

## **Co-Chair Platform Statement, Nancy Ehrenreich: 2005**

I'm honored to be nominated to serve as co-chair of LatCrit, beginning in October of 2006. I've attended every LatCrit conference since my introduction to the organization at the LatCrit III conference in Miami, and every LatCrit Board and Friends Retreat since the retreats were initiated at LatCrit VI. Along with Roberto Corrada, I was co-leader of the LatCrit V Conference Planning Project Team, and have served on each Annual Conference Planning Project Team since then. I joined the Board in 2001. In addition to the conference planning work, I have also served on the Clavé Project Team and the Community Development Network Project Team. In 2004, I participated in judging the paper submissions for Student Scholar Award recipients. Over the last year or so, I've headed up a Grant-Writing Project Team.

I'm completely dedicated to the community-building, mentoring, pedagogical, and intellectual projects of LatCrit. I believe this organization plays a crucial role in not only furthering the development of engaged, critical, antisubordination scholarship and praxis, but also in providing a living laboratory where the organization's members can actually *practice* their articulated commitments (to antisubordination, antiessentialism and progressive humanism) – as opposed to just talking and writing about them. As such, LatCrit is a unique, truly subversive intervention into the culture of law teaching.

I see myself as contributing to the organization in the following three ways:

**1. Annual conference planning.** First, with my experience in planning the Annual LatCrit Conference, I hope to encourage development of, and help implement, a new conference-planning model. Too often in recent years, the conference planning work has devolved to a few people, imposing an unsustainable burden on those individuals. I believe that we need to formalize the structure of the conference Project Team, specifying the discrete tasks that need to be completed, and then obtaining clear commitments from specific individuals to them. We need to update our conference planning notebook and other materials so that each year's project team is clear about the work that planning the conference will entail and the timetable that will need to be followed. I believe we also need to strategize about how to assure that the conference continues as a sustainable enterprise, in terms of both financial and human resources. I'm absolutely committed to the conference – I think it's one of the most important things we do – but I also think we need to continue to be flexible and creative in the ways we approach it.

**2. Streamlining internal governance.** Second, I believe that, similarly to the conference planning, the internal governance structures of the entire organization need to be formalized a bit as well. Mindful of the importance of flexibility and non-bureaucratic values within LatCrit, I nevertheless feel that, with the retirement of Frank Valdes as co-chair, we need to be extremely careful that things do not fall through the cracks. Unfortunately, co-chairs with Frank's unique ability to keep countless balls in the air at the same time will be rare. We need, therefore, to clarify and carefully delimit the responsibilities of each co-chair, to assure that the work of the organization gets done.

**3. Grant-writing and fundraising.** Third, as co-chair I would hope to spearhead the continuation and expansion of the preliminary work the Grant-Writing Project Team has recently begun. In order for LatCrit to continue to thrive and to achieve the ambitious program we have set for ourselves, we need to identify outside sources of funding and to develop the ability to obtain such outside support through grant writing. In an effort to familiarize myself with this area, I took a 3-day course on grant-writing this past summer. As co-chair, I would be committed to continuing, with others on the Project Team, to pursue this important goal.