

2023 Mexican American Studies Program Summer Seminar Keynote Address Dedicated to the Late Mike M. Anzaldúa Jr., Professor Emeritus of English

Del Mar College was the second home for the late Mike Anzaldúa Jr., Professor Emeritus of English, as individuals who knew him can attest.

Since joining Del Mar College's faculty as a teaching assistant in 1969, Professor Anzaldúa carried out several roles beyond instructing English in the classroom, including serving as assistant director of the Heritage Campus Writing Center, director of the College's Title V Learning Communities Program, chair of the Department of English and Philosophy, Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences and president of the College's chapter of the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education.

Anzaldúa also served as a tenured faculty member on the Faculty Council, the College's Self-Study for reaffirmation of accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and with several program reviews and numerous committees.

He also led a number of College innovations, including the College Developmental Education Council, the Mariachi Del Mar musical initiative and the Mexican American Studies Program.

Serving among his peers at the College from 1969 until his death in 2012, the devoted educator gave back to the College where he spent his long career. Prior to his passing, Anzaldúa began a process of setting up the establishment of four \$90,000 endowed and four \$10,000 direct scholarships for a total of \$400,000 to benefit the College's English, Music and Mexican American Studies programs and the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education. All four scholarships cover tuition, fees and any remaining balance for books and supplies that student may need.

Corpus Christi Mayor Nelda Martinez read a proclamation establishing April 23, 2013, as Mike M. Anzaldúa Jr. Day of Remembrance during the City Council meeting. Additionally, the DMC Board of Regents also recognized Anzaldúa's accomplishments while Sylvia Ramirez, District Director of Texas Senator Juan Hinojosa's office read Senate Resolution No. 687 In Memory of Mike M. Anzaldúa Jr. honoring his accomplishments and recognizing his passing. In May 2013 during the 83rd Legislature, Representative Abel Herrero also presented Texas House Resolution No. 2224 In Memory of Mike M. Anzaldúa Jr., Professor Emeritus of English at Del Mar College.

In May 2016, Del Mar College Board of Regents unanimously approved to name a courtyard on the Heritage Campus as "Mike Anzaldúa Plaza." The courtyard is associated with new education buildings planned as part of the 2014 Capital Improvement Program.

Anzaldúa's 43-year career at Del Mar earned him several prestigious honors for teaching excellence on the local, regional, and national levels. These recognitions include the Former Students' Association 2005 Wall of Honor Award, Dr. Aileen Creighton Award for Teaching Excellence in 2004, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement Teaching Award in

2004, Association of Community College Trustees' 2004 Faculty Member Award for the Western Region, the Spanish Language Institute Outstanding Lecturer Medallion in 2001 and the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence in Teaching Award in 1998, among others.

Anzaldúa earned his bachelor and master's degrees from East Texas State University after attending Del Mar College.