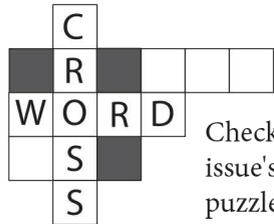


the SIGNAL



Check out this issue's crossword puzzle on page 5.

DACA vs. DREAM Act what's the difference?

See page 14.

Get to Know Congressional Candidates on page 6.



Thanksgiving brings more than food to the table

by Jyoti Dhanota and Gagan Kaur



The United States is an indigenous nation and its various cultures and traditions make it unique and bring its residents together. The stories of the country's heritage and traditions give Americans a glimpse of who they are as individuals and as a community.

According to History.com, "In many American households, the Thanksgiving celebration has lost much of its original religious significance; instead, it now centers on cooking and sharing a bountiful meal with family and friends."

Thanksgiving is a time for family and friends to come together; time to eat delicious foods and create memories with the people who are most important to them; all while bringing to the table what you are grateful for.



Illustration by Eric Lloyd.

California State University, Stanislaus (Stan State), is home to a number of different ethnicities and each of them have a unique way of celebrating this national holiday.

Food is the binding force of tradition, and what better way to celebrate than with cultural food?

Cheyenne Chavez (senior, Accounting) celebrates Thanksgiving with food cooked from scratch.

"I come from a Hispanic culture, but we celebrate Thanksgiving the traditional American way. We have turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, yams, cauliflowers, green beans, fruit, cranberries, bread and pies; it is a feast!" Chavez said. "We make everything from scratch. Cooking is a family effort. We eat together and spend time as a family. Sometimes, we have friends celebrate with us."

For Felipe Aguilera (senior, Communication Studies), the holiday season is a reason for a memorable family get-together.

See Thanksgiving page 9



Editors

Jyoti Dhanota
Kristen Dias
Olivia Soto
Clara Zapien

**La Letra Ñ
Coordinator:**
Jesus Alvarado

Reporters

Aubrie Barr
Kimberly Fischer
Gagandeep Kaur
Abri Munoz
Marisol Ochoa
Francely Santos
Jesus Valdez

Advertising Managers

Audrey Thomaston
Nathan Straubinger

Webmaster

Isabel Tardif

Designers

Clyde Chen
Simarjit Kaur
Eric Lloyd
Maggie Lunt

Lead Designer:

Madison Toel

**Administrative
Support
Coordinator**

Ilene Ruesga

Faculty Adviser

Dr. Shannon Stevens

**Contact us at
209-667-3410**

editor@csusignal.com



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*Fast Facts about
Stan State*

1. One of the nicknames that California State University Stanislaus has, besides Stan State, is Turkey Tech because of the school's original location at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, which housed poultry shows.
2. There have been seven notable alumni that have attended Stan State: Steve Andrade (Major League Baseball player), Dennis Cardoza (Politician), Gary Condit (Politician), Doug Dunakey (Pro Golfer), Rusty Kuntz (Major League Baseball player and coach), Brian Nixon (Radio Host), and Susan Talamantes Eggman (Politician).
3. Stan State and Stanislaus County is named after Chief Estanislao.
4. The Vasche Library is named after the school's inaugural president, Dr. J. Burton Vasche.
5. The permanent site of the school was a hotly debated issue between Modesto or Turlock, with Turlock winning the campus in the end.
6. The purpose of the campus was to train teachers and offer a liberal arts education to the population in the Central Valley.
7. The first day of school was on September 19, 1960.
8. The first issue of The Signal newspaper was printed on December 13, 1960.
9. Stan State is part of NCAA Division II and has 14 athletic teams.
10. The school's mascot Titus' biggest rival is Monte Rey from California State University, Monterey Bay.

Success stems from The Signal & KCSS

by Kristen Dias and Olivia Soto



Though California State University, Stanislaus (Stan State), does not offer journalism as a major or the “necessary tools” needed to become a famous broadcast news reporter, students take advantage of The Signal Newspaper and its resources in order to gain experience towards their future careers.

Signal alumni have continually proven that this campus is what one makes it and the world (or The Signal) truly is their oyster.

Hear from Stan State alumni who credit The Signal for their successes post-graduation:

Javier Cuiriz: *Client Success Manager- Digital Marketing Strategist at McClatchy*

Class of 2016



(Photo contributed by Javier Cuiriz)

When Cuiriz began at the Signal as a student writer, we did not have a Snapchat. He took advantage of the opportunity that laid in front of him and grabbed the bull by the horns. He carefully took notes on the traffic he was creating by successfully planning engaging content on Snapchat. Javi ultimately learned to take risks and to not be afraid of failure.

“Freedom was the biggest thing I had that Dr. Stevens gave me, like to think out of the box. She was pretty open to let me start things out of the box to try to engage students in a different way to read the signal.”

“Being able to strategize transferred over to my current job where people in businesses hire us to do their digital marketing. In the Signal, I had to think about what students liked and what they wanted to see and how they engaged with social media,” Cuiriz said.

“For my work, I do the same and think about what will attract people to buy a car or what attracts them to a website or an ad and will make them pick up the phone to call.”

Noel Daniel: *Managing Editor at NeverBoring*

Class of 2015

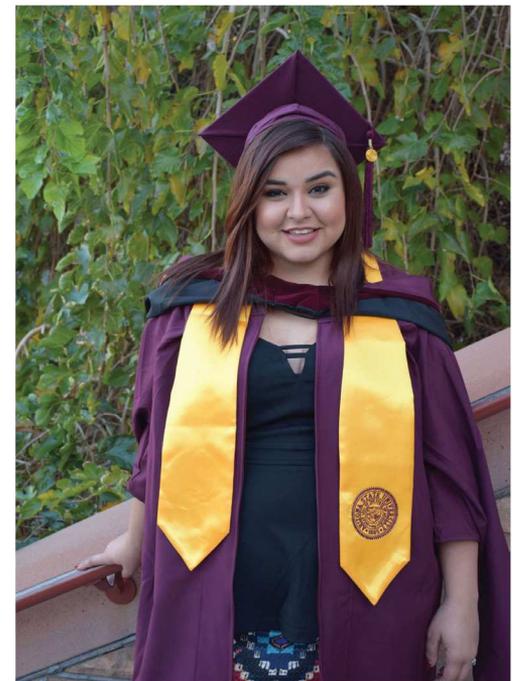


(Photo contributed by Noel Daniel)

“At The Signal, I was the Productions Manager. In terms of skills, The Signal introduced me to leadership in a way I hadn’t experienced before. I also learned crucial journalism skills that I use to this day.”

