

2011 Washington State M.ECH.A Conference: *ReConnecting Communities Through Education*

Promoting Higher Education and by building political and social awareness.

- April 22-24, 2011
- Check in April 22, 2011 from 3PM-12AM or April 23, 2011 from 8AM-12PM in the HUB
- Yakima Valley Community College, 1015 South 16th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902
- Registration
 - University/college student fee
\$45.00 if registered by March 31, 2011.
\$65.00 after March 31/At the door.
 - High school students \$5.00 and have no deadline but advance registration is requested.
 - For online registration go to
<https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dG9fX2lnbXhfYkd0VGdNbZy4R3JabVE6MA>
- Contact information: yvccmecha@yahoo.com or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/people/Yvcc-Mecha/100001715390450>
- 2011 State MEChA Conference Workshop/Presenter Application
<https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dEdWc0xpNFRqTjBnbjdNRkVxcUtSRWc6MA>
- Keynote Speakers: Dr. Peter McLaren, Dr. Marcos Pizarro and Maria Fernandez

Dr. Peter McLaren: Peter McLaren is a Professor in the Division of Urban Schooling, the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles. He is the author and editor of forty-five books and hundreds of scholarly articles and chapters. Professor McLaren's writings have been translated into 20 languages. Four of his books have won the Critic's Choice Award of the American Educational Studies Association. One of his books, *Life in Schools*, was chosen in 2004 as one of the 12 most significant education books in existence worldwide by an international panel of experts organized by The Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences and by the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation. McLaren was the inaugural recipient of the Paulo Freire Social Justice Award presented by Chapman University, California. Professor McLaren left his native Canada in 1985 to work in the United States where he continues to be active in the struggle for socialism. A Marxist humanist, he lectures widely in Latin America, North America, Asia, and Europe. His most recent book (co-authored with Nathalia Jaramillo) is *Pedagogy and Praxis in the Age of Empire* (Rotterdam and Taiwan, Sense Publications). With Steve Best and Anthony Nocella, he has co-edited a forthcoming book, *Academic Repression: Reflections from the Academic Industrial Complex* (AK Press).

Dr. Marcos Pizarro: Marcos Pizarro is the son of Leonard and Helena Pizarro, the partner of Maria Esther Fernandez, and the father of Xóchitl and Citlali. He was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and received his BA from Stanford University in 1989 and his PhD from UCLA's Graduate School of Education in 1993. He is Professor, Chair and Graduate Coordinator of the Master's Program in Mexican American Studies at San José State University.

Pizarro works with Chicana/o students at various stages in their schooling and tries to understand how interventions can help these students develop strategies that might aid them in their efforts to succeed in school and pursue social justice for their communities. In 2005, he published a book on his research with Chicana/o youth in East Los Angeles and the Yakima Valley of Washington State, *Chicanas and Chicanos in School: Racial Profiling, Identity Battles, and Empowerment*. The book explores the relationship between the identities of Chicana/o students and their academic performance, with a focus on lessons that will aid those interested in enhancing the educational performance of raza youth. Currently, he coordinates MAESTR@S, a Movement for Raza Liberation through Educación, a social justice organization developing and implementing a transformative education model with raza communities.

Maria Fernandez: Maria Fernandez was born and raised in the Yakima Valley. She comes from a family of 10, with six brothers and one sister. Her parents instilled in her the importance of a strong work ethic and being a productive member of the community. In 2007, Maria co-founded ELLA, Enhancing Latina Leadership for Action, a non-profit organization dedicated to developing a strategic alliance of women and supporters to transform the legitimate requests and goals of Latinas into real opportunities of individual and collective growth. Maria was the 6th Annual Heritage Azteca Award recipient because of her work with the Yakima Valley Community College M.E.Ch.A chapter in successfully negotiating with the college administration for the

implementation of a Chican@ Studies Program. It continues to be her strongly held belief that Chican@ Studies is fundamentally important for us because it addresses the social, political, cultural and economic conditions of our communities, as well as to provide a strong sense of identity and pride.

- **Main Entertainment, Mark Gonzalez:**

POET

The stage is as simple and soft as the skin we are born into. A spotlight cast shadows while reflecting an indigo spectrum on varied shades of melanin in the seats. A young man steps to the microphone and let's his tongue sing with a rhythm that echoes the energy of his father working in the fields "Despite the chaos, know our lives breathe a beauty that resides beyond bars and borders." If voices hold embryonic visions, then Mark Gonzales is among the lyrical leaders in birthing a more humane way of being.

One of the most engaging voices of a generation, Gonzales has appeared on HBO's Def Poetry, Fox News, Mun2, NPR, and shared stages with literary, Hip Hop, and academic icons across the globe. The depth of his work can be seen in the diversity of his audience, as he has received acclaims from educators, senators, foster youth, former prisoners, and members of the United Nations. Over 100,000 people have watched him speak the words: "In a war on terror, maybe testosterone is the real terrorist", in the virtual world. His allies and lyrical supporters cross nation-state identities including: Lebanon, the Philippines, Ethiopia, Cuba, Iran, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Palestine, Jordan, and Indigenous of the Americas.

EDUCATOR

The poetic spirit is more than the page. With a Masters in Education from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a legacy of lyrical work, Mark Gonzales blends Hip Hop culture and spoken word into curriculum, classrooms, and facilities. His academic work is rooted in redefining the role of educator from employee to mentor and member of the community, Through youth driven classrooms, curriculum, and accountability, he is transforming education from a site of oppression to one of invention and imagination. His curriculum has been published and acclaimed by educators and administration across the United States. He continues to spark dialogue among diverse audiences to examine and unearth what is real versus what is perceived in our sentiments about difference.

The educational soul is more than classroom. To address root causes of the crisis that resides behind lyrics, Mark Gonzales founded the **Human Writes Project**, an alliance of artists and community activists dedicated to cultivating and claiming human rights through multi-media arts and education. Human Writes Project has organized summits on Hip Hop as education, provided teacher training and support for educators across the U.S., hosted concerts that cultivate human rights through culture, and sponsored cultural exchanges through international artist delegations. Gonzales currently serves on the advisory board for **C.A.D.R.E.**, who solidifies and advance parent leadership to ensure that all children are rightfully educated regardless of where they live, and is a lead organizer for **Alternative Intervention Models**, a collective vision of artist educators committed to ensuring the health and holistic growth of all communities.

Schedule of Events

Friday, April 22, 2011

3pm-12am	Registration	HUB
8pm-12am	Dance and dinner	HUB

Saturday, April 23, 2011

7am	Ceremonia	Clocktower
8am-12pm	Registration	HUB
8am	Breakfast/Caucus 1	GYM
9am	Welcome/Keynote Maria Fernandez	GYM
10:30am-11:30am	Session 1	
11:40pm-12:40pm	Session 2	
12:45pm-1:30pm	Lunch	GYM
1:45pm-2:45pm	Keynote Dr. Marcos Pizarro	GYM
2:50pm-3:50pm	Caucus 2	GYM
3:55pm-4:55pm	Session 3	
5-7pm	Activity	HUB
7pm	Dinner	GYM
7:30-8:30pm	Keynote Speaker Dr. Peter McLaren	GYM

9pm

Entertainment
Mark Gonzales

GYM

<http://humanwritesproject.org/bios.htm>

Sunday, April 24, 2011

7am

Ceremonia

Clocktower

8-9am

Breakfast

HUB

9am-12pm

PNMR meeting

HUB Lounge