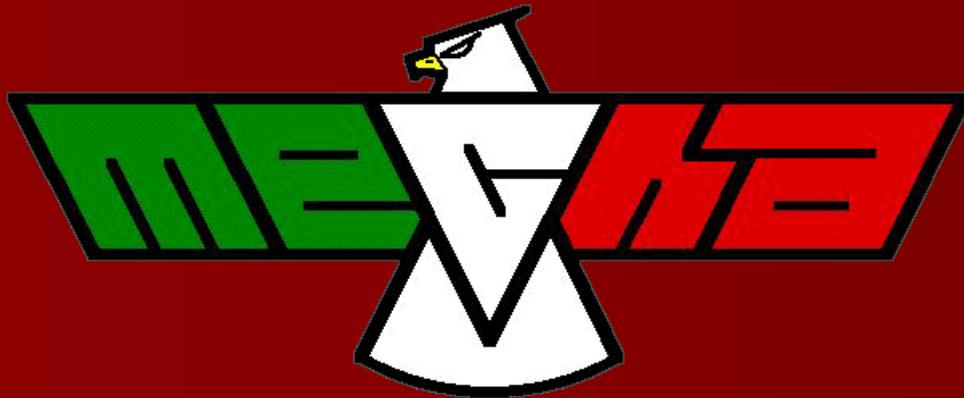


**Welcome to**



# **Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán**

*¡La Unión Hace la Fuerza!*



# 101

# C/S

Presented By

**Andrea Hernandez** : *MEChA de Chico State*

# **Historical Foundation**

- In 1969, **M.E.Ch.A** was founded a month after the 1<sup>st</sup> **National Chicano Student Conference** held April in Denver, Colorado by Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzalez the Crusade For Justice in which ***El Plan Espiritual de Aztlán*** was authored.
- **M.E.Ch.A** was then organized by the **Chicano Coordinating Council on Higher Education**, hosted at the campus of **U.C. Santa Barbara**.
- This conference gathered concerned Chican@ students, activists, educators, and community members to draw attention to the needs and concerns of Chicanos both in the community and in the institutions of education.
- At this meeting, a strategic document was created which outlined the process of empowering Chicanos from on campus: ***El Plan de Santa Barbara (EPSB)***. This plan helped define the responsibilities Chican@ students, faculty, staff and community have to one another.
- At the same time, the name, **M.E.Ch.A** was proposed to replace and unify all previously existing Chicano Student Organizations (MAYO, UMAS, MASC, Etc.





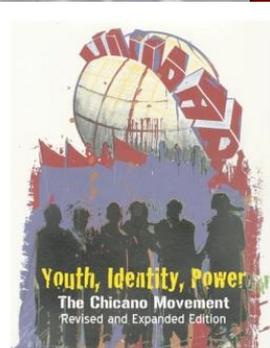
# ***Historical Foundation Continued...***

***The Santa Barbara conference proposed two basic goals for the student movement:***

- **In the Community**, MEChA was to become organically tied to the everyday social and political life of the Mexican American communities, with the aim of developing those communities.
- **On Campus**, MEChA was to become a permanent, well-organized power bloc for the purpose of redirecting university attention and resources to the needs of Mexican American Students and Communities.

M.E.Ch.A.  
1969-2009 - UC SANTA BARBARA  
40th Anniversary of El Plan de Santa Barbara  
Unity, Clap, IO

**From the book: “Youth, Identity, Power: The Chicano Movement”, by Carlos Muñoz Jr.**



"An essential record of the Chicano movement and an important addition to the history of American social protest." - San Francisco Chronicle

**Carlos Muñoz, Jr**

# M.E.Ch.A on Campus



**End the racist Columbus T**  
Stop the budget cuts to education and social services  
Stop the deportational legislation for all  
Stop the attacks on ethnic studies

**Mecha Alta Calles Herbes**  
**Indigenous**  
Friday October 16th, 2012  
Columbus Park, 2012  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Herbes & Calles

**ance Day**

**M.E.Ch.A. de Chico State**  
At this moment we do not come to work for the University, but DEMAND that the University work for OUR People. - Jose Vasconcelos

**WHEN: Thursday (2/9/2012)**  
**TIME: 7 PM**  
Date announced for us to join us for another exciting moment, we return to Woodland Community College and get together.