Tricia Garcia: *Public Relations & Marketing Coordinator at Central Phoenix Surgical Center*

Site Editor at FanSided, Writer at CardsWire for USA Today



(Photo contributed by Tricia Garcia)

Tricia Garcia found her knack in videography while at the Signal. She produced live on-screen content for the web show The Signal LIVE and was passionate about sports journalism. She went on to mature her knowledge in sports journalism at Arizona State University and eventually graduated with a master’s degree.

“The biggest one was interviewing and talking to sources,” Garcia stated when asked about the skills she gained.

“In the sports world, it gets lost so

having that experience really helped me out.”

“[The Signal] was my first news room experience that had me writing on a regular basis and creating video that correlated with grad school,” Garcia said.

Kenneth Mashinchi: *Reporter at FOX40/Part-Time Lecturer at CSU Stanislaus*
Class of 2013



(Photo contributed by Kenneth Mashinchi)

Mashinchi is credited for creating the retired web show The Signal LIVE and sports broadcast show Warrior Rewind. It was obvious that Kenny loved being in front of the camera as much as he loved being behind it. Mashinchi went on to pursue a master’s degree in journalism from the University of Southern California and completed the program in 2015. He has recently come back to his alma mater to guide future media-driven students.

“The Signal allowed me to find my voice and tell stories in a way that shows my personality and my skill set as a storyteller. That practice and week-

ly repetition I got from writing and creating a YouTube show for the Signal still helps me today in my work as a reporter,” Mashinchi said.

Alondra De La Cruz: *First year student at the UC Berkeley School of Journalism*
Class of 2017



Alondra De La Cruz, Signal and KCSS alumni. (Photo courtesy of Alondra De La Cruz)

De La Cruz was an editor for The Signal from Fall 2015 to Spring 2017. During that time, she was able to become a stronger writer and storyteller. De La Cruz also took advantage of the opportunities KCSS had to offer her and became a stronger leader during the process. She currently uses everything she has learned at The Signal during her studies at UC Berkeley’s School of Journalism.

“I joined The Signal because I knew I wanted to be a reporter, but I didn’t know how to get started. The Signal taught me everything that I know, they were that stepping stone,” De La Cruz said.

“The editors, your fellow reporters, your supervisor, which is Dr. Stevens, creates this network that believes in you and kind of gives you those wings to take off and report on whatever you want basically,” De La Cruz said.

Hilda Toribio Flores: *Applying for NPR’s Next Generation Radio Project*
Class of 2017



Hilda Toribio Flores, Signal and KCSS alumni. (Photo courtesy of Hilda Toribio Flores)

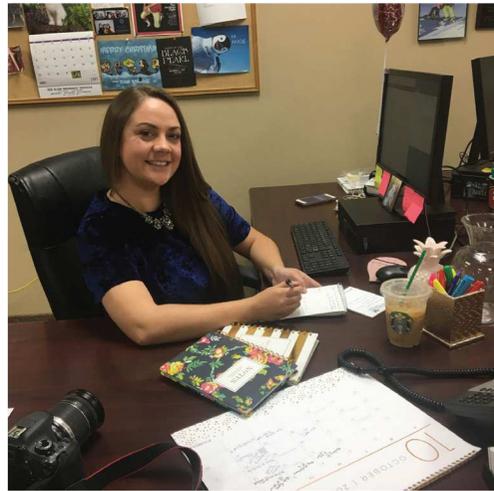
Toribio Flores has wanted to work for National Public Radio (NPR) for nearly her entire life. KCSS and The Signal afforded her the opportunity to gain the basic skills she will need to work in a news environment such as NPR. She began learning how to audio-edit and write her own news stories during her time at Stan State. She also had a podcast called “Ask the Reporter,” and was the production director for KCSS.

“With The Signal, reporting, getting all the experience going out getting interviews, talking to people, knowing where to go when you don’t know somebody to get more information from; all that stuff you learn by experience. The best way to get experience is through The Signal,” Toribio Flores said.

“If your dream is to go into media or anything with media you have to have experience, you can’t just go through school and take classes to get your degree, that’s not going to work,” Toribio Flores said. “It’s honestly the best option you could possibly have to have a

school radio station and a school newspaper that you can work at and that they'll happily take you and happily shape you and help you become what you want to be."

Angelina Martin: *Journalist for The Turlock Journal*
Class of 2016



(Photo contributed by Angelina Martin)

Martin was "over-prepared" for the job she now holds at The Turlock Journal thanks to her time interning, writing and editing for The Signal. She was accepted by The Turlock Journal before she had even graduated from Stan State because of the experience she received at the university's newspaper.

"Shannon just did an excellent job of making us all know what a real newsroom was like, and so I was prepared on my first day of work for that," Martin said. "If you're interested in photography, The Signal has a spot for you... that prepared me for the job I have today because I still take a lot of my own pictures."

"At The Turlock Journal, we have graphic designers, we have people that sell ads for the paper, those are all

things that you can also do for The Signal that will give you experience for a job like that one day," Martin said.

Consider The Signal or KCSS while you are searching for classes in the coming weeks. Here at Stan State, experience that can potentially help you with your future career is at your fingertips.

