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El Leñador Staff

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La diversidad y su importancia



“Si los estudiantes no ven a personas que se vean como ellos, que tengan antecedentes similares como ellos entonces eso podría hacer sentir a muchos estudiantes fuera de lugar.”

~Su Karl  
learning center director

**por: Shareen McFall**  
traducido por: Juan Carlos De La Cruz

Como si guiados por una mano oculta y dada la afirmación, la población latina de la Universidad de Humboldt va en aumentando rápidamente, actualmente dicha población representa el 22 por ciento de la población estudiantil. A pesar del creciente porcentaje, los docentes y el personal de la universidad, son todavía predominantemente blancos de acuerdo al Reporte de Diversidad del otoño del 2012, más del 80% de los profesores y el personal en mención se identificaron como blancos.

La Oficina de Relación Federal, de la Universidad de California, mencionó que para el 2013 es prioridad primordial del sistema, servir a la población diversa de California. El primer punto sobre el informe de la Universidad de California es “Mantener el financiamiento para el servicio a los hispanos y otras instituciones al servicio de la minoría.”

“WOW!” fue la primera palabra que Cassidy Platt, estudiante de la carrera

de Educación Primaria, exclamó cuándo le dijeron sobre el porcentaje de docentes y personal de raza blanca que tiene la Universidad de Humboldt.

Según una investigación realizada por la Federación Americana de Maestros, “...la diversidad racial y étnica tiene efectos positivos directos e indirectos sobre los resultados educativos y las experiencias de los estudiantes.”

Platt cree que es importante tener un mayor número de profesores y personal de la minoría porque “...algunos tienen una perspectiva diferente y visión diferente. No es adecuado tener un sola perspectiva”.

“Si los estudiantes no ven a personas que se vean como ellos, que tengan antecedentes similares como ellos entonces eso podría hacer sentir a muchos estudiantes fuera de lugar, dijo Su Karl, Director del Centro de Aprendizaje.

Karl cree que con unas

pocas excepciones, “personal docente y administrativo se sobrecargan brindando apoyo a estudiantes de color o de minorías, de manera que existe esta carga extra para los profesores y empleados de color, la misma que no es compartida por docentes y personal administrativo blancos.”

Un funcionario, que pidió que no pusiéramos su nombre en el periódico, dijo que ella está de acuerdo en que el personal administrativo y los docentes de minoría son a menudo los individuos que asesoran a los estudiantes minoritarios.

Los estudiantes se sienten frustrados porque no encuentran a docentes de color con quienes ellos puedan identificarse o quienes puedan responder a sus preguntas.

“Me siento convertido en un Token y marginalizado en esta escuela, y es algo solitario. Después de un tiempo los estudiantes quieren más personas que se vean como

ellos y que tengan antecedentes similares. Así, uno se convierte en un disco roto, o en ese libro viejo destrozado en el estante. Ellos quieren a alguien nuevo, alguien diferente, “dijo la fuente anónima.

Tanza Triggs, Decano de Participación Estudiantil y Liderazgo, dijo: “Cuando nosotros relacionamos a estudiantes de color con docentes y personal de color, estamos asumiendo que todos somos iguales y no lo somos”.

“La Universidad de Humboldt está dando pasos pequeños en su esfuerzo por diversificar al personal docente y administrativo del campus”, dijo Steve Bell, apoyo administrativo para la Oficina de Diversidad e Inclusión.

Bell cree que aunque los pasos son pequeños se encuentran en la dirección correcta y tiene plena confianza en la Universidad para continuar con este desarrollo.

lea “La diversidad” en la página 20

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... know, I’m my representation.” of all Latina women, you “I’m not a single representation help guide students she said, member feels privileged to Although the staff they belong here, Karl said to allow students to know that beliefs, and cultures is important connected to race but to gender, different backgrounds not only Having people from move on somewhere else.” of faculty of color, before they always have a steady population book on the shelf. They want number of years. Just so they can employ them for a certain degree and the university will stay and get their master’s and graduate with bachelors, kind of move through the ranks programs where students will your own — build special Humboldt State is “Growing A concept that Triggs thinks will further help continue with this development. frustrated because they cannot find faculty of color or answer their questions. Platt believes that it is important to have a larger number of minority faculty and staff because “...some have a different outlook and different input. It’s not right that look like them and have similar backgrounds as them. So you become a broken record, you become that old tattered book on the shelf. They want somebody new, somebody different,” the staff member said. Tanza Triggs, associate dean of student engagement and leadership said, “When we push students of color or faculty and staff of color we make an assumption that we are all the same, and we’re not.”

