

Llano Grande Center for Research and Development

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www.llanogrande.org

NEW STAFF FOR 2007

In a move that exemplifies not only the Center's commitment to developing local leadership, but as well to creating jobs in the area, Llano Grande is welcoming two new staff members this year. Karina Cardoza and Olga Cardoso are local Edcouch-Elsa graduates who are very familiar with the work of the Center and bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our efforts.

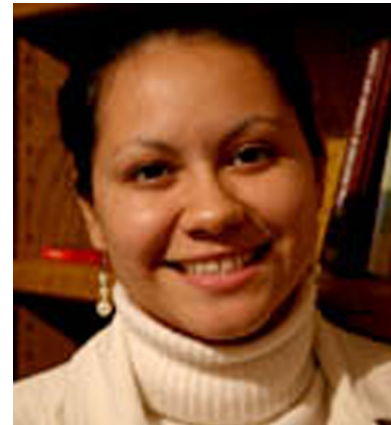
Both are the newest program directors for the Center, joining Juan Ozuna and Delia Perez, as well as Office Manager Yvette Rodriguez.

Karina joined Llano Grande in November 2006, as the At-Large Network Coordinator for W.K. Kellogg's Rural People, Rural Policy initiative. Originally from Edcouch, Texas, Karina graduated from Edcouch-Elsa High School in 1996 and received her Bachelor's Degree in Spanish Language and Literature from Columbia University in 2000. Prior to joining Llano Grande, Karina worked as Grants Coordinator for U. S. Congressman Rubén Hinojosa and as Associate Director of Economic Development at The University of Texas-Pan American. Karina is currently pursuing her masters' degree in counseling at UTPA.

Olga is joining the Center this month as an Outreach and Development Director. Originally from Guanajuato, Mexico, she went through the Llano Grande program at Edcouch-Elsa High School, helping to coordinate several projects including the Spanish Immersion Institute. Upon graduating in 2001, she went on to attend Southwestern University, where she received her bachelor's degree in Latin American Studies in 2005. Olga returned home to become a community organizer with La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE).



Karina Cardoza



Olga Cardoso



LG Staffer Juan Ozuna works with KLCC members from Roca, Inc. in Chelsea, MA, to show video capturing techniques during a digital storytelling training held this July.

LG AND EIL CREATE WORLD-CLASS LEARNERS FOR 5TH YEAR

The Llano Grande Center worked with Swiss-based organization Experiment in International Living (EIL) to offer travel opportunities and scholarships for four students this summer, marking the fifth year of partnership.

Aided by scholarships from EIL and the Edcouch-Elsa Excellence Foundation, students Rebecca Cardoza, James Garcia, Mark Rodriguez, and Gaby Torres traveled to Italy, Spain, Chile, and Japan, respectively, where they stayed with host families to gain insight into the various aspects - including cooking, art and environmental issues - of the countries they visited.

Students also spent time participating in community service projects while on their trips.

COLLEGE PREP AND TECHNOLOGY GO HAND-IN-HAND WITH AT&T

The AT&T Foundation — the corporate philanthropy organization of AT&T Inc. (NYSE:T) — has announced a \$25,000 grant to the Llano Grande Center for Research and Development (LGC). The grant will go to support a new technology infrastructure that will allow the center, which is located in a predominantly Hispanic, low-income community, to improve college preparatory services and provide a well-rounded educational experience for area students.

“At the Llano Grande Center, our mission is to give underprivileged



at&t

students every opportunity to excel, and to change the way students, parents, and teachers think about college readiness,” said Llano Grande Center executive director, Francisco Guajardo, Ph.D. “This generous grant from the AT&T Foundation will directly influence our students’ intellectual and social development

through an exploration of self and community.”

Field trips, culturally relevant instruction and college preparatory classes are the main ways that students participate at LGC. Equipment purchased with the AT&T Foundation grant will allow these services to be expanded as the center hires more staff to ensure quality instruction. The grant will also allow the center to better attract outstanding recent college graduates who are looking to get involved in an innovative teaching program.

LGC HOLDING DIGITAL STORYTELLING WORKSHOPS

So, what’s your story?

That’s the question Llano Grande is asking fellows in the Kellogg Leadership for Community Change (KLCC) initiative as they go through the Center’s digital storytelling training.

Provided under the Center’s Captura initiative (funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation), Llano Grande is hosting a series of trainings at various sites where participants learn to explore their own identity, create a narrative about their personal experiences, piece together different media pertinent to their story, and edit a video that shares their story.

This medium has become an important part of Llano Grande’s own work in community change, and the hope of the Captura initiative is that other sites learn to use this medium for their own development and change efforts. Already, KLCC sites Roca, Inc., the Boys & Girls Club of Benton Harbor, MI, and the Lummi Cedar Project in Bellingham, WA, have already signed on to participate in trainings this year.

LLANO ATTENDS KLCC NATIONAL GATHERING AT STONE MNT, GA

Stone by stone, KLCC sites came together this summer to build just communities, with Llano Grande participating in a variety of ways.

Held at historic Stone Mountain in Georgia in July, the KLCC annual gathering celebrated the work of the 11 Kellogg Leadership for Community Change sites over the past five years, under an arching theme of “Building A Just Community.”

Program Directors Delia Perez and Karina Cardoza attended with Edcouch-Elsa High School sophomore Arturo Rodriguez, Jr. to speak on how Llano Grande uses place-based learning to develop a community of leaders.

Staff members Juan Ozuna and Yvette Rodriguez, along with summer intern Nadia Casaperalta, attended on behalf of the Center for Ethical Leadership to document the event. For the last day of the gathering, they produced a digital story that highlighted the key moments and memorable experiences.

PRESERVING HISTORY: INTERNS DEVELOPING LG ARCHIVE

The Llano Grande Center, in conjunction with the anthropology department at the University of Texas-Pan American, is developing a systematic archive of the Center’s collection of historic records.

Interns Yvette Rodriguez (also

the Center’s office manager), Martin Rivas, George Rivera, and Norma Mireles have been earning class credit while working with the Center over the summer to organize, classify, and preserve the Center’s vast anthology of documents, photos, oral histories

and videos.

The goal of this initiative is to make the archive more accessible to people by creating a web database where visitors can easily view, download, or possibly add to the Center’s collection.