**WHAT IS M.E.Ch.A.?**  
Attend our M.E.Ch.A. Retreat!  
Friday, February 12, 2012  
9-4:30 PM  
Woodland Community College  
Woodland, CA 95694  
Contact us at: [www.mechawoodland.com](http://www.mechawoodland.com)  
Or visit our website: [www.mechawoodland.com](http://www.mechawoodland.com)

**"La Union Hace La Fuerza!"**  
The more we unite, the stronger we become!  
Join us for our M.E.Ch.A. Retreat!  
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California Statewide M.E.Ch.A. Conference

**Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan**

California State University Chico  
May 27-29



# M.E.Ch.A in the Community



**MEChA Christmas Program 2011**



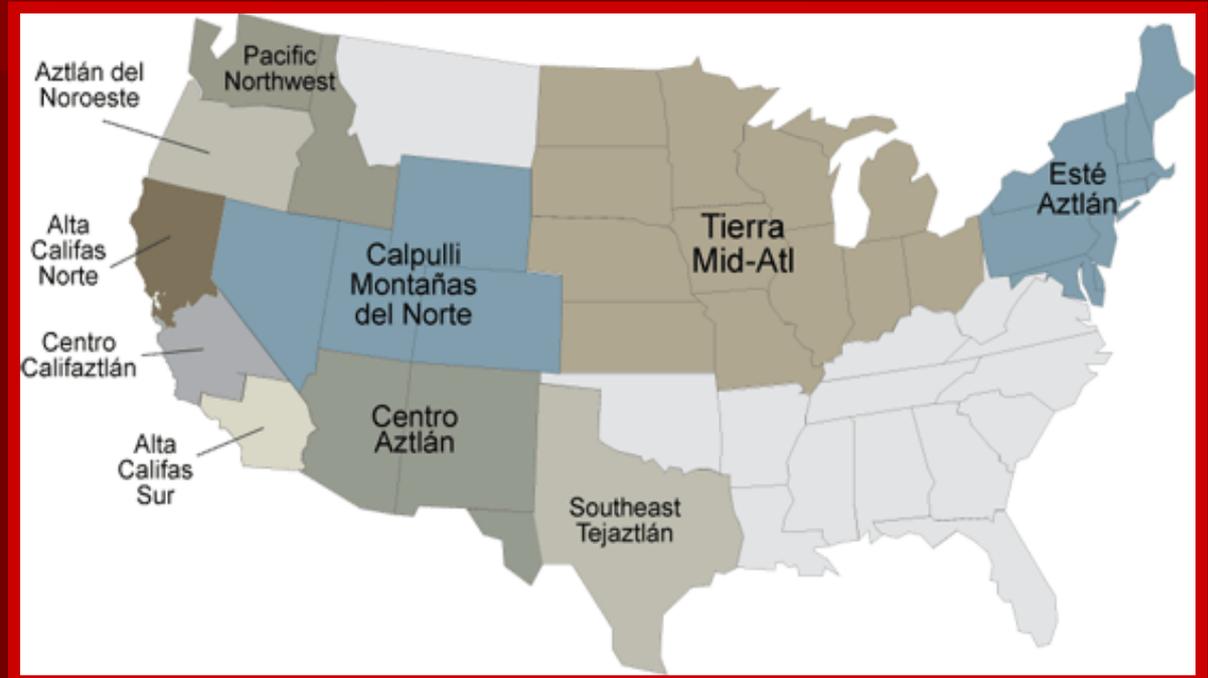
**Indigenous Day of Resistance 2011**



**Boys and Girls club**



**“Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán**  
(M.E.Ch.A.) is a student organization that promotes higher  
education, cultura, and historia.” -*Philosophy of M.E.Ch.A*



M.E.Ch.A is a national organization with chapters at all levels of institutional education, in schools from San Diego to as far east as New Jersey

[www. NationalMEChA .org](http://www.NationalMEChA.org) “Like” us on Facebook ;)



