

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT FOR LATINO/A/X ISSUES CONFERENCE 2020

VIDEO TITLE-

Manny Vadillo Discusses the Organization of the First Latino Issues Conference

DESCRIPTION-

One of the organizers of the first Latino Issues Conference, Mr. Manny Vadillo, discusses the creation of the first Latino Issues Conference which took place on April 21-22, 1995.

TRANSCRIPT-

Manny Vadillo:

If I recall correctly, it was the beginning of the 1990s where Dr. Cabanillas, Mr. Marcos Rivera, and myself were sitting down in the Union after working hours, talking about issues of concern to us and the Latino community on campus. We found that although there were programs that were for the students, there were very little programs for the rest of the community.

A conference was discussed and we agreed to see if we could sell it to the public at large and the university. Everybody I talked to was very positive about the conference. The problem, however, came up with the funding. Luckily, or finally, we were able to secure a few donors, a few backers, like Multicultural Affairs, was the first one; LSU; Romance Languages; Ethnic Studies; and the Office of the Vice-President for Student Affairs. The challenge for me was funding. The challenge, I believe, for Dr. Cabanillas which I am sure he will be able to speak more to that, was to find the proper speakers for the conference.

One of the greatest things that the conference was able to accomplish for me was that I was able to involve more and more students in every aspect of the conference. My hope was that the students would in the future be able to present conferences like that in their own institutions if they chose to work at universities. I believe the conference is a good vehicle and I believe that the community has prospered a lot from the conference, and I hope that the conference continues to exist.

I thank you very much to everyone who was involved especially to Dr. Susana Peña for taking and reviving the conference. Have a good day.