

## February 13, 2007: Tribute to Dr. Milton Gordon

The Honorable Loretta Sanchez

### TRIBUTE TO DR. MILTON GORDON

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Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has been dedicated to higher education and who is a model community servant to my district, Dr. Milton Gordon.

As Chancellor of California State University, Fullerton, Dr. Milton Gordon has been a visionary for the students and faculty as he works to promote higher education for women and minorities.

On February 27th, 2007, Dr. Gordon will be honored by KinderCaminata, a non-profit community organization in Orange County, California that sponsors educational outreach to kindergarten-age children and their families, focusing on promoting literacy, celebrating cultural heritage, and career education. Dr. Gordon will be receiving the ``Corazón" Award from KinderCaminata. The tribute is a much deserved honor and should be celebrated by everyone in Orange County, California.

Below are remarks that illustrate Dr. Gordon's outstanding commitment to all the students that Cal State Fullerton seeks to serve. These remarks are taken from Dr. Gordon's report to the University's Latino Faculty and Staff in October 2006:

We are here to strengthen our ties as a community that is working to make learning truly accessible and preeminent to all students and especially to Latino Students.

Cal State Fullerton feels that a large measure of our success is due to our campus outreach efforts and service to the community. While demographic growth has also contributed to the Latino increase, without college readiness programs offered by CSUF, such as Gear Up and ENLACE, the educational obstacles faced by large numbers of Latino students would not have been overcome.

But there is much more we need to do. We need to expand our efforts to work with parents and students in the middle and high schools of the county to increase the number of college ready Latino graduates. We continue to work with colleagues from Fullerton and Santa Ana Colleges to develop a work plan to improve county-wide Latino college readiness programs modeled after the Santa Ana Partnership and its ENLACE Program. We are in the process of creating additional programs in the sciences in collaboration with Fullerton College to increase the transfer of well prepared Latino Students into our Math-based programs in the sciences and engineering. We hope to expand such collaboration with transfer programs to Cal State Fullerton from all Orange County community college campuses with high Latino enrollment.

We believe that our adhesion to the Cal State Fullerton mission to make this campus a place where "learning is preeminent" and our enforcement of rigorous academic standards have been keys to our success. By serving the learning needs of all students, we serve Latino students; by maintaining high learning expectations, we serve Latino students; by caring for the well-being of our students, we serve Latino students.

An activist community orientation defines the role the university will take in town grown partnerships. Such involvement better informs university personnel of the community's needs. These partnerships must engage students, faculty, staff, and campus administration in university-wide service commitments. The university must be a good neighbor and a good partner.

In working in the Latino community, campus personnel must be culturally aware and mindful of the central role family plays within the culture. We must have a clear and simple outreach message. In providing information on what students need to know to be college ready, make sure you know your audience. Our information must be available in straight-forward language that does not speak down to our audience and written in language understood by parents. We will be developing a Spanish-language campus web-site and improved, accessible messages in Spanish to reach out to our Latino parents and potential students.

All of the programs and services enumerated above define what it means to be a student-focused institution and are integral to making us a Hispanic Serving Institution in word and deed.

I personally look forward to our continued collaboration to make this a place where all students can be successful and achieve their dreams regardless of race, gender or ethnicity.

I look forward to Dr. Gordon's continued work for Cal State Fullerton and KinderCaminata and it is my pleasure to honor him today.