THE SIGNAL

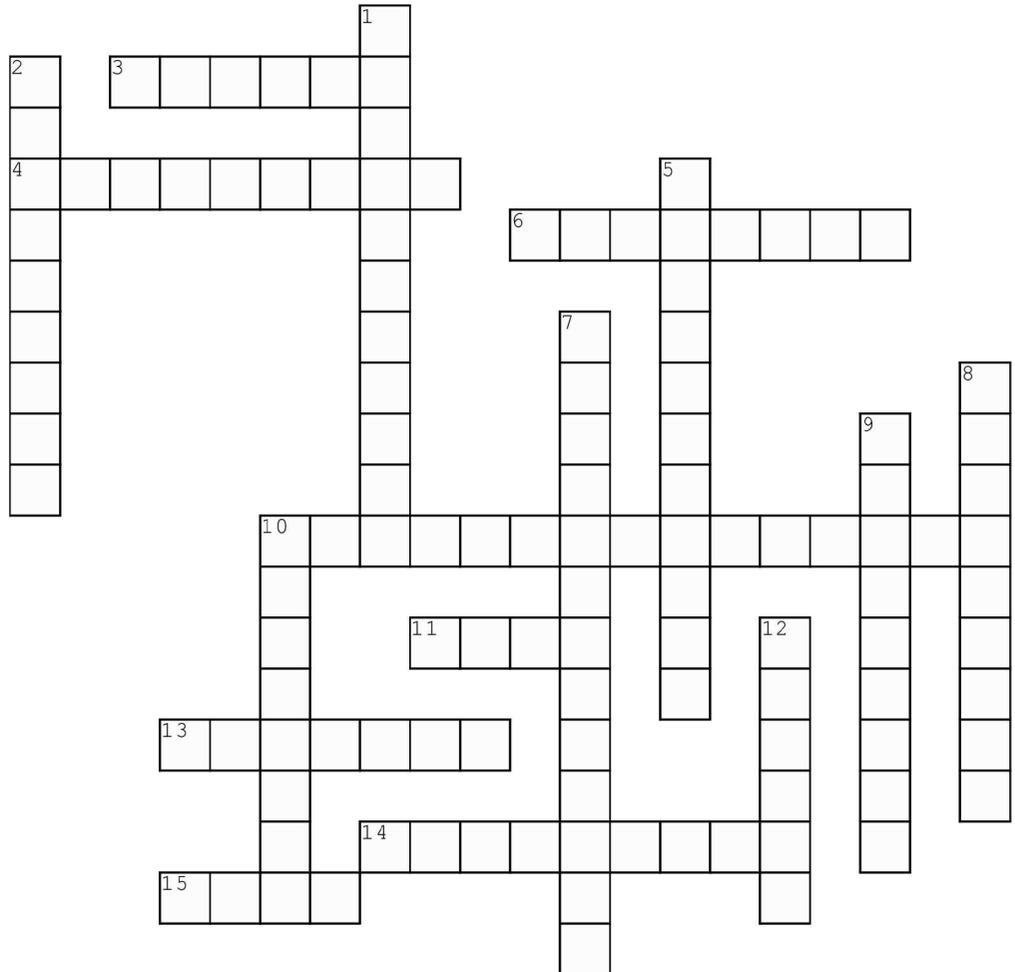


Across:

- 3. A group of individuals associated through blood
- 4. Featured articles, advertisements, and graphic images come together to compile this
- 6. The eleventh month of the year
- 10. The phrase associated with this event is "Fall forward, spring back"
- 11. The academic calendar starts in this season:
- 13. A thick shelled member of the squash family
- 14. Students come to Stan State for higher
- 15. "The valley's true alternative" radio station

Down:

- 1. One of the most competitive online shopping events of the year
- 2. Someone who is applying for an electoral position is a _____
- 5. A day that celebrates persons who have served the United States
- 7. Where a student can go to find a wide variety of books and reference
- 8. The university's newspaper
- 9. The writing event that takes place during the eleventh month
- 10. A group of students who are recognized under DACA
- 12. Stan State graduates become this:



2017 Congressional Candidate Forum

by Francely Santos and Kimberly Fischer



California State University, Stanislaus (Stan State), hosted the only on-campus forum held for the 2018 Congressional District 10 race.

Hosted by the Democratic Party Club, Students Decide 2017 Candidate Forum took place Oct. 26 in the Carol Burke Lounge.

“I thought it was great, there was a great turnout by the community and candidates expressed what they believe and stand for,” Alfredo Moran, Stan State alumni said.

Jason Serang, president of the club started off the forum by welcoming everyone who attended and advanced to share why he decided to reopen the Democratic Club.

“The Democratic Club started in fall of 2016. In retaliation of Trump being elected, we want to show that students are not apathetic and are involved in politics,” Serang said.

During the event, local high school students began to enter with paint on their faces and dressed up as clowns holding up signs.

“We are just a group of friends, like-minded friends, who heard about the event and wanted to come, and had some concerns about some of the positions some of the candidates and felt that this would be a perfect way to get our point across,” high school student Theodore Erickson said.

The forum officially started with each of candidate giving their 2 to 3-minute opening statements.

After opening statements, the candidates were asked a series of question that were developed by the Democratic Party Club, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA), Black Student Union (BSU) and Students for Quality Education (SQE).

Some of the question included topics about Congressman Jeff Denham’s ENLIST Act, health care, the Charlottesville

incident and racism, global warming, the problem of increasing tuition, LGBTQ+ rights and efforts to try to take Jeff Denham out of Congress.

Dotty Nygard is an emergency room nurse, former Riverbank Council member. She is also a patient advocate, mother and grandmother.

“One thing, I am a people’s issue candidate. I want to be remembered as someone who addresses the issues, not labels and that we all strive to come up [with] solutions. It’s going to be a collective effort that we come up with the solutions that will speak for most us.” Nygard added.

Virginia Madueno is a Stan State Alumni and a Central Valley native. She is the first American-born daughter of immigrant parents.

“I am Valley raised, valley born, valley centered.” Madueno said.

Matteo Morelos-Bedolla is a California

school.

“I am a fifth generation local, born and raised here in Turlock and we are going to make Jeff Denham get out of office next November.” Harder said.

Terra Snover is the first transgender candidate to run for congress. Her campaign slogan is “revive the dream.”

“I am here to represent you. One of the reasons I am an independent candidate is so I am not tied to party politics, so I can make the call that is right for this district. I am here to support the district and the people of the district.” Snover added.

Sue Zwahlen’s campaign slogan is that she is an “Advocate of the valley.”

“I hope the students at [Stan] State remember me as a candidate for them. I have spent my life advocating for young adults and children in my career as an ER nurse, as a member of Modesto’s City’s School Board of Education and a mother of six young adult children.” Zwahlen said.

Mike Barkley is a Navy veteran. He currently works as a lawyer who graduated in of 1980 from Armstrong college law school, Berkeley, CA.

“I’m the guy that when you call me, I answer the phone”, Barkley said.

TJ Cox is an engineer and nut processor. His campaign slogan is “the key to our future lies in the resiliency and resources of the central valley”

“In a district were 50 percent of our friends, neighbors and citizens are on medical, Jeff Denham is voting to shut down clinics where I have been building them. He is taking away our dignity,” Cox said.

“The forum went excellent. We had a great turnout and the room was full to capacity. All of the candidates were happy and members of the audience told me it was very informative and well done,” Serang said.

The candidates will continue their campaigns until the primary election in June 5, 2018, followed by the general election on Nov. 6, 2018.



