ERUSD, Ethnic Studies Pioneers: Leadership to Initiate Culturally Relevant Pedagogy
CABE Presentation - Friday, March 22, 2019

http://bit.ly/2Fr02vM
El Rancho Unified School District

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Christina Mata – Ethnic Studies Facilitator
Need to Know...

What inspired you to attend our session?

What do you hope to learn?
ERUSD has 8 elementary, 3 middle, 2 high schools, and 1 alternative high school. The district is located in Pico Rivera, CA, 11 miles east of downtown Los Angeles. The district serves approximately 8,423 K-12 students, and an additional 600 students in state preschool through adult school. Our demographics can be described as:

- **98%** Hispanic/Latino
- **22.6%** English Learners
- **78%** Low Income
- High School Enrollment is as follows: **ERHS: 2,384**  **EOPA: 155**  **RSHS: 176**
A 2016 research study, conducted by Stanford University, found that the students enrolled in Ethnic Studies courses had an attendance increase by 21 percentage points, and there was also an overall GPA increase by 1.4 grade points.*

*Stanford Center for Education Policy Analysis
THE STUDENTS SPEAK!

Watch the Amazing Program in Action!

THE IMPACT OF ETHNIC STUDIES

THE STUDENTS SPEAK!
EL RANCHO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 37-2013/2014

CULTURAL AWARENESS AND ETHNIC STUDIES GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

Whereas, the El Rancho Unified School District seeks to provide a well-rounded and quality education that exposes students to cultures that are crucial to understanding our nation, past and present, and that helps our students to appreciate the rich histories and cultural contributions of their own communities; and

Whereas, there is a substantial research evidence that well designed and well taught ethnic studies curricula have positive academic and social outcomes for students; and

Whereas, the former Mexican American Studies program in Tucson, Arizona demonstrated significant strides in closing the achievement gap and increased academic achievement for all students; and

Whereas, the El Rancho Unified School District offers a Mexican American Heritage course within our curriculum to teach about the important contributions of Mexican Americans to our communities; and

Whereas, the current Mission of the El Rancho Unified School District is to prepare students as life long learners to succeed academically, intellectually, socially, emotionally and culturally;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the El Rancho Unified School District shall modify its existing graduation requirement to include a course in Cultural Awareness.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Cultural Awareness requirement may be minimally fulfilled be a five credit, semester length A-G College approved Ethnic Studies course including the Mexican American Heritage class, which is already offered at El Rancho High School.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Cultural Awareness requirement and Ethnic Studies class will take the place of the current Geography course requirement.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Governing Board of Education directs the Superintendent to develop curriculum and provide professional development to ensure quality courses in Ethnic Studies that fulfill the cultural diversity requirement.

Ethnic Studies in ERUSD

Ethnic Studies curriculum supports the Common Core framework by:

• Engaging students through exposure to multiple perspectives and diversity

• Developing cultural awareness, sensitivity, and responsibility

• Connecting students to their community and global society

• Increasing self-awareness, confidence, and overall student resiliency
Our Path...

- Teacher Committee Formed
- Vision & Course Options Established
- Call for Proposals
- A-G Course Development
- Curriculum Planning
- Ongoing Support & Open Dialogue
Ethnic Studies Timeline

- **June 2014** – Adoption of Resolution
- August 2014 – Meet with Stakeholder Groups
- September 2014 – Form Teacher Committee
- Oct. – Nov. 2014 – Establish vision and course guidelines
- Dec. 2014 – Call for Proposals
- Jan. 2015 – Committee reviews proposals & provides feedback
- **Feb. – May 2015** – A-G Course Submission Preparation
- May – June 2015 – Course Offerings
- Summer 2015 – Curriculum Writing
- **Fall 2015** – Course Implementation
- **Spring 2019** – New Course Proposals & Curriculum Writing for 2020
El Rancho Ethnic Studies Curriculum Alignment

Vision

The vision for Ethnic Studies at El Rancho is to engage and empower students by providing opportunities to critically examine and understand the experiences of historically marginalized communities to create positive change within local and global contexts.

Ethnic Studies “Standards”

In El Rancho, Ethnic Studies courses that fulfill the graduation requirement:

1. Center the EXPERIENCES of historically marginalized communities.

2. Critically EXAMINE concepts such as race, class, gender, and sexuality in relation to power, political systems, social structures, and social justice movements.

3. ENGAGE students through critical and meaningful dialogue that leads to an understanding of self, society, and the connection between the two.

4. EMPOWER students to advocate and become agents of social transformation by developing community responsive efforts that address the needs of the community and the world.
Ethnic Studies Enhances and Supports All Existing School Programs

- Project Based Learning
- AVID
- College & Career Pathways and Readiness
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- International Baccalaureate
No need to remove courses or credits!

California State Law Only Requires 150 Credits

No need to add extra amount of credits to graduation requirement!
Ethnic Studies Courses

• Multicultural Literature
• Examining Cultural Diversity and Gender through Literature & Film
• Chicano Mural Art
• Mexican American Heritage
• Am I an Ethnic Statistic?
• Art & Culture
• Foundations of Ethnic Studies

More to Come!

• History of Pico Rivera
• Diversity in Theatre and Dramatic Writing
• From Hooverville to Ferguson: A History of Social Movements in the United States
• Ethnic Studies: Action Research in the Barrio
• Ethnomathematics: A survey of the mathematical contributions of non-western cultures
Examining Cultural Diversity and Gender in Literature & Film

CHRISTINA MATA

This course is designed to examine how literature and film shape beliefs around race, class, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation.

Texts & Films Include:
The Color Purple, The Joy Luck Club, Boyz n’ the Hood, Angels in America, Gran Torino, In the Time of Butterflies, Crash, Smoke Signals, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest...
Foundations of Ethnic Studies

Emphasizes essential ethnic studies concepts, such as race, class, identity, gender, and sexuality.

Analyzes the history of ethnic studies as well as a brief history of historically marginalized groups in the United States.
ERUSD Partnerships

• Catalyst and collaborative partner in organizing the inaugural Ethnic Studies Summit hosted by CSULB

• New Course Offerings – Spring 2019
  • CHLS - 215 US Diversity and the Ethnic Experience
  • AFRS 121 - African American History Since 1865-Present

• Students receive 3 units of college credit
Multicultural Literature
MELINDA AGUILAR

Exploring African American, Asian American, Native American, and Hispanic American cultures, and how these cultures assimilate to the American culture.
INNOVATORS & ADVOCATES

Step 1: Empathy — Ethnic Studies Creates Awareness and Insight of Historical Marginalization.

Step 2: Empowerment — Challenges Students to Use that Awareness to Make a Difference.

“Look out on the world/ And wonder/ What we’re gonna do/ In the face of what/ We remember.” — Langston Hughes
The Ethnic Studies Effect
Future Leaders & Global Thinkers

- Latino Club
- Cultural Awareness Club
- Gay-Straight Alliance
- Social Justice Club
- MECHA
- March for Our Lives rally, walkout, and march
Next Steps for ERUSD...

- Curriculum development continues
- Ethnic Studies Expansion Pre-K–8
- Graduation Pathway
- Ethnic Studies Parent Workshop Series
- University Partnerships
- Speaker Series
- Youth Action Research
- Service Learning
- Sharing Our Work
Thank You!
Contact Information

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Check out the full documentary on Youtube!

And Watch the Amazing Program in Action!

https://youtu.be/5TnzuDilDI4