

FULLERTON COLLEGE

CRUZ REYNOSO

HORNET * JUSTICE * ACTIVIST

Dedication of Cruz Reynoso Hall

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HORNET, JUSTICE, ACTIVIST

Fullerton College honors the legacy of FC alumnus and Supreme Court Justice Cruz Reynoso by renaming Building 200 – Cruz Reynoso Hall.

Cruz Reynoso broke barriers as a lawyer, jurist, law professor and the first Chicano California Supreme Court justice. Reynoso began his higher education journey at Fullerton College after he attended Fullerton Union High School. He was devoted to student services and was the first Chicano elected as Associated Student President at Fullerton College. During his lifetime, Reynoso was an outspoken advocate and activist for social justice on behalf of immigrants and farm workers. A contemporary and friend of Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, he used his law expertise to fight for the rights of farm workers and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2000.

“Fullerton College is honored to raise awareness of this amazing individual and his legacy for students; nearly 60% of whom are Latino/a/x and two-thirds of whom are first-generation college students,” said Vice President of Student Services Dr. Gilbert Contreras.

The idea to honor Cruz Reynoso started with Arturo O’Campo, the District Director of Diversity and Compliance, as well as the Latino Faculty & Staff Association, led by Dr. Leonor Cadena and Dr. Therese Mosqueda-Ponce. The campaign has also led to the creation of the Cruz Reynoso Scholarship for Leadership, to support the next generation of leaders for change.

LIFE AND LEGACY



1931

Reynoso was born in Brea, California on May 2, 1931. He grew up as one of 11 children, and from age eight worked as an agricultural worker in orange groves.

1938

When Reynoso was seven, the family moved to a barrio outside of La Habra, CA. While there, he attended the Wilson Grammar School, a racially segregated grade school for children of Mexican descent.

1930

1940

1942

The United States Postal Service refused to provide Rural Free Delivery service within the barrio, even though non-minority families living nearby received the service.

Reynoso circulated a petition demanding service; the Postal Service responded to his petition and began providing mail delivery to the barrio.

1945

He and his brother were the first in the Reynoso family to go on to Fullerton Union High School. While in high school, Reynoso joined several friends to speak to the La Habra district superintendent about segregation at Wilson School.

Initially reluctant, the school board eventually called a parents meeting to announce its decision. There was a huge turnout of both Hispanic and Anglo parents at the meeting, with the audience bursting into applause when the board said it had voted to desegregate.

1949

Cruz Reynoso attends Fullerton College, just across from his high school. That first semester, the speech teacher recommended Reynoso be chairman of the first freshman class meeting. An amazed Reynoso was elected freshman class president.

That spring, he ran for and was elected the college's first Latino student body president and took office in the fall, according to Adela Lopez, Fullerton College's ethnic studies department coordinator.



1951

Prior to his Fullerton College graduation in June 1951 with an Associate of Arts degree, Reynoso connected with advisors at Pomona College. He was offered a scholarship to complete his upper-division classes at Pomona, this time majoring in pre-law.

1950

1960



1953

He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Pomona College in 1953, then joined the U.S. Army, serving in the Counter-Intelligence Corps for two years.

His assignments while stationed in Washington, D.C., included reviewing the House Un-American Activities Committee files on applicants for potential federal jobs, which created an interest in civil rights.

1958

Following his military duty, he enrolled in UC Berkeley's School of Law and received his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1958, where he was the only Latino in his 1958 graduating class. This opened the door to his career in the judicial field and teaching college students.

In 1958-59, he studied constitutional law through a Ford Foundation fellowship at the National University of Mexico.

1960

He served as a legislative assistant in the California State Senate (1959-60). Reynoso began his career in private law practice in El Centro, California.

1967

He was an Associate General Counsel for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 1967 and 1968.

1968

He then served as deputy director of California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) in 1968. Shortly thereafter, internal problems at CRLA led to his assuming the directorship becoming the first Latino to hold the position. Throughout the early 1970s, as director of the CRLA, Reynoso led the fight for the rights of the rural poor, including but not limited to farm workers. His work gained him national recognition.



1972

Reynoso was a professor of law at the University of New Mexico School of Law from 1972 to 1976.

