

Chabot College For Immediate Release

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Chabot College Celebrates Raza College Day



Recognizing and celebrating indigenous people while empowering Chicanx and Latinx students to pursue and continue higher education, Chabot College celebrated Raza College Day on November 2.

"Raza College Day is one of Chabot College's largest outreach to the Latinx community, with workshops and cultural activities for all ages," said El Centro Director Abigail Garcia Patton. "Participants were inspired, informed and equipped with the tools and resources to pursue higher education and best support their students through their academic career."

Raza, although literally translated to "race," colloquially refers to "people" or "community" and is used as a term of empowerment for Chicanx and Latinx people. While Chabot's Raza College Day caters to this community, all middle, high school and Chabot students and their families were invited to attend the morning of workshops, activities and entertainment.

"It has become a staple event in the community and due to the thoughtful partnership with the schools and community organizations, we have been able to expand our workshop offerings and resource fair," said Patton. "Our goal has been to provide free, quality and life changing programming, through culturally responsive activities."

The annual event began with a powerful opening from University of California Berkeley's Danza Azteca who recognized indigenous land, blessed the four directional corners and acknowledged the richness and power of indigenous communities.

Students learned the history of Dia De Los Muertos as a way to honor ancestors and celebrate their life through current actions from Chabot's Puente Counselor and Instructor Sandra Genera, and were welcomed by Chabot's Vice President Dr. Matthew Kritscher before participating in a number of facilitated workshops. The workshops included everything from The Makers Space, which was catered to K-5th graders and gave students the opportunity to explore their creative sides through science, to Earn College Credit Now, which provided students and their families with information on ways to earn college credit while in high school and a financial aid application, and college application lab for college students and high school seniors.

The event, which was free to attend and included breakfast and lunch, also saw performances by Chabot's Baile Excelencia de Chabot College - a student-led, student-run Ballet Folklorico group - and Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, who used machetes in their performance to represent breaking away from machismo stereotypes and recognizing the strength of women.

Additional participants included: ACILEP, Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society, Cal State East Bay, Sacramento State, Chabot Association of Teacher Education, Chabot FCU, Chabot Dental Hygiene, Chabot Dream Center, Clean Slate Program, College of San Mateo, Eden Youth and Family Center, FIDM, Hayward Adult School, Hayward Public Library, Holy Names University, La Clinica de la Raza, Making Waves Foundation CAP, Study Smart Tutors, Notre Dame de Namur, San Francisco State, Tiburcio Vazquez Health, University of California Berkeley, University of California Davis, University of California Santa Cruz and University of California Irvine.

For more information on El Centro at Chabot College, visit
<https://www.chabotcollege.edu/student-services/el-centro/>

About Chabot College

Chabot College in Hayward is a comprehensive community college in the heart of a thriving, diverse community where students of all ages and backgrounds can get a high quality education at an affordable price. The college awards associate degrees and certificates, and specializes in university transfer, workforce training, and lifelong learning opportunities. During the 2018-2019 academic year, Chabot College granted over 1,300 Associate Degrees and 689 Certificates of Achievement, the highest in the college's history. <http://www.chabotcollege.edu/>