

# Dr. De La Garza advocates for student success

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MANAGING EDITOR

Dr. Antonio De La Garza recently moved to California and has taught at CSUSM for two semesters. Using his background experience, he is seeking to help students and organizations to have a voice of their own.

"I actually started getting involved with the STAND organization, and I am giving a talk for unheard voices next semester, and right now I am trying to see what type of organizations are happening here..."

Dr. De La Garza was born in a small town in Idaho, his father is Chicano and his mother is white.

He started school in CSU Long Beach for a semester, and then transferred to a two year college in Long Beach city in Rio Hondo where he started competitive debate.

His performance in debate attracted a coach from Northern Arizona University (NAU) who then offered him a scholarship to be part of the NAU debate team.

NAU funded his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and he worked as a teacher assistant in the Ethnic Studies department then received his minor in Ethnic Studies.

After his graduation, NAU hired him as their debate coach and received a full ride to complete his Masters in Communication and a



Dr. Antonio De La Garza poses in the CSUSM Palm Court.

Photo by Antonio Pequeño IV

Graduate Certificate in Ethnic Studies.

Dr. De La Garza's profile caught the attention of a professor from the University of Utah. He then obtained the position of director of their debate team and part of the recruitment packet was a chance to complete his Ph.D in Communication.

Dr. De La Garza published three book chapters "between 5,000 and 8,000 words" in 2015, such as

"Rethorizing Adaptation: Differential Adaptation and Critical Intercultural Communication" *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*, "A Border Lands Topography: The State and Future of Rhetorical Border Studies" in *Rhetoric Across Borders*, Anne Demo Ed and "Somos Joaquin: Mindful Racial Realism as an Intervention Against Racial Battle Fatigue" in *Racial Battle Fatigue: Insights from*

*the Front Lines of Social Justice Advocacy*.

He was honored by the National Communication Association for the 2016 outstanding article for the International and Intercultural Communication Division. Coauthored by his department chair, the piece explains "... ways that immigrants [change] to a new environment, a new culture, they make choices about the extent, speed and way that

they assimilate and as they make those choices they are also changing the culture they have moved into and that is a positive dialectic relationship."

While teaching at CSUSM, Dr. De La Garza wants to provide tools to help students succeed.

"I want to help continue to build communication on the rhetoric program here. I think it is really important that our program helps teach

students how to write, speak and argue well. What I would like, is our students [to] take those tools and build for themselves their own form of advocacy," said Dr. De La Garza. "Now I am in that position, where I can also help teach people how to do that work for themselves around their own causes for their own beliefs and values, and that's what I want ..."