1976

He returned to California in June 1976, when Governor Jerry Brown appointed Reynoso to the California Court of Appeal as an associate justice. He was the first Latino appointed to the court. A few years later, in February 1982, Governor Brown elevated Reynoso to the California Supreme Court.

1970

1980

1986

During the retention vote in 1986, Reynoso and two other justices were targeted by conservative groups and victims-rights groups, portraying them as “soft on crime”, as well as the courts handling of California’s death penalty law.

The highly controversial campaign to remove the justices succeeded; voters rejected new terms and the justices left the bench when the court’s term ended on January 5, 1987.

1987

Despite his removal from the court, Reynoso remained active publicly. He was appointed to the California Post Secondary Education Commission as well as formed a separate activist group called the Latino Issues Forum.





1991

In 1991, Reynoso joined the faculty of the UCLA School of Law teaching courses in remedies and professional responsibility, and was a faculty adviser for the Chicano-Latino Law Review. In 1995, UCLA law students selected him as Professor of the Year.

1993

The United States Senate appointed Reynoso to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in April 1993. He was appointed the vice-chairman of the commission by President Bill Clinton on November 19, 1993. During his 11 year service, the commission looked at a range of issues: from civil unrest following a Ventura County jury's acquittal of four Los Angeles police officers accused of beating motorist Rodney King, to voting irregularities in Florida in the 2000 presidential race between Al Gore and George W. Bush.

1990

2000

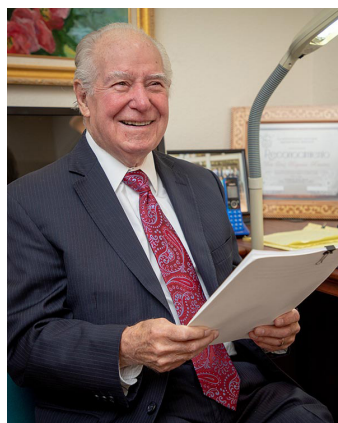


2000

On August 9, 2000, President Clinton awarded Reynoso the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States's highest civilian honor.

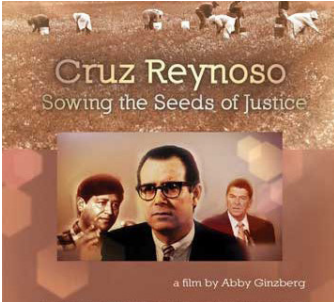
2001

In July 2001, Reynoso joined the faculty at the University of California, Davis, School of Law as the first Boochever and Bird Chair for the Study and Teaching of Freedom and Equality. The chair is awarded in recognition of outstanding scholarship, teaching, and commitment to preserving and expanding the understanding of "the virtues necessary of a great republic."



2006

He retired from UC Davis in December 2006, becoming a professor emeritus. Despite his retirement, Reynoso remained very busy, including serving as an investigator on a variety of civil rights matters.



2010

A documentary film, Cruz Reynoso: Sowing the Seeds of Justice was produced by Abby Ginzberg. The film “explores the life and achievements of a man who felt the sting of injustice while growing up and later, as a lawyer, judge, and educator, fought for more than five decades to eradicate discrimination and inequality in American life.”

2011

Reynoso served as the chair of a task force that investigated the UC Davis pepper-spray incident of November 18, 2011. The panel, which became known as the Reynoso Task Force, concluded in April 2012 that officers’ use of pepper spray was unjustified and that the incident “could and should have been prevented.” The task force determined that the “decision to use pepper spray [on demonstrators] was not supported by objective evidence and not authorized by policy.” The university responded to this report and other studies with various reforms in place today.

2010

2020

2021

Cruz Reynoso, the lawyer, jurist, law professor and the first Latino California Supreme Court justice, passes at age 90. He died Friday, May 7, 2021 just five days after his 90th birthday.



Many universities and law organizations across California held special memorials to honor the life and legacy of Cruz Reynoso.

2022

On October 13, Fullerton College hosts the first ceremony to recognize the achievements of Justice Reynoso. Among attendees of the event were members of the Reynoso Family along with campus and community dignitaries. Announcement of the final building dedication is made for September of the following year.