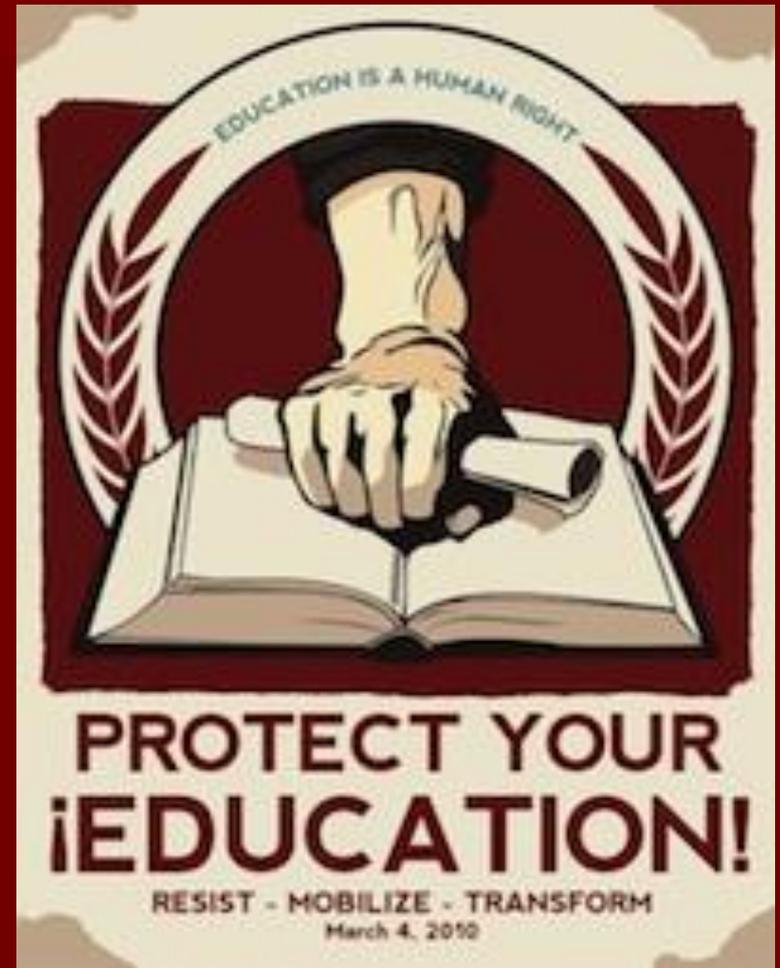
# Breaking Down the Acronym

Movimiento

Estudiantil

Chican@ de

Aztlán





# Movimiento



- This means that our organization is part of a **Movement**.  
The 500+ year movement of Resistance and Liberation:
  - Resistance to domineering foreign values, beliefs, traditions and history
  - Liberation through the conservation of our own values, beliefs, tradition and history; a responsibility we feel since our ancestors were, as we are now, the original caretakers of this land
- We are also dedicated to our peoples struggle to maintain our human rights, cultures, languages and sovereignty through self-determination and empowerment through education.

# Estudiantil

(EPSB): "At this moment, we do not come to work for the university, but to demand that the university work for our people." -Jose Vasconcelos

- Identifies the organization as a student group, organized in a range of autonomous chapters
- This means we make our own independent decisions as students when determining the role we will have in the Movement.





# Chican@ = Xican@

“Chicanismo simply embodies an ancient truth: that a person is never closer to his/her true self as when he/she is close to his/her COMMUNITY.”

- It is a conscious affirmation of our political identity, and our connection to this land through our indigenous ancestry.
- It's been said the term comes from *Nahuatl*, one of the original indigenous languages of the people originating in this part of the world.
- The word Chicano was originally a derogatory term in the 1940's, but during the 1960's it was redefined and used as a badge of cultural and ethnic pride.
- Chicanismo today is often seen as a philosophy that affects the way we see and relate to the world politically, ideologically, and objectively.

# Chican@ *Continued...*

“Chicanismo draws its faith and strength from two main sources: from the just struggle of our people and from an objective analysis of our COMMUNITY's strategic needs”

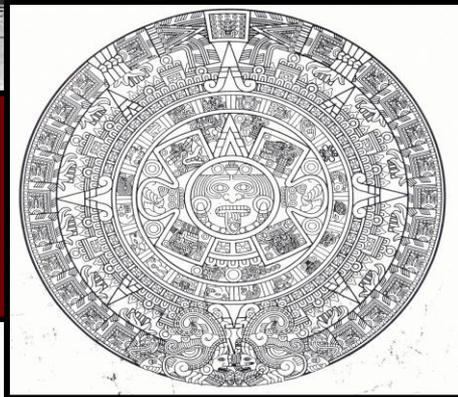
## Other Definitions include:

- “We recognize that Chicanismo is evolutionary and that a Chicano identity is not a nationality but a philosophy.”
- That by declaring oneself a Chicano they are committing themselves to the community at large, to more than just individual achievement and success, or exclusive self-interest.



