

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Monday, March 28, 2011

CONTACTS:

Charlotte Gonzales, co-chairwoman of the Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales Symposium Committee, CGonzales@allstate.com, 720-353-8402

Dr. Ramon Del Castillo, co-chairman of the Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales Symposium Committee, delcastr@mscd.edu, 303-868-9025

Rudy Gonzales, Servicios de la Raza Rudyg@serviciosdelaraza.org, 303-458-5851

**Announcing the Rodolfo ‘Corky’ Gonzales Annual Symposium
Friday, April 15, 2011, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Auraria gym**

DENVER – Heroes far too often come from movies. For this year’s annual Rodolfo ‘Corky’ Gonzales Symposium, that reality is a good thing. With a theme of “Living the Legacy, Mobilizing for Social Justice,” the April 15 event at the Auraria gym will feature learning circles lead by teams of high school and university students from throughout the metro area. And participants will celebrate the Library of Congress naming Luis Valdez’s 1969 film version of Gonzales’s “I Am Joaquin” onto the National Film Registry.

“Oppressed people have the right to select their own heroes,” Ramon Del Castillo, Chair of the Chicana/o Studies department at Metropolitan State College of Denver, said. “The only way our stories get told is through struggle.”

Castillo identified Gonzales as one of his heroes because Colorado’s preeminent civil rights leader established opposition to the master narrative with Chicanismo long before social justice was a national buzzword. Symposium participants will further explore the role of social justice in seven learning circles lead by high school and college students.

- *Fulfilling the Dream Act and Fighting for Immigration*, Escuela Tlatelolco
- *Social Justice in the Age of Social Media*, DU Latino Student Alliance
- *Failed Policies Years Later: Poverty, Gender and Race*, Regis University Latino Student Alliance
- *Arts in Motion: Shaping Politics with Culture*, Metro’s Students Journey Through our Heritage Program
- *Youth Activism Then and Now: Identity and Power. How youth used their identity and Chicanismo for political and intellectual development of people of Mexican descent in the USA*, Escuela Tlatelolco

- *No Nukes, No Wars, Fund Human Needs, Protect the Planet*, Southwest Early College
- *Opportunity to Learn: Building a Broad-based Movement for Educational Justice*, Jovenes Unidos

One of these learning circles will be lead by first-time participant Jay Jaramillo. President Journey Through Our Heritage Program at Metro and junior marketing major. An artist and son of a local artist Jaramillo wants participants to understand and use art to further voice the struggle.

“Chicano art was more about building cultural identity,” Jaramillo said.

And in the case of Valdez’s film, celebrating a hero.

The symposium is free to the public and scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Auraria Campus gym. For more information or to register, log on to www.quevivacorky.com.

WHAT: Symposium Learning Circles

WHEN: Friday, April 15, 2011, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration at 8 a.m.

WHERE: Auraria campus, 900 Auraria Parkway, Denver

To register for the Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales Annual Symposium, visit www.QueVivaCorky.com or call 303-964-8993.

Sponsored by: Metropolitan State College, Chicana/o Studies, Los Cochinos Riding Club, Regis University, Escuela Tlatelolco, Rodolfo Corky Gonzales Planning Committee, Latenite Inc., M.G.M. Lounge, El Semanario, Dave & Gail Valdez, Denver Latino Sheriffs Organization

The mission of the Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales Symposium Committee, a coalition of community members and activists, is to keep Gonzales’ legacy alive by celebrating his life and his many accomplishments and by continuing to confront the issues that face our Chicano/Mexicano/Latino communities today.