High school students holding posters with messages on them and their face painted. (Signal Photo Andrew Cabrera)

State University, East Bay, graduate, where he was awarded the inaugural 40 under 40 award.

“I am the only candidate with relevant experience, delivering real dollars, real benefits, military medals for constituents of the 10th District, communicating how to cut through the bureaucratic federal government and actually knowing what it takes to bring public input into the governing process.” Morelos-Bedolla said.

Josh Harder is a Turlock native. His campaign slogan is “working harder for the central valley.” After high school he attended Stanford, then to Harvard business

The Student Veteran Center: Camaraderie for a college soldier



by Kristen Dias and Clara Zapien

The Student Veteran Center is a place where California State University, Stanislaus (Stan State) students who have done military service can come to transition back into civilian life in a safe and relaxing environment.

Veteran Affairs Coordinator Chicago Houdek stated that The Student Veteran Center has provided an opportunity for many graduating veteran students to begin their careers because of the friendships they made within the center.

“The Student Veteran Center has had an immense impact on the lives of our student veterans and military connected community,” Houdek said. “It is the focal point for veterans on campus as we are able to offer a place where they can study, perform group work, and also connect with other veteran and military connected students.”

According to Michael Spain (masters

program, Social Work), a former member of the United States Navy and administrative support assistant for the center, The Student Veteran Center is a resource for veteran students at Stan State. He stated that Houdek has been a helpful source of providing ranges of information; from obtaining Veteran of Foreign Wars (VFW) contact information to information regarding veteran benefits.

“He has all the information you need ranging from what you need to apply for to how to pick classes,” Spain said.

The Student Veteran Center is “an environment of respect, safety, and community for all who enter,” according to Stan State’s Student Veteran Center webpage.

The center, located in room 113 of the Student Services Building, provides student veterans with a safe place to speak with other veterans about difficulties they are facing during the process of transitioning back to civilian life.

Alexis Saavedra (junior, Business Man-

agement, Operations and Human Resources), formerly of the United States Marine Corps, is now a student worker for the Student Veteran Center throughout the week.

She stated that the center is a place where veteran students help each other with homework, picking professors for classes, and letting other veteran students know which professors are “Vet friendly.”

“A lot of teachers are really understanding about that,” Saavedra said. “[Student veterans] have the camaraderie that not a lot of other students understand, so this is like our little safe zone where we can talk to each other without having to have any filters.”

Saavedra added that some veteran students have trouble sleeping at night and will sleep on the couch in the lounging area of the Student Veteran Center at times.

“We’re just hanging out, that’s just the comfortability this place brings despite your past, we’re all just friends and family,” Spain said.

Not only does the Student Veteran Center provide veteran students with a place to rest their heads, but the facility also has a refrigerator, television, gaming system, computers and coffee with mugs provided.

Houdek, who has worked at the Student Veteran Center since March of 2015, stated that the center is a place for veteran students to “find a friendly place and a connection to their previous world” with others who understand the experiences that they have gone through.

“Transitioning back into civilian life is probably the single greatest challenge facing our veteran students. Life becomes much more independent outside of the military and our student veterans are now faced with a sharp contrast to assimilate into new roles. The Student Veteran Center is here to help with that transition and make the challenge of the next steps much



Alexis Saavedra (junior, Business Management, Operations and Human Resources) displaying a box of crocheted hats made and to be donated to children in hospitals by people from the Student Veteran Center. (Signal photo/ Kristen Dias)

less daunting,” Houdek said.

For Saavedra, the center is an opportunity for her to talk with other female veterans within the Veterans Center.

“September 11, I was in the sixth or seventh grade and I was like ‘I know I want to do something,’ but I didn’t know what I wanted to do yet. I think my freshman or sophomore year [of high school] I was like ‘I’m going to go into the military,’” Saavedra said.

She officially joined the Marines Corps. at nineteen-years-old and was later deployed to Iraq on a Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU).

“It definitely made me stronger. I’m the first one in my family to go into any branch; I’m the first one in my family to go forward with my education,” Saavedra said.

Spain, who assisted in building the Student Veteran Center, stated that before Veterans Services received grant money to build the center, veteran students had a few tables and chairs.

Now, Houdek said many veteran students use the center as a meeting place. He added that his favorite part about his position in the Student Veteran Center is helping students “achieve their dreams of graduating at a university.”

“I remember when I left the military and the challenges that I faced and had no one to guide me through the process to make the best possible decisions regarding my academics and my benefits. This is what I can offer to the best of my ability,” Houdek said.



Alexis Saavedra (junior, Business Management, Operations and Human Resources) working in the Student Veterans Center’s computer area. (Signal photo/ Kristen Dias)



Michael Spain (masters program, Social Work) enjoying the lounge area within the Student Veteran Center during his lunch break. (Signal photo/ Kristen Dias)



Brightly lit lounging area found within the Student Veteran Center. (Signal Photo/ Kristen Dias)

Thanksgiving

Continued from cover



Mantu is a traditional Afghan dish. (Photo Courtesy of Alpha).



Toel family gathering around the table to have a meal together. (Photo courtesy of Brian Toel).



Fried plantains served in celebration. (Photo courtesy of Charles Haynes).

“My family always gets together and my dad calls it ‘el dia del pavo,’ or ‘turkey day,’ where we get together as a family. We make tamales from cheese and peppers to pork and chicken,” Aguilera said.

“My mom makes Portuguese stuffing, or ‘recheio,’ that my mom makes inside mason jars. We really do not have any traditions other than we always make recheio and my mom is always the one who makes it.”

Vanessa Olmos (alumni, Business) identifies as Mexican American and explains how she and her family spend Thanksgiving Day.

“We all work together to prepare our Thanksgiving dinner together, and listen to my mother’s favorite songs while we are in the kitchen cooking. On this day, we also love to watch our favorite movies together. If we decide to spend it with other family members, we usually spend it with my cousin from my dad’s side of the family and her family,” Olmos added.

Olmos explained her go-to foods.

“There are many different dishes that I love to make during Thanksgiving and one of them is meat loaf because I do not like to eat Turkey. I also have to have mashed potatoes and pasta salad at our dinner table during Thanksgiving. Meat loaf, mashed potatoes and pasta salad are the three dishes that I have to have as part of my Thanksgiving dinner.”

For Clarissa Correa (junior, Psychology), who celebrates her Mexican heritage, the holidays are a time where she can gather with her entire family over warm cooked meals and great laughter.

