



Ted Lascher  
Interim Director

## **Serna Center Newsletter July, 2007**

Greetings friends of the Serna Center! I write as the newly appointed Interim Director. Let me first express my gratitude to Dean Otis Scott for his confidence in appointing me to this position, and to Professor David León (the Founding Director of the Center and Faculty Advisor in spring 2007) and the members of the Advisory Committee for the support and assistance they have provided thus far. I am excited by this opportunity, and the ability to build on the Center's excellent work with respect to providing student scholarships, bringing important events to the campus, supporting faculty research, and the like. At the same time, I recognize that major challenges lie ahead. We need to enhance the Center's visibility both on campus and in the community, and strengthen its financial footing. We cannot rest on past achievements but need to reach further to offer top notch events, research opportunities, and information relevant to the Latino and larger communities. I am committed to those ends.

Over the next several months I plan to use this newsletter to communicate with you about the Center. But the communication need not be in one direction: if you have ideas about ways to strengthen the Center or enhance its activities, please contact me (916-278-4864; tedl@csus.edu). I am especially glad to meet people over coffee (it is not essential that you be a coffee fiend to meet with me... but it helps).

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR: PROFESSOR JULIE FIGUEROA TO ADDRESS  
THE CAMPUS ON OCTOBER 11, 2007**

The Serna Center is proud to announce that Sacramento State Ethnic Studies Professor Julie Figueroa, the 2006-07 Scholar-in-Residence, will make a fall presentation entitled "Building Capacity to Insure Academic Success: Identifying the Challenges and Responses of Latino Undergraduate Males in Higher Education." The presentation will be on Thursday, October 11 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Hinde Auditorium of the University Union. A reception will be held prior to the event from 12:30-1:00 in the Lobby Suite of the Union. I hope to see you there.



## SERNA CENTER STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

The Center recently awarded three Bustos and seven Crowley \$1,000 scholarships to Sacramento State students. As a first time member of the application review committee, I was very impressed by their overall quality. Many of the applicants overcame very significant life challenges in making it to the stage of being able to pursue a college education. Not only are these students excelling in the classroom, but they are giving back to their communities through internships with important community organizations and social service agencies. It is easy to read these applications and feel optimism about the willingness of college students to pursue public service.

## ARTICLE RECOMMENDATION

About the time I assumed the position of the Center's Interim Director I received my copy of *Political Research Quarterly*, the journal of the Western Political Science Association. As luck would have it, one of the articles (by Regina Branton of Rice University) was entitled "Latino Attitudes toward Various Areas of Public Policy: The Importance of Acculturation." Based on analysis of National Survey of Latinos data, the article provides strong evidence of sharp differences in attitudes across Latinos based on generational status and acculturation, even controlling for other variables. Interestingly, these differences apply not only to immigration issues but to topics such as affirmative action and government spending more generally. Many of you may find this article intriguing.

I plan to offer another newsletter no later than early in the fall. In the meantime: enjoy your summer!