

AN EVALUATION OF THE STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
UNIFYING CHICANOS FOR GREATER BENEFITS

Hosted by:

Los Chicanos Club
Texas Tech University

October 10 and 11, 1975
Lubbock, Texas



OUR PURPOSE WAS TO GET AS MANY CHICANO COLLEGE STUDENTS IN THE STATE TOGETHER AND ATTEMPT TO UNITE EACH OTHER AND THUS BECOME CLOSER GROUPS WITHIN OUR OWN CAMPUSES. IN ADDITION, WE HOPE TO WORK TOGETHER IN GETTING WHAT RECOGNITION WE, AS CHICANO STUDENTS, NEED ON OUR CAMPUSES.

Our conference was divided into three workshops entitled:

(1) Can we build a state network? The panelists of this workshop were: Dr. Leonard Valverde, Chairperson, from the Department of Education at the University of Texas at Austin, Father Antonio Gonzalez and Tomas Garza, a lawyer, both from Lubbock.

(2) What problem areas can facilitate or hinder our organizing effort? The panelists of this workshop were: Dr. Nephtali Garcia, Chairperson, Political Science, Our Lady of the Lake College, Bidal Aguero - PhD candidate in Education, Texas Tech University, and Julio Llanas, Director of Upward Bound, Lubbock, Texas.

(3) How can we as students affect schools, communities, and other institutions? The panelists of this workshop were: Paulina Jacobo, Chairperson, from the Office of General Counsel in Dallas, and from Lubbock, Nephtali DeLeon, poet and writer, and Art Chavez, Director of Learn Educational Talent Search.

(1) Can we build a state network?

The workshop was begun by having the students introduce themselves. Father Antonio Gonzalez stressed the importance of establishing some means of communication among the different colleges across the state. Mr. Garza brought out the question: Do we want a state network? He stressed the importance of putting in the extra time and effort of building such a network and keeping it going throughout the years.

It was expressed that a state network, used as a means of communication, would be very useful, especially in the case of a university being isolated in far west Texas. It was implied that in establishing a network, the students could gain knowledge of a variety of information that is of particular interest to us as Chicano students.

After discussing these points, the group was divided into two sections which were: the mechanics of building a state network and the objectives of building a state network. In the mechanics section, it was agreed upon that we would attempt to establish a loose network, whereupon one university, designated as the 'hosting university', would be held responsible for (a) coordinating and sponsoring a 'Chicano State Conference' that particular year and (b) making, dispursing, and sending out a master mailing list of every individual who attended, with their address and particular college or university.

Each year at the state conference, a different central office would be chosen and it would be known as the 'hosting college or university' for the next year. It was also suggested that the state be divided into regions whereupon each region chose its particular 'hosting college' and it would be responsible for (a) conducting a regional conference prior to the state conference, (b) recruiting those colleges within its own region which had not been contacted or taken part in previous conferences.

In the objective section, two main objectives were discussed. (1) the distribution of information. This information would pertain to campus activities, Education Programs, scholarships, and

job opportunities. (2) The distribution of resources. This could involve our joining a student lobby group in Austin, having access to influential people or be able to get the masses together to gain support for a particular cause.

(2) What problem areas can facilitate or hinder our organizing effort?

The majority of the first session was spent on discussing differing philosophies about Chicanos and also how people can hinder an organizational effort adhering strictly to certain ideas. Much time was spent talking about the word 'Chicano' -- its significance, and the inability of some students to accept the word. No consensus of opinion was reached.

The second session was dedicated specifically to finding solutions to problems in the individual organizations. The most common problem area encountered was the student's lack of participation. Individual organization President's and members told of different tactics that had been used in order to encourage participation among students.

Presentations were made by the workshop panelists, Nephtali Garcia and Bidal Aguero, on different types of organizational structures. The panelists also emphasized that an organization should set goals and objectives for each school year with minor projects throughout the year to lead up to the ultimate goal. Additional information was given concerning recruitment of students, staff, and faculty. Panelists encouraged students to participate in affirmative action programs at their individual schools.

(3) How can we as students affect schools, communities, and

other institutions?

The workshop was begun by each panelist giving a brief introductory statement. Ms. Jacobo stated that the students are the building block of an institution. Our influences are directed whichever way we choose to go. This places a responsibility on us. She also stated that there is hope and power with such a diversity of majors. Mr. Chavez stated that our involvement as students on campus is important. Any effect that we will have depends on how much time we have to devote to each particular cause. We are past the awareness state, therefore, we can now begin to work. Mr. DeLeon expressed the hope that the delegates to the conference would take this opportunity seriously, and be able to arrive at definite accomplishments.

Five objectives were listed for this workshop:

- (1) To define problems common to unification of Chicanos on campus.
- (2) To define problems common to unification of Chicano students and communities.
- (3) To define problems common to Chicanos in educational institutions.
- (4) Through rap sessions, to exchange solutions already proven successful by other Chicano students.
- (5) To determine what courses of action are most suitable, most productive, and available to Chicano students as an integral group of Texas university students.

One example of a particular university in action was presented. It included placing people in positions of power, such as dorm wing leaders and Chicano leaders in various committees on campus. They added that it is important to get Chicanos involved in everything, such as cheerleading, sororities, fraternities, different campus organizations and student government. One method they use, for example, is uniting with the blacks on campus in obtaining a block vote, thus

electing officers and senators in the student government. One important aspect of any club is to organize a freshman rush to get students interested in the club. It is worthwhile to send invitations or make a personal visit to get the students to come to a party for the purpose of recruiting them to the club. Here, the club members can talk to the students and get them to become members and then get everyone to work. They recognize the fact that there are some Chicano students at two extremes. It is important to take the two extremes and get them in the middle. They must be able to function at both ends. There is no need to be ashamed of whichever end one is in.

A second university presented their methods and ideas for a club that affects their school and community. They basically operate on sorority procedures, the major difference being that all interested students are given membership. They also organize a very effective freshman rush. It is important to have strong officers, a good constitution and a significant, cultural name for the club. One method of uniting the club is to have a strong intramural program. The club members can then participate in team activities. One way of bringing and keeping the image of the club up is by having traditions. If the club has a successful project, they should make it an annual event. The club needs people that young people can aspire to be. Then, once the club is united in this manner, it can be a recognized and effective organization on campus. It can also get involved with the community, such as tutoring students in public schools, giving sewing lessons to women of the community, and working with city-sponsored activities.

Even though there were some inconveniences, we feel the purpose of the conference was accomplished. Through the participants, constructive evaluations and criticisms were received. With these, we acknowledged that areas, such as housing, a centralized location, and well planned organizations are the primary factors of a successful conference. We would like to express our apologies for any inconveniences you may have encountered during your stay.

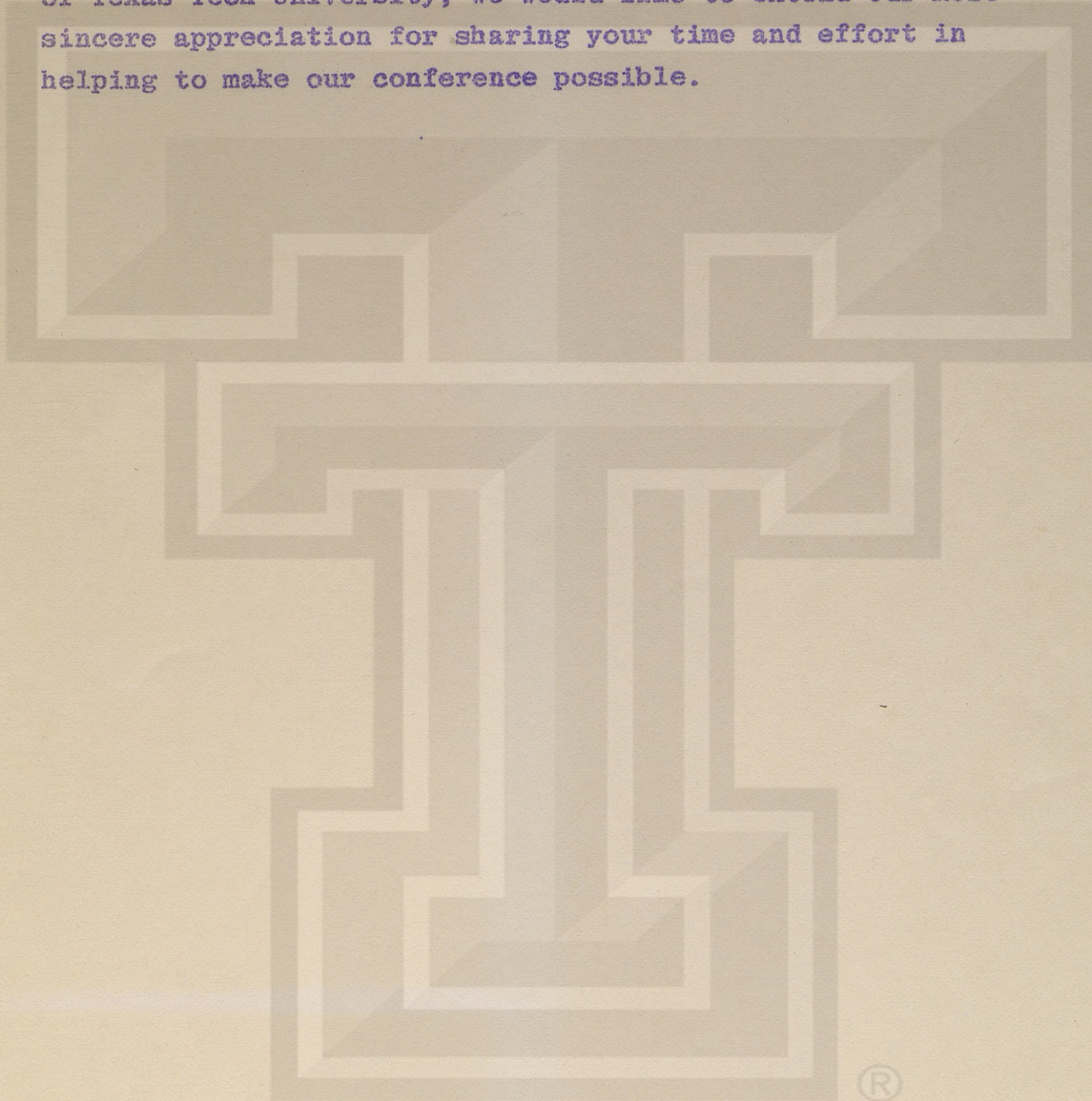
After the conference, we were informed that a state wide organization had already been formed. This organization is called "Estudiantes Chicanos Unidos de Tejas." Since this organization has accomplished what we had first set out to do, we felt it would be to our benefit to unite. During the weekend of November 8-9, 1975, we will be meeting with representatives of this organization at Trinity University in San Antonio. The purpose of this meeting will be to seek more information about this organization.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us. We hope to hear from you.

*ENCLOSED IS A MAILING LIST OF THE PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED THE
CONFERENCE

TO PANELISTS:

On behalf of Los Chicanos and the Student Association
of Texas Tech University, we would like to extend our most
sincere appreciation for sharing your time and effort in
helping to make our conference possible.



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