

Office of Equal Opportunity & Diversity

Campus Conversations Series

Presents

Mendez v. Westminster and the Role of Race in Education

A Presentation and Conversation with

Sylvia Mendez

Human Rights Activist

Tuesday, April 26, 2011

Noon-1:00 p.m.

Cross-Cultural Center



Civil rights activist Sylvia Mendez is the oldest daughter of Gonzalo Mendez, a Mexican immigrant, and Felicitas Mendez, a Puerto Rican, who fought so she could have equal education. Her parents were plaintiffs in the landmark Mendez v. Westminster School District (1947) case that paved the way for Brown v. Board of Education (1954) and ended school segregation in California. Today, Sylvia continues the legacy left by her parents by fighting for quality education and by encouraging students to stay in schools. Earlier this year President Barack Obama presented Ms. Mendez the 2010 Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, in a special ceremony at the White House.

The event is part of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity's *Campus Conversations Series* which aims to provide the campus community with opportunities to engage in dialogues about contemporary topics related to equal opportunity and diversity. Event is free and open to the community. If you have questions or need further information, please call Raid Faraj at 949-824-5594 or rfaraj@uci.edu. To learn more about OEOD, please go to: www.oood.uci.edu.

Sponsors: OEOD and Cross Cultural Center bring this event as part of the Deconstruction Week on campus. For more information on Deconstruction Week, go to: <http://www.ccc.uci.edu/>.

Co-Sponsors: *School of Humanities, Department of Education*