HSLU is taking baby steps towards the effort of diversifying the faculty and staff on campus, Steve Bell, administrative support for The Diversity and Inclusion office said. Bell believes that although the steps are small they are in the right direction and he has full trust in the university to

The students are to mentor minority students, individuals that are sought out faculty and staff are often the she agrees that minority support for The Diversity and Inclusion office said. One staff member, the faculty and staff not put Cassidy by white faculty and staff.” of color that doesn’t get shared extra charge for faculty and staff minorities and so there’s this support students of color or staff get over burdened helping a few exceptions, “Faculty and Karl believes that with learning center director said. “Su Karl, as them then that could who have similar backgrounds people who look like them, more than 80 percent of the faculty and staff identify as white. The California State University, Office of Federal Relation said that for the 2013 the system’s top priority is to help serve California’s diverse population. The first bullet point on the CSU report is to, “Maintain funding for Hispanic-serving and other minority-serving institutions.”

“WOW!” Was the first word that Cassidy by white elementary education major said when told the percentage of white faculty and staff at Humboldt State. According to research conducted by The American Federation of Teachers, “...racial and ethnic diversity has both

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# Gabriela Garcia: Shifting the Paradigm

 *by: Stacey De Marcos*

Gabriela Garcia, a local Humboldt state student from Fortuna, Calif., was the recipient of the 2012-2013 Outstanding Student of the Year award for Outstanding Co-Curricular Contribution and 2012-2013 Al Elpusan Award for Student Activism. Both of Winning these awards surprised her.

“It was something that I wasn’t even expecting just because I feel like it’s an honor” Garcia said.

The awards made her feel like people actually care about the work she is doing. Most of her work is based on serving the community and assisting wherever she can.

Garcia is completing her last semester at HSU with a degree in political science with an emphasis on globalization. The 21-year-old has been actively involved in multiple programs on campus. She has been the Alternative Spring Break co-director at Youth Education Services, the anti-racist coordinator at the Women’s Resource Center, the Social Justice Summit coordinator with the Multi-Cultural Center and she was also one of the founding members of Finding Resources and Empowerment



Garcia enjoys a sunny afternoon at HSU.

| Photo by Stacey De Marcos

through Education.

“I’m am basically in support of anything that promotes the equal right of education for all people” she said.

The creation of the club was a collaborative work of students who wanted to see change on this campus. “When you try to work with someone or you are asking for help and people aren’t really acknowledging you, sometimes the best thing to do is to unite with those people and try to form something” she said.

This is what lead the group of students to create F.R.E.E. – a program that would strive to bring awareness to AB 540 students as well as make this campus AB 540 friendly. These individuals “were really frustrated with the things that weren’t mainly acknowledged and those were first generation, low income students and undocumented students” Garcia said. She was very passionate about this topic because she considered that to be her struggle.

Garcia has not always been so driven to complete her degree. Like some students, she has had rough times in which she felt like she wanted to give up on school. “I couldn’t handle it anymore” she said, but her involvement with clubs on campus is what kept her going. During that period she learned a lot about herself and activism.

Garcia said that “as educated students we have the responsibility of making a difference in our community but also our world.” She encourages students to go out of their comfort zone and try something new.

Stacey De Marcos  
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## Nuestra Voz

Q: How do you feel about having a bilingual publication on the HSU campus?

### Leon Medina

kinesiology major  
A: “I think it would be pretty good because theres a big hispanic group on campus here at HSU and a lot of them our from Southern California..I don’t see why not.”



### Aaron Mcphipher

wildlife major  
A: “I think it would cool to have, as a new addition.”



### Mariah Wallace

political science and CRGS  
A: “I think it makes a lot of sense because were having a lot more minority students specifically Latino students on campus because there is more implementing of the language and culture.”



