



10-19-2018

Fearless Friday: Candice Montenegro

Candice Montenegro
Gettysburg College

Follow this and additional works at: <https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/surge>

 Part of the [Civic and Community Engagement Commons](#)

Share feedback about the accessibility of this item.

Montenegro, Candice, "Fearless Friday: Candice Montenegro" (2018). *SURGE*. 331.
<https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/surge/331>

This is the author's version of the work. This publication appears in Gettysburg College's institutional repository by permission of the copyright owner for personal use, not for redistribution. Cupola permanent link: <https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/surge/331>

This open access blog post is brought to you by The Cupola: Scholarship at Gettysburg College. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of The Cupola. For more information, please contact cupola@gettysburg.edu.

Fearless Friday: Candice Montenegro

Abstract

This Friday, we're honoring Candice Montenegro '20, for her incredible work in the Gettysburg College Community. Candice is a junior from Los Angeles, and a double major in Psychology and Spanish/Latin American Caribbean Studies. In her first year at Gettysburg College, she became a member of Latin American Students' Association (LASA), and is now president of the group. Along with her involvement in LASA, she is an employee for the Center for Career Engagement, a psychology research assistant for Professor Sahana Mukherjee, a program coordinator of Sunday Swim with Casa de la Culture through the Center for Public Service, and the creator and house leader for the Latinx House. [*excerpt*]

Keywords

Fearless, Fearless Friday, Gettysburg, Gettysburg College, Latin American Student Association, Latinx House, Social Justice

Disciplines

Civic and Community Engagement

Comments

Surge is a student blog at Gettysburg College where systemic issues of justice matter. Posts are originally published at surgegettysburg.wordpress.com Through stories and reflection, these blog entries relate personal experiences to larger issues of equity, demonstrating that -isms are structural problems, not actions defined by individual prejudice. We intend to popularize justice, helping each other to recognize our biases and unlearn the untruths.

SURGE

[VERB] : to move suddenly or powerfully forward or upward

FEARLESS FRIDAY: CANDICE MONTENEGRO

October 19, 2018

This Friday, we're honoring Candice Montenegro '20, for her incredible work in the Gettysburg College Community. Candice is a junior from Los Angeles, and a double major in Psychology and Spanish/Latin American Caribbean Studies. In her first year at Gettysburg College, she became a member of Latin American Students' Association (LASA), and is now president of the group. Along with her involvement in LASA, she is an employee for the Center for Career Engagement, a psychology research assistant for Professor Sahana Mukherjee, a program coordinator of Sunday Swim with Casa de la Culture through the Center for Public Service, and the creator and house leader for the Latinx House.

Candice described her first few weeks on campus as "culture shock". Coming from South Gate, an area in LA, her community was majority Latino, and coming to Gettysburg, where she was definitively the minority, it was a dramatic and shocking change. It was not until she found places like LASA and El Centro that she really found a home. Yet when she looked at all the theme houses on campus that first year, Candice realized the lack of a house for members of the Latino community. In the summer of her sophomore year, Candice decided she was going to make the house happen.

For the next year, Candice worked tirelessly to find a faculty mentor, ensure that there was real interest and potential members for the house, and prove to the college that there is a need for a Latinx House on campus. For Candice, proving to the college the necessity of the house was the hardest part, but nonetheless, she got it all done with the help of her advisor and other members of LASA. Now that the house is up and running, Candice says the most amazing feeling is seeing the first-years who come into the space and find their home. "When I see new students get excited and feel at home and then ask for an application to live in the house next year, I am excited to have my vision come alive for others," says Candice.

As president of LASA, Candice is able to create a close relationship between LASA and Latinx House, allowing Latino students to find a home in a less formal setting than the classroom for LASA meetings. Candice feels that in order for Latino students on campus to continue the fight for more representation, they must first have a sense of security and home. She hopes that the next generations of Latinx Gettysburg College students will be able to build upon this progress and continue to create an environment of belonging while changing false narratives about Latinx students.

When she graduates, Candice hopes to eventually go on to get her Masters and PHD, but first, she would like to continue doing great work and service. For her, this means working for Teach For America, applying for a Fulbright scholarship, or something along those lines.

We wish you the best of luck, Candice, and thank you for your incredible work!