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Press Release

For Immediate Release
January 27, 2026

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LULAC STORY TO BE SHARED THROUGH AN EDUCATIONAL LECTURE SET FOR THE TEXAS COASTAL BEND

Historian for the nation's oldest Latino civil rights organization brings to life the narrative of Mexican American leadership, civic engagement, and constitutional advocacy to a new generation.

WASHINGTON — The League of United Latin American Citizens today announced an educational presentation by Dr. Cynthia E. Orozco, National LULAC Historian and one of the leading scholars on Mexican American civil rights history, as part of LULAC's ongoing commitment to preserving, sharing, and elevating the stories that have shaped Latino life in Texas, the Southwest, and the United States.

Dr. Orozco's presentation is entitled, "*The Rise of LULAC and the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement in Victoria, Cuero, and Wharton County, 1929-2026.*" The address is part of the John W. Stormont Lecture Series. It is scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Museum of the Coastal Bend, Victoria College. Her body of work highlights how Mexican Americans, and other Latinos, have shaped public policy, expanded access to education, housing, employment, women's rights, and healthcare, and strengthened the constitutional principles that underpin American democracy.

"I am committed to sharing these stories because they reveal the courage and resolve of men and women who broke new ground in their time," said Dr. Orozco. "Because of their leadership, we stand on their shoulders today, continuing the work of advancing constitutional values and ensuring recognition of the profound contributions Mexican Americans and Latinos have made to the history of this country."

Dr. Orozco is Professor Emeritus of History and Humanities at Eastern New Mexico University—Ruidoso and serves as National LULAC Historian. Her distinguished academic and public service career includes recognition as a National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Scholar (2023) and recipient of the National LULAC Education Raymond Telles Award (2023). She has also been honored with the ENMU Ruidoso President's Award for Teaching and Service and named LULAC New Mexico Educator of the Year.

Her national leadership includes service as a past board member of the Organization of American Historians, the Alliance for Texas History, and the New Mexico Humanities Council, appointed by Governor Bill Richardson. Dr. Orozco is a Texas State Historical Association Fellow, has served on the DeWitt County Historical Commission, and is a recipient of the National Women's Studies Pergamon Award (Second Place). Prestigious fellowships, including the Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship and Ford Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellowship, have supported her scholarly work. She has also been a featured participant at the Texas Book Festival by invitation in 2010, 2020, and 2022.

Dr. Orozco is the author and editor of several seminal works that have shaped the field of Mexican American history, including *Pioneer of Mexican-American Civil Rights*: Alonso S. Perales; *Agent of Change*: Adela Sloss-Vento, Mexican American Civil Rights Activist and Texas Feminist—named Best Book in Texas Women's History by the Texas State Historical Association in 2020; *No Mexicans, Women or Dogs Allowed: The Rise of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement*, a University of Texas Press best-selling academic title from 2010–2020; and *Mexican Americans in Texas History* (co-editor).

"I am a historian because history is how an oral culture shares its experiences and builds understanding," Dr. Orozco said. "By telling these stories, we create bridges of collaboration and respect. America is strong because of the many cultures and lived experiences that come together here, and history gives us the foundation to honor one another in our work today."

The presentation will be [streamed live](#), expanding access to audiences across Texas and beyond and reinforcing LULAC's commitment to public education, historical truth, and civic participation.

"I encourage Texans and all Americans to take time to learn their history," Dr. Orozco added. "From the past, we gain lessons that still matter today—lessons that remind us of our shared rights, our shared duties, and the sacrifices made so that each generation can move this nation forward."

Additional information about Dr. Cynthia E. Orozco and her work is available at <https://CynthiaOrozco.com>.

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About LULAC

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the nation's oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization. Founded in 1929, LULAC is committed to advancing the rights and opportunities of Latino Americans through advocacy, community building, and education. With a growing network of councils nationwide, LULAC remains steadfast in its mission to protect and empower millions of Latinos and contribute daily to America's prosperity. For more information about LULAC and its initiatives, please visit www.lulac.org.