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## Introduction

- MEChA or Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (Chicano student movement of Aztlan) is the largest and oldest Chicano/a/x student ran organization in the nation that seeks to empower and unite Chicano's through political action.
- MEChA at the University of Northern Colorado was established in 1993. This research project focuses on the Chicanas (women) that participated in the UNCO chapter of MEChA through oral histories and personal archives.

## Significance

- Chicana voices highlighted
- Geographic focus of northern Colorado
- Politics of the 1990s

## Methods

- Oral histories from two Chicana MEChA members
  - a) Cindee (Cynthia) Sanchez (1994-1996)
  - b) Catalina (Cathy) Mata Avila (1994-1995)
- Personal archive from Ruben Carrasco (1993-1996)
- UNCO Mirror, UNCO Archives, & Greeley Tribune

### Campus group admits to bulk confiscation of *MIRRO*Rs



## Theoretical Frameworks

- Chicano/a theory (the intersectionality of race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality)
- Critical feminist theory with focuses on women of color, identity politics
- various dimensions of grassroots leadership.

## Quotes From Participants

- “When you're raised with a sense of justice, you can't shut your mouth, you can not do nothing, It didn't matter who or where or what was going on in our lives if we saw injustice, we were quick to point it out and jump on whoever's bandwagon to help that cause,”  
Cynthia Sanchez
- “The women were more diplomatic, [we'd ask] how do we change it, we don't have to change it by angering people,” Catalina Mata Avila
- “If you see injustice, fix it,” Catalina Mata Avila



## References