“My favorite thing about Thanksgiving is seeing family that I don’t get to see very often,” Correa said.

“My favorite food to have is my aunt’s secret recipe homemade dinner rolls and homemade mashed potatoes.”

Gurpreet Kaur (junior, Business) broke down how she spends her Thanksgiving.

“It is mostly about the food and getting together with family,” she said.

California State University, Fresno (Fresno State), student Aillya Taiby spoke

about how she celebrates Thanksgiving being mixed race.

“I am Afghan and Black,” Taiby said. “My favorite thing about Thanksgiving is probably the time after we finish eating, which is tea and dessert time.”

“I feel like when family comes down from all over to our house, we have a limited time to talk before dinner is ready. The tea time is great to actually sit down and catch up with my family members while conversing over tea and desserts.”

Taiby’s favorite dish for Thanksgiving is mantu.

“[Mantu] is basically, a beef dumping that is covered with a savory yogurt, sauce and lentils,” she added.

Nicolette Chingofor (junior, Communication Studies) also enjoys family time.

“My favorite thing about Thanksgiving is seeing family that I don’t get to see very often...”

“My favorite thing to do for Thanksgiving is to spend time with my family, going to church, and talking about what we are thankful for,” Chingofor said.

She identifies as Haitian American.

She prefers to go to a non-traditional American route when it comes to food.

“I’m not a fan of Traditional American Thanksgiving food such as turkey, ham, stuffing, etc. Therefore, I opt for all the Caribbean dishes my family serves. To name a few, ‘Diri Kole’ rice with beans, ‘Poule en sauce’ stewed chicken, ‘Bannann’ fried plantains or ‘Espageti’ Haitian Spaghetti,” Chingofor said.

Amidst the traditional staple foods, a lot of families center their dinner table around cultural recipes that have been passed down from generation to generation. This is what makes these holiday gatherings unique and memorable.

Black Friday: the cause and effect

by Jyoti Dhanota and Marisol Ochoa



In the month of November, after the Thanksgiving holiday, there are numerous amounts of people who anticipate Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

The term “Black Friday” first came about in the 1960s where it signified the start of the Christmas shopping season. Since the start of Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in 1924, Black Friday has become one of the biggest days in the year that offer the widest amount of promotional sales in anticipation of Christmas Day.

On Black Friday, there are typically retailers who open at around 6 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day or early in the morning on Friday. Usually, popular retailers like Target, Walmart and Kohls open on Thanksgiving Day and stay open until Black Friday.

Cyber Monday, on the other hand, is very similar to Black Friday but instead of waiting in line or going to a physical store, consumers have easy access to bargains offered on online stores.

Cyber Monday is the Monday that follows after Thanksgiving and was created by marketing companies as a way to persuade consumers to shop online in order to drive traffic. According to an article from CNBC, “Online sales hit another record on Cyber Monday, as shoppers continue gobbling up deals.” There has been a substantial increase in online shopping and is expected to continue to increase throughout the years.

The article states that the sites and stores that are mostly shopped at are Walmart, Amazon and Target. Last year, these stores made the most profit and they are expected to continue to make a larger profit this year.

The article also states that, according to the National Retail Federation, “In total, 108.5 million people said they shopped online, compared with 99 million who said they did so in stores.”

Aside from taking advantage of all the holiday deals, those who work retail are faced with the difficulty of missing out on Thanksgiving with their families.

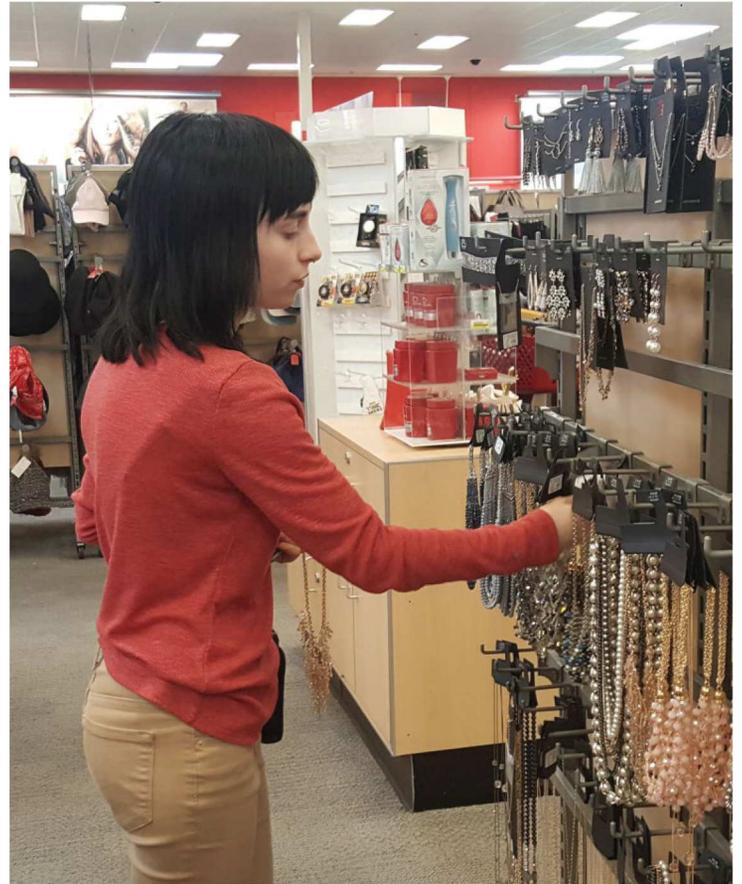
Carol Ballesteros (Alumna, Business) is a retail worker at Target.

“As a retail employee, it is time for chaos, but it is also a time to make dreams come true,” Ballesteros said.

She even spoke about the anxiety that she goes through.

“As soon as 6 p.m. hits on Thanksgiving Day & the doors open, I feel a sense of anxiety. I question myself, ‘Do I know where everything is? Do I know how much there is of each item?’ All these questions rush through your head. You just want all these people to get what they want, because they have been waiting out for hours,” Ballestero said.

Alvina Calderon, Kohl’s Store Executive, provided information on the most popular items from last year’s Black Friday. “The most sold items were hot items like popular toys and electronics,” Calderon stated.



Target employee placing jewelry. One of the items that are on people’s list for Black Friday. (Signal Photo/ Jyoti Dhanota).

Since Kohl’s is a retailer that doesn’t always carry items like Sony PlayStations and televisions, when they do, they sell out quick because they are very limited.

