

2000 National M.E.Ch.A. Advocacy Agenda HIV/AIDS/STD Educational

Proposed by Pasadena City College
Los Angeles County M.E.Ch.A. Central
Submitted by Alta Califas Sur Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan

Presented to:

The 2000 M.E.Ch.A. National Conference
Hosted by El Paso Community College
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To: National M.E.Ch.A.
From Alta Califas Sur M.E.Ch.A. Region

Date: Sunday, April 23rd, 2000, Easter Sunday

Re: 2000 National M.E.Ch.A.. Advocacy Agenda, HIV/AIDS/STD Educational

On this date, Saturday, April 23rd, 2000, The following listed chapter converged and participated in the shaping of the following National M.E.Ch.a. Advocacy Agenda at the National M.E.Ch.A. Advocacy Agenda Mandatory Workshop:

<u>Alta Califas Sur</u> California State University, Northridge Pasadena City College Pomona High School San Bernardino Valley College San Diego State University University of California, Los Angeles University of California, Riverside	<u>Alta Califas Norte</u> California State University, Sacramento Oholone College San Francisco State University University of California, Berkeley University of California, Davis	<u>Centro Califas</u> Bakersfield College California State University, Bakersfield Hartnell College Santa Barbara High School
<u>Calpulli Montanas</u> Centennial High School Colorado State University East High School University of Colorado, Boulder University of Colorado, Denver University of Southern Colorado University of Utah University of Wyoming Weber State University	<u>Midwest</u> None	<u>Este Aztlan</u> Brown University
<u>Southeast Tejaztlan</u> University of Houston University of Texas, Austin	<u>Pacific Northwest</u> Central Washington Eastern Washington	<u>Centro Aztlan</u> None

After much deliberation and dialogue, it was motioned by UC Berkeley, 2nd by San Francisco State, and called to question by Bakersfield College to bring forward this national MEChA Advocacy Agenda with all the changes and recommendations made to the Resolution Circle to be held April 23rd, 2000 at MEChA National Conference by unanimous consent of the chapters present.



M.E.Ch.A.

Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan

[Http://www.angelfire.com/sc/mechadepcc](http://www.angelfire.com/sc/mechadepcc)

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**National M.E.Ch.A Advocacy Agenda Item Proposal
Proposed by Pasadena City College
Submitted by Alta Califas Sur**

Submitted Item: HIV/ AIDS/ STD Educational

Part I - Definition of Issue

In the past, many have stereotypically looked at the HIV/AIDS as a virus that only affects those of homosexual orientation or of drug addicts. As the years progressed and social climates changed, we see a new era of those infected with HIV / AIDS virus. We see now that those who are affected include people of heterosexual orientation, and all levels of Socio Economics Status (SES). Evolving from its original label, it is now seen as a disease of the poor, which disproportionately affects Raza all over the U.S.

In looking at the growing statistics adversely affecting Raza, we now ask what effect HIV/ AIDS/ STDs has on the Raza community. Breaking it down to certain key aspects, we search to find out how each plays a role in determining the outcome of how the community can prevent or detect the problem areas that affect the growing cases of HIV/ AIDS/ STDs between Chicana/o Latina/os. Within the community, we break it down into the four (4) different elements which are: social aspects, religious beliefs, education & risk involved and how this disproportionately affects the Raza community, and the prevention & solution for HIV/ AIDS/ STDs.

In researching, we all hope to take the first step in stopping the epidemic of HIV/ AIDS/ STDs within thw Chicana/o Latina/o community and within all people. It is that by the year 2010 about half the U.S. population will be infected with the HIV/ AIDS or other related sexually transmitted disease. Statistics show that STDs are spreading furiously among Chicano / Latino community. Many of these Chicana /o Latina /os with HIV/ AIDS/ STDs never knew they had been infected with HIV/ AIDS/ STDs. Only after it had developed into full-blown HIV/ AIDS or other sexuality transmitted disease did they know they acquired the disease.

