



MAS for Texas

Texas Association for Chicanos in Higher Education
Austin, Texas
March 1, 2017

Mexican American Studies in Texas



- Epistemic violence:
 - epistemic side of colonialism is disappearing of knowledge'; a violence that attempts to eliminate knowledge possessed by marginalized groups (Ex: Indigenous codices burned)
 - Others argue it is not necessarily about exclusion, but of representation
- Epistemic Justice
 - Concerned with who is allowed to know what – has an impact on social justice
 - Ability to speak and be heard

Mexican American Studies in Texas, Prek-12

- Establishment of prestigious MAS/CHS programs in higher education – UT Austin, UTEP, UTRGV, UTSA
- However, non-existent in prek-12 public schools, even in Texas
- 4.9 million school age children, 51% Hispanic
- To date, Tucson ISD, only one to successfully implement district wide MAS program
- Synthesized Freirian, maya-nahua maiz based epistemologies, critical race theories, decolonial thought
- Reduced pervasive patterns of school dropout, increased school attendance, improved standardized test scores, increased college enrollment
- In 2010, far right dismantled with vicious anti-Mexican campaign through House Bill 2281



Mexican American Studies in Texas



STAND UP
AGAINST SB 1128 & HB 1938
TX REP CAPRIGLIONE & TX SEN PATRICK
are attacking Ethnic Studies

SB1128
HB1938

We are Texas History
and we are **PROUD**
of it! We will
never give you
the power to
take that
away!

Like Texans Against Dan
Patrick's Attack on Ethnic
History Courses on Facebook

Sign the Stop Senate
Bill 1128 Petition
on change.org

www.NoTxSB1128.org

Dismantling of Raza Studies program in Arizona spurred nationwide movement to implement Ethnic Studies

In Texas (2014), statewide effort emerged to implement Ethnic Studies in Texas Prek-12 schools

Coalition building between universities and organizations like Librotraficantes

Efforts focused on making MAS a field of study under Special Topics in Social Studies

SBOE didn't crush possibility, but left it to local districts to implement Special Topics in Social Studies courses: MAS, African American Studies, Native American Studies, Women's Studies

Mexican American Heritage Book

- Summer 2016: First book submitted for approval to SBOE
- Part of larger anti-immigrant, anti-Mexican movement
- Published by former SBOE member, Cynthia Dunbar, and two non-experts, Valerie Angle and Jamie Riddle
- State Board (District 2) member, Ruben Cortez, organized Ad Hoc Committee of scholars to examine and review book
- 141 errors – 68 factual errors, 42 interpretive errors, 31 errors by omission
- Perpetuates negative stereotypes of Mexicans
 - Indigenous people of the continent not civilized or intellectually advanced, compared to Europe
 - Chicanos are radicals out to destroy U.S. society
 - Immigrants are criminals and imminent threat to U.S.



Responsible Ethnic Studies for Texas (REST) Coalition

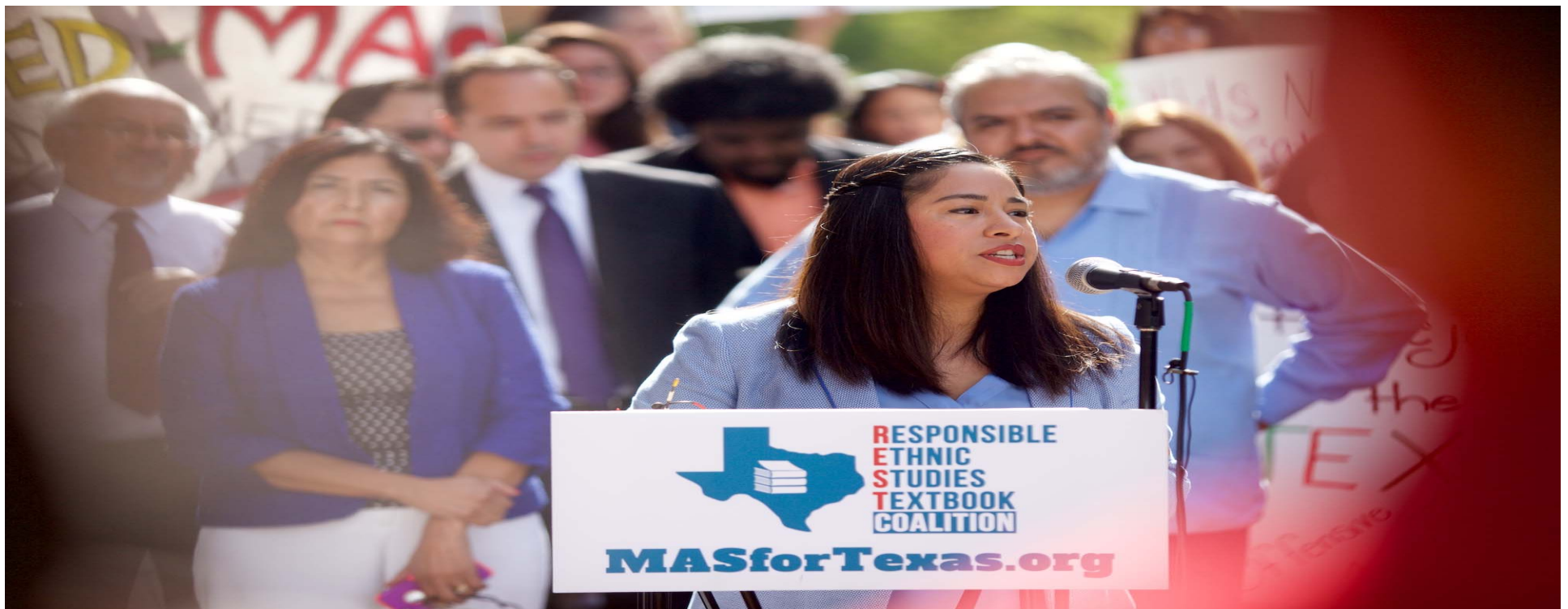


- Meanwhile, MALDEF and Texas Freedom Network organized statewide action to block adoption
- Among other organizations:
 - LULAC
 - SOMOS MAS
 - Librotraficantes
 - GI Forum



Crushing epistemic violence, achieving epistemic justice

- Major victory of REST: SBOE unanimously voted against the adoption of book
- Moving towards creative resistance and epistemic justice:



Current Efforts



- NACCS Tejas Foco, K-12 Committee to implement MAS
- First Annual Statewide Summit, summer 2016
- Professional Development for Teachers: UTSA's Social Studies Teacher's Academy (Dr. Marie "Keta" Miranda and Dr. Marco Cervantes)
- Crating teaching certificates and graduate programs in MAS

Current Efforts



- After school and out-of-school MAS programs:
- Promote MAS in schools
 - Donna H.S. (Mexican American History)
 - Mission H.S. (Mexican American History)
 - Stevens H.S. (Mexican American Literature)
 - KIPP Academy (Mexican American Fine Arts & Appreciation)
- Development of NEW BOOKS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS