

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT FOR LATINO/A/X ISSUES CONFERENCE 2020

VIDEO TITLE-

Message from 2020 Conference Organizing Committee

DESCRIPTION-

Dr. Susana Peña invites you to engage with our virtual content related to the Latino/a/x Issues Conference. We have had to postpone the 25th Latino/a/x Issues Conference as a result of the spread of the novel COVID-19 virus. Although we are saddened that we will not meet in person this March 25th, we are excited to share this digital and video content from the Latino/a/x Issues Conference Organizing Committee.

TRANSCRIPT-

Susana Peña:

Hola, mi gente! Good morning on this morning of March 25th, 2020 when we were hoping that we would have been gathering in person to celebrate the 25th Latino/a/x Issues Conference. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 virus, we will not be able to gather in person. Our plan is to postpone the conference and hold it as soon as possible, hopefully in Fall 2020. We didn't want to let this day pass, the day that the conference would have been, without engaging you virtually in conversations of Latinx issues. So, we hope that you will accept our invitation to engage virtually with some video content that we've provided on this day.

We would have been celebrating the 25th Latinx Issues Conference, and so as part of the planning conference we've been collecting all the historical documents of past conferences that we could find, and our graduate assistant Emily Edwards presented a digital gallery with select materials from that collection. It includes all the programs and all the flyers that we've been able to find which is most of them and then select ephemera and other materials. So, we hope that you will peruse this gallery, look for programs where maybe you would have presented or maybe you were one of the organizing committee members. We also invite you that if you have any materials at home that were related to past Latinx Issues Conferences that you don't see in the gallery that you share them with us. You can just email Emily Edwards [eledwar@bgsu.edu], and that information is on that site-how you can contact her to share materials with us. We would scan them and then return them to you if you would like.

We also—very exciting—have a video from one of the founders of the very first Latinx Issues Conference, Mr. Manny Vadillo, from retirement sent us a short video. We asked him to tell us a little bit about how that very first conference came to be, so he talks about his recollections of that process and the conference.

We also have a video from Organizing Committee member Alex Shearer, an undergraduate student here at BGSU. He conceptualized and organized a panel, Latines in STEM. We hope that the panel will take place at our newly scheduled conference, but we asked Alex to just give us a short video to tell us how this idea came to be, why there

should be a STEM panel at a Latinx Issues Conference. So please listen to Alex explaining that.

We have an award presentation of one of our awards. Most of our awards will be presented at the newly scheduled, postponed conference, but this particular award, the winner would not be able to attend the conference so we did a virtual presentation of the award and we invite you to see that as well.

Last, and certainly not least, we have two substantial videos, our feature videos, if you will, from our keynote speaker Rubén Angel, *Queer Xicano Chisme*. There's two video formats. One is a workshop on Meme Therapy, talking about memes and how you can use memes for social justice, and then the keynote conversation which is entitled "Ethical Chisme: On Truth, Community, Care, History and Survival." The two videos from *Queer Xicano Chisme* will only be online for two weeks so we invite you to view them, share them, engage with them sooner rather than later so you don't miss your opportunity.

Last, but not least, we hope that you will join us when we are able to meet in person again. We have wonderful student research presentations, wonderful invited panels. It will take place at Bowling Green State University, and we hope to see you there, but for now, we're online. Thanks.