



OSU LIBRARIES
UNIVERSITY
ARCHIVES



Guide to the Colegio César Chávez Collection, 1978-2005

Title

Colegio César Chávez Collection (MSS Colegio)

Dates

1978-2005 (inclusive)

1978-1982 (bulk)

Creator

Olivo, Arthur

Summary

The Colegio César Chávez was established in 1973 as a four year Hispanic Serving Institution in Mount Angel, Oregon. The Colegio César Chávez collection consists of correspondence, publications, and photographs from the Arthur and Karen Olivo and Andrew Parodi Family and depicts their time living on the college campus grounds.

Quantity

0.15 cubic foot, including 50 photographs (2 boxes, including 1 oversize box)

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research.

Language

Materials in English and Spanish.

Oregon State University Libraries, University Archives
121 The Valley Library
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331-4501
Phone: 541-737-2165
Email: archives@oregonstate.edu
Web: <http://osulibrary.oregonstate.edu/archives>

Finding aid prepared by Erika Castaño, 2008.

Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Historical Note

Colegio César Chávez, located in Mt. Angel, Oregon formed from the existing Mount Angel College in 1973. Mt. Angel College was established by the Catholic Order of Benedictine Sisters in 1888. The school was originally chartered as a women's academy. In 1897 it was rechartered as normal school. In 1947 Mt. Angel Normal School became Mt. Angel Women's College and in 1957 Mt. Angel Women's College became coeducational due to mounting financial problems. As such, the college was subsequently renamed Mt. Angel College.

In 1973, Mt. Angel College lost its accreditation from Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges because of its lack of financial stability. Two faculty members, Sonny Montez, Director of Ethnic Affairs and Ernesto Lopez, Dean of Admissions proposed that the institution redirect the focus of the college to be a Chicano serving institution.

On December 12, 1973 Mt. Angel College officially became Colegio Cesar Chavez. College founders and students considered a number of names but chose the farm labor activist César Chávez as their namesake.

As the first and only independent Chicano-oriented and managed four-year college to emerge in the nation, Colegio César Chávez occupies an unparalleled place in Chicano history. According to the Chicano scholar Carlos Maldonado, "Colegio Cesar Chavez was a product of converging social and educational forces of the Chicano movement and innovation in higher education". The mission of the Colegio was to provide educational opportunities for people who were denied access to higher education, to create a "college without walls" that emphasized collaboration between students, staff, administrators, their families, and the greater community. The Colegio also sought to provide an educational setting that was completely bilingual and bicultural. Students were required to take 15 credits in each of the four core areas: social science; the humanities; and natural sciences/mathematics; and oral/written bilingual communications. In addition, life experience was also recognized as learning and students received credits for this as well.

Colegio César Chávez also served as a source of Chicano culture and activism in Oregon; this was accomplished through performances, lectures and guest speakers at the college. Among the significant Chicano leaders that visited and supported the Colegio were César Chávez, Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, Jose Angel Gutierrez, and Chicano poets Alurista and Abelardo "Lalo" Delgado.

Constantly plagued by financial difficulties, administrative instability, and lack of support from the external community, Colegio César Chávez lost its accreditation in 1981. The last classes were held in 1982 and the Colegio officially closed their doors in June 1983. The campus was abandoned and their main creditor, HUD, foreclosed on the property. HUD was set to auction off the campus when an anonymous donor interceded. The ownership of the land and the buildings occupied by the college reverted back to the Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel in 1985.

Content Description

The Colegio César Chávez Collection consists of materials that were collected by Arthur and Karen Olivo and their son Andrew Parodi. The materials include publications, correspondence, a bilingual college catalog, a Mount Angel College Year book, and photographs. The photographs depict the time period in which the Olivo and Parodi family lived on the grounds of the college campus. They include photographs of the campus; the Olivo and Parodi family gatherings on the campus grounds; and a poetry reading by the Chicano poet and activist Alurista (Alberto Baltazar Urista Heredia) at the Colegio.

Preferred Citation

Colegio César Chávez Collection, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis, Oregon.

Related Material

This Collection is a component of the [Oregon Multicultural Archives](#). Chicano scholar Carlos Maldonado has written *Colegio Cesar Chavez, 1973-1983: A Chicano Struggle for Educational Self-Determination*. The Queen of Angels Monastery in Mount Angel, Oregon also has a records pertaining to the Colegio and the subsequent transfer of ownership of the land and buildings back to the monastery.

Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the OSU Libraries Catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog (<http://oasis.oregonstate.edu>) using these headings.

Individuals

Alurista.

Organizations

Mount Angel Academy and College.

Topics

Hispanic Americans--Education (Higher)--Oregon.

Mexican Americans--Oregon.

Geographical Names

Mount Angel (Or.)

Forms of Materials in the Collection

Photographic prints.

Other Creators

Colegio Cesar Chavez (Mount Angel, Or.)

Parodi, Andrew.