2 transform programs. She is looking forward to making the best of her undergraduate experience as she collaborates with others who share in her passion to make a positive impact in their communities.

Alejandra Lara Machado

I am Alejandra Lara Machado born in Los Angeles and proud daughter of Alma Rosa Machado, from Chihuahua, Mexico and Jose Alberto Lara from Jalisco, Mexico. As a little kid I grew up alternating between the Mexican states of Jalisco and Chihuahua. I attended elementary school in Mexico; until in hopes of a better future we moved to Colorado during my middle school years. I graduated from Adams City High School in 2010, and am currently a Metro State student pursuing a double major in Spanish and Social Work with a concentration in GLBTQI studies. I am a volunteer at JTOH and mentor at North High School. North is located on 2960 N Speer Blvd in Denver, Colorado. Having had many students walk its halls for close to a century, the current new comer principal Nicole Veltze is doing a great job allowing programs like JTOH to help out the student body prepare and continue their education. Our wonderful sponsoring teacher Jocelyn Palamino has been part of JTOH for close to ten years. We host weekly meetings in her classroom along with eight eager students. I chose to volunteer at JTOH after taking a Chicano Studies class with Jose Quintana and American Civilization with Charles Angeletti. I know it is wrong to deprive high school students from learning about their roots and not teaching them the other side of American history. I truly wanted to change that because I myself am a first generation Chicana college student and was often lost and confused about my identity in high school. If JTOH had been part of my high school experience I would have had support during college application process, as well as peers with similarities to relate and discuss from our community. Not only that, but my parents would have been able to join and elaborate on historic facts bringing us closer together and allowing me to become aware of important history excluded from textbooks. Unlike many students in Auraria roaming around during break time or wasting their valuable time I enjoy volunteering with JTOH; I feel accomplished at the end of the day because I know I am giving my time to these students who need attention and clarification. In JTOH we all learn together and express ourselves openly. Through JTOH and the Department of Chicana/o Studies I have met many great people who share the same passion. I support JTOH, a program I wish was active in every high school; and as a social work major I enjoy working with these people who are so supportive and caring.
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 2012/2013 season. We are pleased to be forming new partnership and anticipate a wonderful journey to come.

Blessings,

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Dr. Renee Fajardo