



About

Our Mission

The mission of El Centro is to provide support for all students and uplift the Latinx/é, Afro-Latinx/é, Chicanx/é, and Hispanic community at CSU and Fort Collins. We do this by encouraging student engagement, academic success, cultural pride, empowerment, and volunteer/leadership opportunities. We strive to promote an environment that focuses on awareness and understanding of the Latinx experience.

Who are we?

El Centro is energetic and welcoming to students who are excited about Colorado State University. We have resources to support personal, social, cultural, and academic needs to empower all students while promoting personal growth. We offer a place for discovering heritage, traditions, cultural awareness, and a multi-layered educational experience.

Students can visit El Centro to relax, socialize, laugh, have dialogue, and build life-long memories. With dedication and motivation, we do all we can to assist students to be successful at Colorado State University. El Centro is a family, a “home away from home,” a place that provides a sense of belonging for students!

We are excited to welcome all students to engage with El Centro!

A Brief History

1964 – 2009

In 1964 PROJECT GO was developed in an effort to incorporate the needs of all students in an academic setting, specifically targeting students from ethnically minoritized backgrounds and/or low income households. Its purpose was to identify and encourage economically disadvantaged students to continue their education beyond high school and to provide them with financial aid and academic support. In 1979 PROJECT GO became the Group Advocacy Program which comprised five offices: El Centro/Chicano Student Services, Black Student Services, Native American Student Services, Disabled Student’s Programs, and Women’s Programs. Over the next few decades, the name changed from El Centro/Hispanic Student Services, El Centro Student Services, and finally El Centro in 2009. Along the way, the mission of El Centro affirmed our place on campus that welcomes and empowers all students!

2009 – Present

It was at this time that the Group Advocacy Program became known as the Student Diversity Programs and Services (and eventually the Cultural Resource Centers) and all seven offices represented under this umbrella also had a name change to signify unity. No matter the name of our office, the purpose of El Centro has always been to welcome, encourage, support all students and promote the Latinx culture within the University. We assist all students in all subject areas in developing the skills necessary to achieve academic success at CSU. The staff strives to provide individual assistance in an effort to improve students’ knowledge and study skills. As we continue to preserve our history, we create an atmosphere that is safe and fosters mutual respect and dignity.

In 2019, Dr Guadalupe Salazar, our long-time director who started working in El Centro in 1987, retired. From 2021 to 2023, Dora Frias, CSU alumnus, took over the role of director.

CONNECT WITH EL CENTRO

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Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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CULTURAL RESOURCE CENTERS

- [Asian/Pacific American Cultural Center](#)
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