Calderon also mentioned how Kohl’s prepares for Black Friday a month in advance to make sure everything is set and ready for the busy holidays.

Some people like Kyle Davis (senior, Communication Studies) prefer Cyber Monday over Black Friday.

“If I had to pick one, it would be Cyber Monday over Black Friday,” Davis said. “I take advantage of sales if they’re online, not in the stores.”

However, small businesses can be affected by these sales.

Mayra Gonzales, an employee at Minerva’s Furniture Gallery, in Downtown Turlock spoke about her experience.

“I know that not a lot of stores downtown have a Black Friday sale,” Gonzales said. “People tend to go to bigger cities like Modesto or San Jose, so it affects the business in Turlock.”

Firefighters urge California residents to be prepared



by Aubrie Barr
and Kimberly Fischer

The end of September proved to be a dismal time for the citizens of the Napa, Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino counties, when 7 fires broke out within hours of each other.

Santa Rosa resident and former Lake County resident, Joy Bennett is no stranger to fires. She lived in Lake County while it suffered three big wildfires since 2015. However, for her, this was her first time being the evacuee.

“All I could do was make sure my little sister and I stayed together. In the moment and evacuating, it’s hard to think about what are the most important things to bring, but I grabbed my important papers, documents, school books and laptop, pillows, blankets, bathroom stuff and random clothes and shoes,” says Joy Bennett (junior, Santa Rosa Junior College) said.

Bennett added that both her and her sister received overwhelming support from family and friends, whom reached out to make sure that they had a place to stay and any other support they needed in the stressful time.

While the fires affected the residents of Napa, Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino counties, it also hit close to home for California State University, Stanislaus (Stan State), student Juan Ruiz-Olguin (junior, English), who moved to Stanislaus County from Lake County to attend Stan State. His family had been caught in the middle of the wildfires.

“My aunt actually had to evacuate from her house and my cousins all had to evacuate. I know the house burnt down, it has been difficult dealing with that,” Ruiz-Olguin said. “My family and I have been trying to send as much help as we can to them.”

Ruiz-Olguin’s parents were safe from the wildfires that were coming close to the Northern part of Lake County from the Mendocino side. However, the threat of fires has caused his family to create an emergency plan if a disaster strikes.

“I told my mom to pack up important documents, photo albums, and other important items that are irreplaceable just in case. When this was happening, the first thing I asked my parents was ‘Do we have fire insurance?’, which they said we do. So that was a relief,” Ruiz-Olguin said.

Just like Ruiz-Olguin’s family, every other family should have a plan in case of an emergency, like a wildfire or other natural disaster.

Wildfires like these in the state of California are anticipated, but their magnitude is never known. Firefighters are trained yearly for wildfires and equipped with special gear known as Personal Protective Equipment (P.P.E). Firefighter, Joel DeVries (City of Alameda), says that the training is required so that they are prepared every fire season.



The aftermath in Kenwood, CA, Sonoma County. (Photo contributed/Jason Falasco)

“We have specialty gear that has to be fitted and assigned to each of us. We have special training that is a yearly requirement that is hands on; consisting of book work, computer work and drills. We have drills where we simulate possible fire situations. Gear and the training is required before going on a strike team,” said DeVries.

Strike team groups are formed within each local city department to help the State of California during fire season. The teams are prepared yearly and each city is contracted an engine from the state. Retired firefighter, Jeff Barr (City of Manteca), was apart of the strike teams during his service for over 30 years.

He stated that his city was provided an engine for responding to wildfires and that it was their job to manage the engine until it was needed.

“Strike team groups are formed to help the state Cal Fire agency and forest service to contain wildfires. We are provided an engine from the state and manage the engine to have it ready for when it was time to use it. Other departments are also grant-

ed engines from the state to help Cal Fire and the forest service during fire season,” Barr said.

Barr also reiterated the importance for people to be prepared and know what state regulations require for home fire safety. He expressed how it was important to follow regulations, as it helps firefighters manage fire dangers and save homes as well as lives.

“When we are called out to wildfires on our strike teams, we spend time prepping houses,” Barr said.

“With limited time, we have to decide what houses are worth saving. Houses with wood roofs or overgrowth surrounding them are harder to save. With people keeping up with regulations, like having a 100 foot clearance around their home, it helps us save their home.”

The fires followed September’s National Preparedness Month, serving as a reminder of the importance of being prepared during the wake of an emergency. Firefighter Joel DeVries stressed the importance of “safety first” and having a thought-out safety plan. He stated that even if you are not in the dangers of wildfires, home evacuation plans are a must.

“You should have a fire plan at home or safety plan in place, where everyone understands the best ways to get out of the house and where to meet,” DeVries said. “You should have an idea of what you want to take and have that in a place that is easily accessible.”

Though DeVries explains how one can have a designated spot to grab their important items in case of an emergency, he emphasized the importance of remembering that things can be replaced: “Take care of family and yourself first; a lot of things can be replaced. They are just things, life is more important. Safety should always come first.”



Remnants of the Kenwood California Fire in Sonoma County. (Photo contributed/Jason Falasco)

Writing month: Why students write

by Jyoti Dhanota



National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo), which takes place throughout November, marks the opportunity for people to showcase their literature. People sign up on Nanowrimo.org and begin writing their pieces Nov.1-30.

National Writing Day, which was on Oct. 20, helped people learn why they write and why it is significant to them.

Mike Adam (freshman, Criminal Justice) explained why he writes during this day.

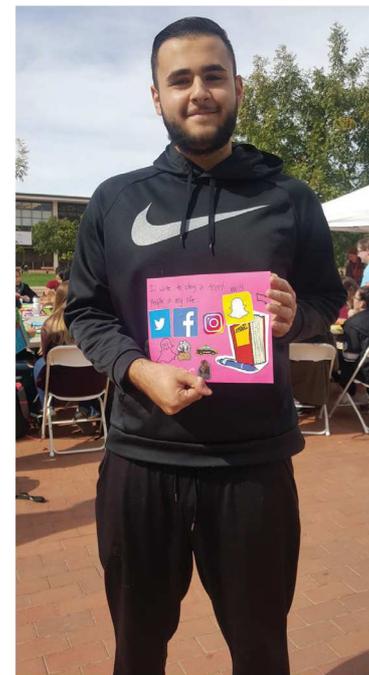
“Writing is a way to stay in touch with people,” Adam added.

He had not heard of NaNoWriMo, but National Writing Day helped interest him and he sought for more information.

