



West Valley VIEW

The community newspaper of Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, Litchfield Park & Tolleson, AZ
Phone (623) 535-8439

Friday, September 18, 2009

Honoring Hispanic heritage *College hosts special events*

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Estrella Mountain Community College will spend the next month honoring Hispanic heritage.

The Avondale campus kicked off a month of festivities with a celebration on Wednesday. The event featured speakers, music, dance and food.

"We've been planning this for the last three to four months. We were very happy with the turnout," said Frank Amparo, co-chair of the event. Amparo is director of enrollment services at the college.

"Recognizing Hispanic heritage speaks directly to a core value of the college. We have these kinds of events every year that students can participate in," he said.

The students seem to appreciate the events and support them, Amparo said. Money raised from food sales at this week's celebration will benefit scholarship funds.

Several more events will be held at the college to honor Hispanic heritage and follow the theme of "Celebrating La Mujer of yesterday, today and tomorrow." Many of the events focus on the history and culture of Hispanic women.

The Art of Hilario exhibition is up through Sept. 30 in Komatke Hall C and Estrella Hall. Hilario Gutierrez, a native of Arizona, creates abstract, contemporary art.

Songs of Women, Songs of Struggle will be a free workshop at 11 a.m. Sept. 23. Carmen de Novias-Guerrero, a local artist, musician and educator, will take listeners on a cultural journey in the college's Plaza Gallery.

On Oct. 6, "Face to Face in a Frenzy" will be presented at 10 a.m. in the Ceremonial Plaza. Artist and mask maker Zarco Guerrero will perform and encourage participants to examine their feelings and thoughts on topics such as self-esteem, racism and aging.

Estrella Mountain Community College is at Dysart and Thomas roads in Avondale. Events are free and open to the public.

For information about Hispanic Heritage Month, call Christina Izaguirre at 623-935-8802.

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