### Michael Adams


business administration major  
A: “I think it would be a good addition, and add diversity.”



Graphic by: Shareen McFall

Photos by: Monica Reynoso

# elLeñador: The making of a bilingual publication

 *by: Lashay Wesley*



from left to right, Stacey De Marcos, Monica Reynoso, Shareen McFall and Juan Carlos De La Cruz. The founding four of El Leñador newspaper.

| Photo by Josefina Gonzalez

It has been almost a year in the making and El Leñador, Humboldt State’s first bilingual news publication has arrived on newsstands. Since last fall students have met up every Friday to conduct research in order to launch an independent, four page, bilingual newspaper which will appear as an insert in HSU’s student newspaper, The Lumberjack.

It all started six years ago when a journalism student came up to Marcy Burstiner, chair of the journalism department. The student wanted to report and write in spanish. “It stuck in my head all these years,”Burstiner said.

At the start of the fall 2012 semester Dr. Rosamel

S. Benavides-Garb, chair of the world languages and cultures department, and Burstiner developed a team of journalism and world languages students who were interested in launching the publication. The first phase started with an \$8,000 grant from the College of Arts and Humanities. With the money three students from journalism and three from

world languages were given a stipend of \$250 each to research other spanish and english college newspapers.

What they found was surprising. The students did not find many bilingual newspapers in the U.S. and not even many in California. What they found were two newspapers on two CSU campuses, one at California State University, East Bay and the other at California State University, Northridge.

Shareen McFall, the Editor-in-Chief of the publication says they didn’t know where to begin, “We just wanted a bilingual publication.”

At the start of the

this spring semester, both professors took a seat back and let the students take over. Four students are responsible for writing, editing, and designing the four page newspaper. The insert will show up regularly within The Lumberjack, but El Leñador will act independently. “[The Lumberjack] is giving it a place to grow,”Burstiner said.

## More Than Just A Newspaper

The last few years HSU has seen an increase

“You can see it, it’s almost magic.”

Dr. Rosamel S. Benavides-Garb

chair of the world languages and cultures department

in the amount of Hispanic students and is moving toward becoming a Hispanic Serving Institution. “Now it’s really the time,” Burstiner said.

Benavides-Garb says that there has always been a need for a bilingual newspaper, but he says the political climate makes this the right time.

Monica Reynoso, who has been with the

project from the start says it is especially important because the number of Latino students continues to rise and because HSU is moving toward becoming an AB-540 campus to undocumented students. “We have so many Latinos coming [into HSU] from all over,”Reynoso said.

For the students involved it is not just a newspaper. “[The students] identity is a center part of this,” says Benavides-Garb.

For minority students, coming to HSU might be a culture shock. “Oh, this is not Los Angeles, this is Humboldt County,”McFall said about when she first got to campus. She says students notice the difference from home right away and often times it can be hard to adjust.

The El Leñador staff hopes that this newspaper will be more than just a way for bilingual students to get their news, but as a way to reconnect with their roots. “Sometimes you don’t realize how important [language] is in your life until you go somewhere different,”McFall said.

## Longer Road Ahead

At the start of next school year, El Leñador’s staff will have to face the challenge of both advisors being gone. Marcy Burstiner

of the journalism department will be on sabbatical and Dr. Rosamel S. Benavides-Garb will be working in Spain. Advisors say they will be available to students online and mentors will still be in the departments to help.

Running a newspaper is not cheap either. Burstiner wants the newspaper to get the same funding as The Lumberjack, “We don’t want it to be a stepchild.” She says that the editors, like the editors for The Lumberjack, should receive a stipend for their work. To fund the paper the group has applied for two grants, one from the Diversity Office and the other from the president’s loyalty fund.

El Lenador is the start to a whole new vision for the journalism and world languages and cultures department too. Burstiner is working to create a bilingual journalism curriculum that would give students, like the one she had six years ago, a place to write and report in another language.

It has taken almost an entire year to get the paper off the ground, advisors and the staff say it is a labor of love. Benavides-Garb said it is great to see students come together for a project. “You can see it, it’s almost magic,”he said.

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