Counselor presents ‘herstory’

Counselor Maria Ramirez presents "Chicana Herstory" on Tuesday at the Smith Center on the Fremont campus.

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Traditions that led to the disappearance of Latin history. For instance, European men disagreed with the power Meshika women were given. Women were seen as nature’s gift to humanity. Unlike now, machismo didn’t exist in the native Latin culture, and despite women’s bare chests and lack of clothing, rape didn’t exist either, Ramirez said.

Women were seen as leaders, healers, and mothers. But because of the influence and division, roles have switched to overpower the female figure, she said. "Chicana Herstory" also covers the importance of the Mayan Calendar that "predicts the cycle of how we live." Originally used as a calculator, it worked to establish the importance of math and science. However, it was destroyed by the conquistadors to establish their power in the new land and diminish the existing culture.

Many young people come and ask me the truth about our history and culture and I tell them that we were not the savages that we have been portrayed," Ramirez said. "Right now is the time to reunite as one as we did before, when there were no borders and we went up and down and all around this hemisphere for thousands and thousands of years – one land, one people."

Ramirez also presented "Chicana Herstory" at the 43rd annual National Ethnic Studies Conference at Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi on March 27. Presenting the speech worldwide, Ramirez is determined to teach the Hispanic community about its roots. "Chicana Herstory allows me the opportunity to share a "herstory" of the Americans that has been denied, erased and untold for too long, and needs to be heard," she said.

In addition, the presentations in Mississippi and Fremont coincided with Women’s History Month. "Feminism, women’s rights were not imported here from Europe," she said. "It’s time to honor the teachings of indigenous America that have relevance now and into the future.”

Now is the time for change, economically and educationally” - MARIA RAMIREZ

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LAURA GONSALVES / MONITOR

Counselor Maria Ramirez says her presentation shares a story that has been "denied, erased and untold."