“This was a fun experience, and I would want to learn more about NaNoWriMo now,” Adam said.



Dominic Borrell finds writing a way to make and stay in touch with people. His collage represents connections. (Signal Photo/ Jyoti Dhanota).



Mike Adam with a collage on why he writes. (Signal Photo/ Jyoti Dhanota)

Dominic Borrell (freshman, Kinesiology) was also present at National Writing Day and spoke about why writing matters to him.

“Writing is a way of expressing. It is a way for people to connect to what you want to or have to say,” Borell said.

He had a similar experience to Adam when it came to NaNoWriMo.

“I have not heard of it, but I do want to learn about it,” Borrell added.

Maria Romo, (freshman, English) finds writing to be a way to express oneself as well.

“Writing is a way to express emotions,” Romo said. “I have a big imagination, and it is my way to throw out my thoughts to the world.”

She also had not heard of NaNoWriMo.

Assistant Professor, Multiethnic American Literature, Dr. Monica Flores spoke about why writing is important to her.

“I’m influenced by my experiences in writing as an educator and as a student. I want students to feel comfortable with the process of writing. That is really what is important. I emphasize that process in all of my courses, so they understand revision is not something to be intimidated by,” Flores added.

She gave some advice on writing for students.

“I think all students have the potential to be great writers, and I am always enthusiastic about helping students’ confidence grow while they work on these skills,” Flores said.

Sandra Cruz, advisor of Sigma Tau Delta English Honor’s Society, spoke about what they have planned thus far.

“After careful deliberation with Sigma Tau Delta’s prospective members, we discussed possible Nanowrimo activities including a contest with prizes for completing Nanowrimo; but nothing is set in stone yet, since we have multiple tasks ahead of ourselves for Sigma Tau Delta. Once we have settled on an activity we will be making announcements in the near future,” Cruz said.



Maria Romo with a collage that explains why she writes. (Signal Photo / Jyoti Dhanota).

Stan State Sports November 2017

1st

Volleyball: VS Sonoma State
5pm HOME
Men’s Basketball: VS Pacific Union 8pm
HOME (exhibition)

4th

MXC: at NCAA West Regionals TBD
WXC: at NCAA West Regionals TBD
Men’s Basketball: at UC Riverside 2pm
(exhibition)
Volleyball: vs Humboldt State
7pm HOME

5th

Women’s Basketball:
at San Jose State 2pm

10th

Men’s Basketball: at Dominican 2pm
Women’s Basketball: vs CSU Monterey
Bay vs Concordia- Portland
5:30pm HOME
vs Northwest Nazarene
7:30pm HOME
Volleyball: at Cal State East Bay 7pm

11th

Men’s Basketball: vs Academy of Art
12pm HOME
Women’s Basketball: vs CSU Monterey
Bay vs Northwest Nazarene
1:30pm HOME
vs Concordia- Portland
3:30pm HOME
Volleyball: at CSU Monterey Bay 7pm

15th

Women’s Basketball: vs Cal State San Ber-
nardino 5:30pm HOME
Men’s Basketball: vs Cal State San
Bernardino 7:30pm HOME

16th

Volleyball: vs CCAA (California
Collegiate Athletic Association) TBD

17th

Volleyball: vs CCAA TBD

18th

Volleyball: vs CCAA TBD
WXC: at NCAA Championships TBD
MXC: at NCAA Championships TBD

Women’s Basketball: vs Cal Poly
Pomona 3pm HOME
Men’s Basketball: vs Cal Poly Pomona
5pm HOME

21st

Women’s Basketball: at Fresno Pacific
5:30pm
Men’s Basketball: at Fresno Pacific 7:30pm

25th

Women’s Basketball: at Chico State
5:30pm
Men’s Basketball: at Chico State 7:30pm

27th

Women’s Basketball: vs Holy Names 6pm
HOME

28th

Men’s Basketball: vs Sonoma State 5:30pm
HOME

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DREAM Act pressured to be passed

by Jesús Alvarado



After President Donald Trump rescinded the Deferred Actions for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program, various politicians are calling on Congress to pass the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act.

This past Oct. 18, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi called on the Republican-controlled Congress to support and pass the DREAM Act by the end of this year, according to Los Angeles (LA) Times.

“You can have all the conversations in the world that you want, but you’ve got to have the votes,” Pelosi said to the LA Times, encouraging the rest of the Republicans to support the Dream Act.

According to PolitiFact, a non-partisan fact checker, 76 percent of the American people support the passing of the DREAM Act, along with 69 percent of the Republicans and 84 percent of the Democrats.

What DACA offers

DACA provides young adults who were brought into the U.S. as children with temporary relief from deportation and grants them legal permissions in order for them to work. However, DACA does not guarantee legal status to its recipients and a renewal is required every two years.

“DACA, I believe, is over. The short-term executive order is seen illegal

work or the armed services,” according to the American Immigration Council (AIC).

The first step offers a conditional permanent residence (CPR) that protects individuals for up to eight years. Those eligible for this must be under the age of 18, have not been convicted of a crime and have been admitted to a higher education institution or have at least obtained their diploma or General Educational Development (GED).

The following step grants lawful permanent residence (LPR or green card) to those who have either completed at least two years in higher education, served in the military or have been working in the country at least for the past three years.

Naturalization would be the last step, where recipients who have maintained LPR status for five years can apply to become U.S. citizens.

Central Valley immigrants right activist, Homero Mejía, says he would rather have a program that guarantees a path towards citizenship.

“I would prefer comprehensive immigration reform with pathway to citizenship. However, that is not on the table at current situation,” Mejía said. “I prefer the DREAM Act over DACA because it is a permanent solution that gives legal permanent residency with path to citizenship after being a resident for five years.”

On Sept. 13, Republican Congressman Jeff Denham (CA-10) publicly co-sponsored the DREAM Act. Through a memo published on his site (Denham.house.gov), he says that he is co-sponsoring such bill in order to protect and keep the DACA recipients in this country they call home.

“We must send legislation to the president’s desk to permanently address citizenship status for DACA recipients,” Denham stated in his memo. “These young men and women were brought to America by their parents through no fault of their own and know no other country to call home. Congress has to do its job and not allow partisan politics to get in the way of finding a solution to this problem.”

Moreover, on Nov. 10-12, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA) will be hosting a march from Merced to Modesto with the goal of pressuring Congress to pass the DREAM Act in order to keep DACA recipients protected and in the country.

