

Dear *Corega*,

We are proud to announce a bold new diversity initiative by your faculty union, the California Faculty Association: the formation of the CFA Latino Caucus (LC). The LC is an unprecedented and promising new social space for Latino/a faculty at CSU; a place, at long last, where we can come together, voice our and our people's concerns and aspirations, assert our needs both as faculty and as Latinos, all with the full support of our splendid faculty union. In this and other ways, CFA is effectively championing and becoming an example of diversity both within CSU and in our society. The enclosed brochure explains the LC's rationale, its long-term mission, and ways for you to join it. We hope you do.

In this letter, we would like to go over the mid-October Founding Conference of the LC with you, as well as describe how we intend to permanently structure and give continuity to the caucus after the conference. You will find the conference dates, location, and program on the reverse side.

The Founding Conference, the site of the formal inauguration of the LC, will be an historic coming together of delegations from each of the 23 CSU campuses (each consisting of up to six Latina/o faculty and students). The hotel, travel, and food expenses of these official delegations will be entirely covered by CFA. To be a part of your official campus delegation, please contact your Campus Delegation Coordinator(s), identified on the left, or use the coupon on the reverse side to let us know of your interest in attending (beyond the six recognized delegates, extra *colegas* are welcome to attend, but at their expense).

Even if you cannot attend the conference, we encourage you to consult with your Delegation Coordinator(s) and your other *colegas* to help select an impressive, representative delegation from your campus. All delegations will be invited to present a report to the plenary on "The Status of Latinos on Our Campus." Please consider giving your input to that report. Your CFA Chapter President will be pleased to discuss the conference with you and/or assist you to get you involved with the LC and other local chapter activities.

We will be honored with the presence of CFA President Susan Meisenhelder and other CFA leaders; three prominent Latino political leaders, state Senators Gloria Romero and Richard Alarcón, and Assemblymember Marco Firebaugh, to whom we are giving our first LC Award; as well as delegations from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and the California Conference of American Association of University Professors (AAUP). There will be three plenaries, twelve workshops, and one roundtable forum, plus a *pachanga* entertained by *Dr. Loco's Rockin' Jalapeño Band* — led by our own inimitable José Cuellar. A packet of materials on the status of Latinos in California's higher education and at CSU will be distributed. Most important for the long-term success of the LC the "LC Rules" will be submitted for discussion and approval, and the Founding Steering Committee of the LC will be elected.

The way we envision the LC functioning, pending approval of the "LC Rules," is that CSU Latina/o faculty will develop their own local LC's on their campuses, select a coordinator or two, and work with the Executive Committee of their CFA Chapter to vigorously build Latino membership and participation in the union, and receive support for LC activities. We envision maintaining a major clearinghouse website and communicating via an email bulletin board. More philosophically, we wish to include and mentor Latina/o students in everything we do, as well as project a "glocal" perspective in all our activities (connecting the local with the global and vice-versa). We will seek to work jointly with all CSU sectors and individuals willing to respect us as Latinos and as faculty.