# Aztlán

“We are Chican@s of Aztlán reclaiming the land of our birth (Chican@ Nation); Aztlán belongs to indigenous people, who are sovereign and not subject to a foreign culture...”



- **Aztlán** is the mytho-historical birthplace of the Aztec (Mexican) peoples.
- **Aztlán** within the tradition of our Movement has been variably defined as, the South Western U.S.
- In an alternative philosophical sense, it is considered a homeland, where in our ideological and philosophical beliefs are directly connected to the land and provides a liberated space of expression, free of oppression.

# El Plan de Santa Barbara (EPSB)

## 1. Manifiesto

## 2. Plan of Action

- a. Introduction
- b. Historical Perspective
- c. Political Consciousness
- d. Political Mobilization

## 3. *Campus Organization: Notes on M.E.Ch.A.*

### a. Introduction

### b. Function of M.E.Ch.A – To the Students

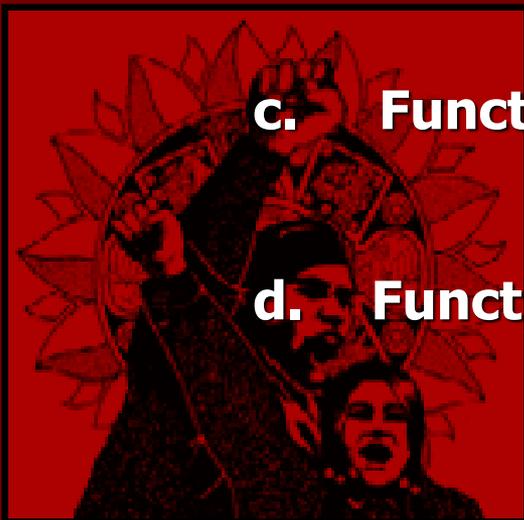
- i. *Recruitment & Education*
- ii. *Planning & Strategy Actions*

### c. Function of M.E.Ch.A – To the Campus Community

- i. *Supportive Groups*
- ii. *Sympathetic Administrators*

### d. Function of M.E.Ch.A – Education

- i. *Tying the campus to the Barrio*
- ii. *M.E.Ch.A in the Barrio*



# CA STATEWIDE M.E.Ch.A

## - Addressing Current Issues -

### Progressive Political Agenda (PPA)

1. Increase access to higher education
2. Improving K-12 and Community College...
3. Anti-War
4. Gender & Sexuality

### Past Resolutions:

D-Q University

South Central Farms

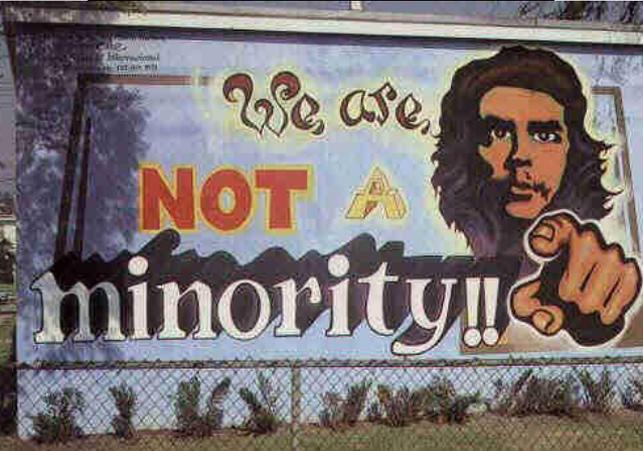
Chican@ Moratorium

"The Name Change"





# Questions?





201

(Taken from *Philosophy of M.E.Ch.A.*)



# M.E.Ch.A 201

(Taken from  
*Philosophy of M.E.Ch.A*)

## Each MEChistA's Responsibility

- Accepting our responsibility for the Movement requires self-discipline and understanding that our behavior becomes a reflection of M.E.Ch.A. For this reason, we must be consistent in our thinking and our actions. Rationalizing our inconsistency and accountability. MEChistAs in leadership roles setting poor examples only betray the Movement. Since we are seeking the freedom of our people, our motivation should be high, recognizing the need to commit ourselves fully for the sake of La Causa.
- Finally, as MEChistAs, we vow to work for the liberation of Aztlán, leading to socioeconomic and political justice for our Gente. M.E.Ch.A. then, is more than a name; it is a spirit of unity by comadrisimo/carnalismo, and a resolution to undertake a struggle for liberation! Tierra y Libertad!