To contact MEChA you can call (209)683-0271, or follow the club on social media: stanstatemecha.

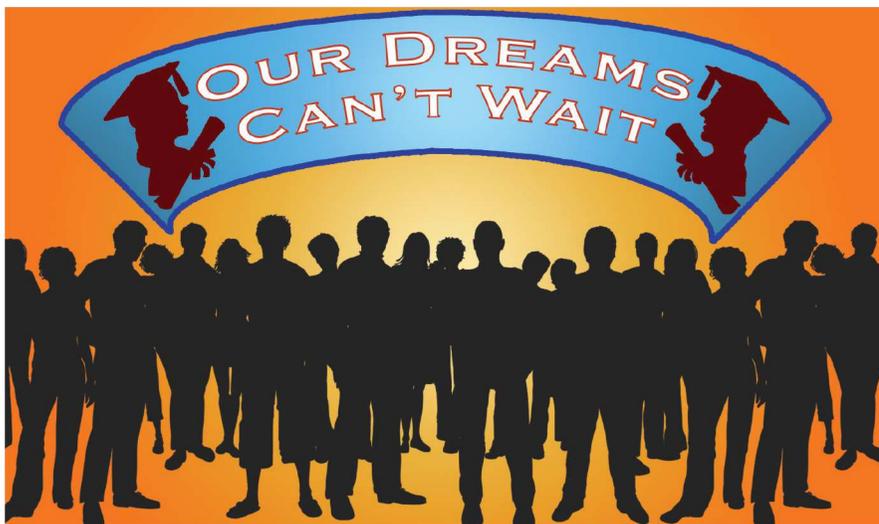


Illustration by Maggie Lunt

and Trump won’t bring it back up,” Alejandro García (senior, Business) said. “We have until March 5th to have congress pass a long term solution for the [DREAMers]. There are a few bills, and the DREAM Act 2017 is the one that has the most support.”

What the DREAM Act offers

The most current version of the Dream Act, introduced this past July, “allows current, former and future undocumented high-school graduates and GED recipients a three-step pathway to U.S. citizenship through college,

Presionan a que se pase el DREAM Act

por Jesús Alvarado



Varios políticos están convocando al congreso para que pase al DREAM Act para reemplazar al programa DACA, al cual fue eliminado por el presidente Donald Trump.

En octubre 18, líder de la minoría demócrata Nancy Pelosi también convocó al congreso controlado por los republicanos para que apoyaran y pasaran al DREAM Act para a fines de este año, de acuerdo a “Los Angeles (LA) Times”.

“Puedes tener todas las conversaciones del mundo que quieras, pero tienes que tener los votos,” Pelosi le dijo a “LA Times”, animando a que los demás de los republicanos tomaran liderazgo en apoyar y pasar al DREAM Act.

Según “PolitiFact”, un comprobador de hechos no partidista, el 76 por ciento de los norteamericanos apoyan a que el DREAM Act se pase, al igual que el 69 por ciento de los republicanos y el 84 por ciento de los demócratas.

Lo que ofrece DACA

DACA provee un alivio temporal contra la deportación y les da permisos legales a jóvenes adultos quienes fueron traídos a los EE.UU. de niños. Sin embargo, DACA no garantiza estatus legal a sus recipientes y una renovación cada dos años es requerida.

“DACA, creo yo, ha terminado. La orden ejecutiva que solo vivió poco es vista ilegal y Trump no la retornará”, Alejandro García, estudiante de negocios, dijo. “Tenemos hasta 5 de marzo para que el congreso pase una solución para los ‘DREAMers’. Hay algunas leyes, y el DREAM Act 2017 es la ley que tiene más apoyo”.

Lo que ofrece el DREAM Act

La versión más reciente del DREAM Act, introducida este pasado julio, “permite a estudiantes indocumentados que se hayan graduado de la preparatoria o equivalente a que califiquen por medio de tres pasos a la ciudadanía norteamericana, ya sea por asistir a un colegio, trabajar o estar en los servicios armados”, de acuerdo al Consejo de Inmigración Americano (AIC).

El primer paso ofrece una residencia permanente condicional (CPR) la cual protege al individuo hasta por ocho años. Para ser considerado para este paso uno debe tener menos de 18 años, no han sido condenados de un crimen y han sido admitidos a una institución de educación superior o han recibido al menos un diploma o equivalente.

El próximo paso garantiza residencia permanente (LPR) para aquellos que hayan completado al menos dos años en educación superior, hayan servido en el ejército o han estado trabajando en el país por al menos los pasados tres años.

La naturalización sería el último paso, donde los recipientes que han mantenido el estatus de LPR por cinco años podrán aplicar para ser ciudadanos estadounidenses.

El sitio web de AIC dice, “De acuerdo al Instituto de Póliza de Migración, tantos como 3.4 millones de individuos calificarían bajo el DREAM Act versión 2017, y más de 1.5 millones eventualmente obtendrían una tarjeta verde”.

Activista de derechos de migrantes del Valle Central, Homero Mejía, dice que él preferiría tener un programa que garantizaría un método seguro hacia la ciudadanía.

“Prefiero una reforma migratoria comprensiva que segura un camino hacia la ciudadanía. No obstante, eso no está en los planes por ahora”, Mejía dijo. “Prefiero al DREAM Act más que al DACA porque es una solución permanente que le da residencia permanente con un camino hacia la ciudadanía después de cinco años”.

Este pasado septiembre, el congresista republicano Jenn Denham (CA-10) públicamente copatrocinó al DREAM Act. A través de una nota publicada en su sitio (Denham.house.gov), él dice que está copatrocinando esta ley para proteger y mantener a los recipientes de DACA en este país al que llaman casa.

“Debemos de enviar legislación al escritorio del presidente para hablar de ciudadanía permanente para recipientes de DACA”, Denham escribió en su nota. “Estos jóvenes fueron traídos a Norteamérica por parte de sus padres sin culpa y no saben a otro país a que llamar casa. El congreso tiene que hacer su trabajo y no permitir que la política partidista inter venga mientras se encuentra la solución a este problema”.

Adicionalmente, el 10-12 de noviembre, el Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA) organizará una marcha de Merced a Modesto con la idea de presionar al congreso a que pase al DREAM Act para proteger a quienes benefician de DACA.

Para contactar a MEChA pueden llamar al (209)683-0271. Para apoyar o participar pueden seguir al grupo en las redes sociales: stanstatemecha.



Illustration by Maggie Lunt

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