

## **Noted Filipino and Chicano Farm Labor Scholar to Make April 13 Cesar Chavez Celebration Presentation at UC San Diego**

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Pat JaCoby

A multimedia presentation on *Filipinos in the Fields: Conflicts and Coalitions* by Joan May Cordova, Ph.D., director of Drexel University's Multicultural Collaborative, will be featured at a Cesar Chavez Celebration program at noon April 13 in the Cross Cultural Center, University of California, San Diego.

Citing recent work of groundbreaking scholars, Cordova will review Filipino organizing in Hawaii in the 1920s, the struggle for land rights in Washington's Yakama Valley in the 1930's, the Filipino Agricultural Laborer's Association asparagus strike in San Joaquin County in 1939, and the formation of the Agricultural Worker's Organizing Committee (AWOC). The AWOC and the National United Farm Workers Union led by Cesar Chavez merged to form the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO in 1966.

Cordova is associate teaching professor of education at Drexel University as well as director of the Multicultural Collaborative, and national president of the Filipino American National Historical Society. Awarded a merit-based fellowship from Harvard University where she completed her doctorate, her research focused on educational experiences of second-generation Filipinos. She earned a Filipino bilingual credential and M.A. from the University of San Francisco and a B.A. from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

The Cordova presentation is one in the series of spring activities sponsored by the UCSD Cesar Chavez Recognition and the Asian and Pacific-Islander American Planning committees, composed of student and staff volunteers from across the UC San Diego campus. For further information on Chavez activities, visit <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/chavez>.

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