## M.E.Ch.A. Structure

- In the past, the structure of M.E.Ch.A. allowed any individual wanting to organize a chapter on any particular campus the opportunity to do so. This could occur without prior knowledge of the history and philosophical objectives of M.E.Ch.A. Thus, vast numbers of M.E.Ch.A. chapters with dissimilar and contradictory objectives as well as conflicting philosophies.
- Recognizing the ineffectiveness of this previous M.E.Ch.A. organizational structure and the philosophical polarity that it allowed, we propose that the following structure be adopted which makes every MEChistA accountable to its Region, and every Region accountable to the National.

## Campus M.E.Ch.A.

- General membership shall consist of any student who accepts, believes, and works for the goals and objectives of M.E.Ch.A. including the liberation of Aztlán. College students shall be limited to six years active membership (excluding high school) as an undergraduate and two years service at the graduate level in a non-voting advisory role. Active membership will be officially recognized by their campus M.E.Ch.A. Graduates are encouraged to refrain from voting to allow new leadership to develop. When M.E.Ch.A. meetings are being conducted and M.E.Ch.A. business is being discussed, voting shall be limited to active members only.



# Califas Affiliation



## ■ Each M.E.Ch.A. Chapter

- ...shall gain its affiliation through and only through the recognized M.E.Ch.A. Central they geographically fall under. In order to be a M.E.Ch.A. Chapter recognized by the Central, they shall accept and adopt the following responsibilities: **1)** Orient all members by discussing and reading historical documents of our movement including El Plan de Santa Barbara, El Plan de Aztlán and the Philosophy of M.E.Ch.A.; **2)** Make important aspects of the Chicana/Chicano Movement relevant to MEChistAs; and **3)** send two representatives to Central and Regional meetings to be recognized as a voting chapter.

## ■ Centrales

- Responsibility of the M.E.Ch.A. Central includes: 1) screen, recruit, and educate campuses wishing to form a M.E.Ch.A.; 2) keep a record of all officially chartered M.E.Ch.A.s in their Central; 3) seek fundraising strategies to fund activities, academic outreach, and a newsletter.
- Responsibility of the Central Representative includes: 1) one year of M.E.Ch.A. experience (except new chapters); 2) take a written report back to their campus for discussion of Central issues; 3) bring campus M.E.Ch.A. minutes to Central meetings; and 4) vote on Central issues in the manner that their campus has decided.
- Responsibility of the Internal Director includes: 1) one year of M.E.Ch.A. experience (no exceptions); 2) nonvoting status in Central meetings; 3) **official spokesperson** for the Central; 4) shall set up visits by Central members at new, prospective campuses for membership recruitment into the Central meetings; and 5) head the Central newsletter committee.

# CalifAztlán The Movement of the Regions



- **The M.E.Ch.A. Region** shall consist of all representatives from the M.E.Ch.A. voting campuses. The Region is a logistical planning committee and receives its direction from the voting campuses. Region shall convene once a month.
- **Responsibility of the M.E.Ch.A. Region** includes:  
**1)** Screen, recruit, and educate campuses wishing to form a M.E.Ch.A.; **2)** Keep a record of all officially chartered M.E.Ch.A.s in their Region; and **3)** seek fundraising strategies to fund activities, academic outreach, and a newsletter.
- **Responsibility of Regional Representatives** includes: **1)** Take a written report back to the campus, outlining issues under consideration (i.e., actions, workshops, or speakers); **2)** Vote on issues in the manner their campus has decide; **3)** Each campus shall have on vote; and **4)** A quorum shall be 50% plus one of all Regional Campuses.

# The Statewide movement

- There will be two Statewide conferences during each year that will focus on one and no more than two major issues at which time a plan of action will be discussed. **The purpose is to come out of each conference with a well planned strategy to take action on the imminent issue.**



**C/S**

Statewide Rules includes: **1)** Only M.E.Ch.A. campuses certified by a M.E.Ch.A. Regional process will be allowed to vote; **2)** Community people shall be allowed to participate as observers only; **3)** Individuals and/or groups with a history of party-building and cadre raiding inside of M.E.Ch.A. are not welcome to attend; **4)** All entertainment shall be culturally, educationally, and/or politically oriented; **5)** Nonvoting individuals attending the conference shall not be allowed to participate in debate or discussion of questions before the assembly; and **6)** In a general assembly, there will be one vote per campus and in the workshops, voting shall be done by students, certified by a M.E.Ch.A. Regional Process.