2023

On September 14, Fullerton College hosts the final dedication of the 200 Building on campus as the Cruz Reynoso Hall. Part of the dedication includes the endowment of a Cruz Reynoso Scholarship to support the next generation of leaders for change.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Loren Miller Legal Services Award, 1978
- American Bar Association's Spirit of Excellence Award, 1997
- Presidential Medal of Freedom August 9, 2000
- Hispanic Heritage Award in Education September 7, 2000
- American Bar Association's Robert J. Kutak Award 2007
- University of California, Davis Medal of Honor, September 15, 2007
- Bernard E. Witkin Medal September 2009
- Alice and Clifford Spendlove Prize in Social Justice, Diplomacy and Tolerance April 2011
- Mexican American Law Student Association (MALSA) Fighting for Justice Award, April 26, 2016
- Hispanic National Bar Association Lincoln-Juarez Award, November 2011
- Honorary Doctor of Law or Humanities from the following:
 - University of Santa Clara, 1981
 - Lincoln University, 1984
 - DePaul University, 1986
 - Pomona College, 1987
 - University of San Diego, 1991
 - Thomas Jefferson Law School, 1997
 - Chapman University, 2011
 - University of Sacramento, 2012

Presidential Medal of Freedom August 9, 2000:

"Cruz Reynoso is the son of Mexican immigrants who spent summers working with his family in the fields of the San Joaquin valley. As a child, he loved reading so much, his elementary school classmates called him "El Profe," the Professor.

Later, some told him to put aside his dreams of college, saying bluntly, they will never let you in. But with faith in himself and the values of our country, Cruz Reynoso went on to college and to law school but never forgot his roots. He worked for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and led the pioneering California Rural Legal Assistance Program. In 1976 he was appointed Associate Justice of the California Court of Appeals and rose to become the first Latino to serve on the State's highest court.

Today, he continues to labor in the fields of justice, serving as Vice Chair of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, opening new doors for Latino lawyers and teaching a new generation of students the world of law. Not long ago, the person his classmates once called El Profe was voted by his own students Professor of the Year."

—William J. Clinton,
Remarks on Presidential Medal of Freedom
(Aug. 9, 2000), available at:
<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=1482>.

"Through his efforts to address social inequity in his rural community, his leadership of the pioneering California Rural Legal Assistance program, his tenure as the first Latino on the California Supreme Court and his service on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, he has been a strong force for change and a passionate voice for our nation's disadvantaged."

—*Presidential Medal of Freedom Inscription*



ABOUT THE CRUZ REYNOSO HALL

After two years of construction beginning in 2006, the 39,023 square foot Building 200 was initially dedicated on January 11, 2008. Now newly dedicated as The Cruz Reynoso Hall, Building 200 most notably houses the student Dining Hall. Many campus offices and areas call Cruz Reynoso Hall home: Associated Students, International Student Center, Student Life & Leadership, Transfer Center, Friends of Fullerton College Foundation, and the Student Support Services Division Office. The building has become an iconic landmark in the campus due to its prime location, included services, and events hosted in the nearby quad.





“Photo of Vicky at 14 years old, post 8th grade.” —Gerald Padilla

In Memory of Victoria Guzman Padilla

“Vicky” Guzman attended the same segregated school in La Habra attended by Cruz Reynoso. Due to segregation and norms of the day for Mexican Americans, she was limited to an eighth-grade education. Yet, mentally and physically, she survived. Her grace, love, and spirit created three college professors, a high school educator, a lawyer, an artist, and college-bound great-grandchildren.

—From a loving son, Professor Emeritus Gerald Padilla, Fullerton College



**DR. GILBERT J. CONTRERAS
PROUDLY SUPPORTS
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SCHOLARSHIP**



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Degrees/Certificates offered

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START HERE

PLEG 101 F - Introduction to Paralegal Studies

Questions? Contact:
 Michael Moore
 mmoore1@fullcoll.edu

Please note: The Fullerton College ABA-Approved Paralegal Studies Program does not prepare students for law school or the practice of law. Under California's Business and Professions Code, sections 6450 et seq., a paralegal may not market his or her services to the public, but must work under the direct supervision of an attorney licensed to practice law.



