

EDITORS' COMMENTARY

Dreaming and Scaffolding

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A dreamer who casts her sights to make things happen, I have always been someone who is not afraid to ask for something—a *pediche*—and to work for what I want. To explore the possibilities of bringing the journal to the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), I began the work three years ago by engaging in discussions with Dean Betty Merchant, who is a dreamer and visionary herself. Some colleagues were supportive. Others encouraged me to “go for it.” Still others, looking at me with doe-eyed disbelief, saw this as a daring impossibility that would come to naught.

That dream is now a reality. September 1, 2009, *Chicana/Latina Studies: The Journal of Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social (C/LS)* has a new home—thanks to Keta Miranda, Antonia Castañeda, Rusty Barceló, and others who supported our efforts to give it a new home. We enter the world of education to create a shared space of transcommunality, and the presence of *C/LS* necessarily expands our interdisciplinary linkages. In the journey, I have often found the journal mirrors the creative and expressive abilities that have unfolded in my own life as I have learned to purge the injuries and hurts through art, photography, and poetry. Its pages carve a path to healing so we can collectively learn from one another's struggles to better understand how we have arrived at this point. Always comes the realization that there is much more still to be done, yet the journal affirms and illustrates there is a place for each of us in the making and doing of the work.

At UTSA, I will bring to the journal the practice of scaffold mentoring, whereby everyone learns from each other. This is premised on the belief that, regardless of titles, all have a contribution to make. The undergraduate students teach and learn from each other, as they teach others. The graduate students mentor the undergraduates and each other to consider options in graduate or professional schools. This process, while empowering, is not permanent or static. It is a scaffold that bridges the cultural wealth students bring into the creation of knowledge. Scaffold mentoring is a transitory strategy that helps students hone potential areas of growth and build on their strengths. Because change is constant in a relationship that moves with the expansion of our abilities, we assume growth and competency of each other's development. All do their part to achieve the best possible outcome.

For the journal, because lived experience and social justice are so central to our feminist work, we aim to achieve an inclusive and active learning environment. It is not the individual but the collective energy that drives our desire to create. Such is the historical footprint that Karen Mary Davalos carved to ensure MALCS would continue to have a professional journal in her re-launching of *C/LS* after its foundational incarnation as *Voces*. The word in all its nuances, including art, poetry, and photography, are Davalos' imprint. Her legacy is a literary, theoretical, and methodological witnessing of the intellectual contributions of Chicanas/Latinas, one that exemplifies how to continue creating avenues for change on multiple fronts.

Finally, it is an honor for me to work with Tiffany Ana López. Her *compromiso* and perseverance, along with the historical memory of having worked with Karen Mary Davalos, makes our collaboration that much more enriching. We share a common mentoring philosophy and her team of graduate and

undergraduate student interns at UCR will network with the UTSA team to help further support the efforts of the journal. For our students, this represents another layer of professional development and critical vision that the journal brings to the field. For our institutions, the journal brings multiple venues for collaboration. Without your submissions and contributions, there would be no journal. We encourage you to partner with us in this collaborative journey, by bringing the journal to your institutions, using it for classes, and submitting manuscripts or creative work for publication.