What we have come to realize is that our community is not getting tested. The reason why this has been the case is very complex. Many people are fearful. Others think that the testing is expensive or that their families will be notified. Others simply believe that it could never happen to them.

In learning of the increased risk in our community and especially within 13 to 25-year-old Chicana /o Latina/os, we have come to the realization that something has to be done to educate La Raza about the disease. We believe that this issue is of extreme importance due to the increased exposure of sex not only in the media, but in our lives as well.

We need to raise our awareness not only of the ignorance there is on sexually transmitted disease, but also of the disease that continues to plague our community. Remember that it is more than a fight for social change, but a fight for life.

Part II - Goals

Short Term:

- 1) Educate self
- 2) Educated M.E.Ch.A. chapter
- 3) Educate, organize, and mobilize M.E.Ch.A. chapter to inform the University or College
- 4) Execute approved tactics on External M.E.Ch.A. (Centrales, Regionals, Statewide, Nationals) Level

Intermediate Term:

- 1) To focus on continued education in the Chicana/o Latina/o community on HIV/ AIDS/ STDs

Long Term:

- 1) Develop a long term pipeline of information on statistics and prevention methods on HIV/ AIDS/ STDs
- 2) Have information on testing centers available to External M.E.Ch.A. (Centrales, Regionals, Statewide, Nationals) Level

Part III - Tactics

Short Term:

- 1) Take a sex/disease education class or research statistics in your community of how HIV/ AIDS/ STDs is affecting the Chicana/o Latina/o community at large.
- 2) Have programming or workshops on campus educating chapters of the contraction of HIV/ AIDS/ STDs and different methods of contraception that can prevent the further transmission of the diseases
- 3) Host testing drive or a forum on campus letting student know of the dangers of HIV/ AIDS/ STDs & different methods of preventing and resources on campus that will help in the fight against HIV/ AIDS/ STDs. Also, inform other campus groups and their respective communities for support.
- 4) Have an education forum on HIV/ AIDS/ STDs before external meetings at least once a semester / quarter to inform participating chapters of this paper and the facts behind HIV/ AIDS/ STDs

Intermediate Term:

- 1) Educate family, friends, and the Chicana/o Latina/o community at large by word of mouth or inviting them to your school for a community forum informing them of the dangers of HIV/ AIDS/ STDs and how it directly affects them. Have information to pass out or write it down on a board for them to note including statistics, effects of STDs, warning sign, prophylactics (protection), and resources available for them in the community such as testing centers & support lines.

Long Term:

- 1) Implement a mandatory workshop that will always be in place at every external M.E.Ch.A. Conference (Regionals, Statewides, Nationals.) After this National Conference, it will be a regular workshop that will be implemented and facilitated in order to continue M.E.Ch.A. chapters to continue to be informed on HIV/ AIDS/ STDs and how it is adversely affecting them.
- 2) Fully utilize Communication Centers in dispersing information from these workshops through discussion in the National Communication Center Meeting whether by mail-outs used for the Conference details, e-mail, or by M.E.Ch.A. web-pages. Have Communication Centers give updates on how each Region is doing in implementation of this Advocacy

Agenda with details of how each method os benefitting M.E.Ch.A. Also establish a column in the M.E.Ch.A. National Newsletter to update chapters on ongoing information regarding HIV/ AIDS/ STDs.

M.E.Ch.A. Philosophy Papers

Objection Twelve: The establishment of a National Newsletter, augmented by Regional Newsletter that provide important information on issues occurring at various campuses; this also promotes tighter linkage through ongoing communications.

Process of Implementation: Each member campus in your Region should be given the task on a rotating basis of putting out Regional Newsletter, with each Regional responsible for contributing to the National Newsletter that should eventually become a newspaper for the process.

Part IV - Targets

- 1) M.E.Ch.A. Chapters (Jr. High, High School, College, University Levels)
- 2) External M.E.Ch.A. (Centrales, Regionals, Statewides, Nationals)
- 3) Respective Communities, both on-campus and off-campus
- 4) Friends and Family