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2/2022




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CELEBRATE NATIONAL HSIs WEEK
SEPT. 11-17, 2023

NATIONAL HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS WEEK
September 11-17, 2023



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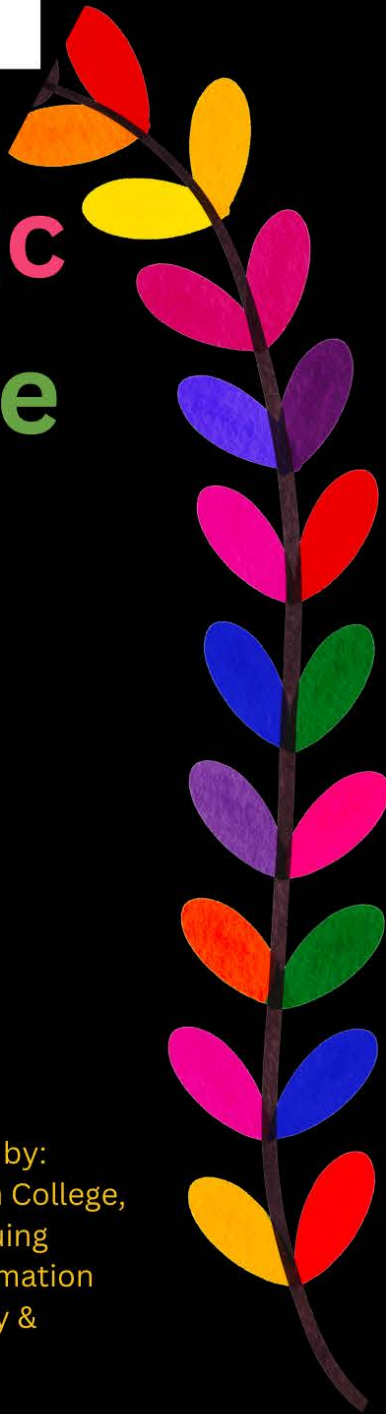
Thank you to Fullerton College Maintenance & Operations



Hispanic Heritage Month 2023



Presented and sponsored by:
Cypress College, Fullerton College,
and North Orange Continuing
Education. For more information
visit the Office of Diversity &
Compliance Events Page.



September

- 14 **Opening Kickoff**
10-11:30 a.m.
Cypress Humanities building
Ballet Folklorico, painting of skulls, and
papel picado
- 14 **Cruz Reynoso Building Dedication**
4 p.m.
Fullerton College
- 21 **Student Panel Presentation**
10-11:30 a.m.
Cypress CCCPLX 414 and [zoom](#)
- 28 **Multicultural Identity**
10-11:30 a.m.
Cypress CCCPLX 414 and [zoom](#)
- 29 **Dr. Olivo's Investiture Ceremony**
3 p.m.
Fullerton College Theatre
- 30 **Cruising to College**
10-3 p.m.
Fullerton College

October

- 3 **Afra Dance: The Threads that Connect Us**
10-12 p.m.
Cypress Gym 2, room 125
- 3 **Women's Soccer Game**
Cypress vs Santiago Canyon
3 p.m.
Ray Haas Field (Park in Lot 5)
- 5 **Self-Help Graphics**
10:15-11:30 a.m.
Cypress Humanities 128
- 9 **Indigenous People's Day**
11:30-1 p.m.
Fullerton College Building 200, room
224/226
- 10 **Afra Dance: The Threads that Connect Us**
Grand Finale
10:15-11:30 a.m.
Cypress Humanities 128
- 12 **Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art
and Culture Museum tour**
10-4 p.m.
- 26 **Día de los Muertos**
5-8 p.m.
Fullerton College Quad

JOIN FULLERTON COLLEGE EVENTS!



FULLERTON COLLEGE PRESENTS

CRUISIN' TO COLLEGE 09.30.23

CAR SHOW



September 30, 2023

FREE ENTRY FOR ALL VISITORS **FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT, AWARDS**

All Car Types Welcome!
Learn about Fullerton College at our programs fair!



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

OCTOBER 26



Thursday, October 26, 2023
5:00PM – 8:00PM
Quad (Front of Library)

Join us for a free evening of music, food, activities, ofrendas, and performances as we celebrate our ancestors! Please bring your own chair or blanket to comfortably enjoy performances.

COMMUNITY ALTAR
Bring a copy of a photo or memento of a loved one

FREE PARKING in Parking Structure off Lemon St. and Fullerton College Drive





Cruz Reynoso Hall Planning Committee

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Henry Hua

Executive Director of Friends of Fullerton
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