

# DEAN DIVERSITY

Flores advocates equality in learning and life

Cynthia Flores is busy seeing to the future of the Coachella Valley and its youth. The associate dean of Cal State University San Bernardino's Palm Desert Campus, she oversees admissions, outreach, program development and teaches a class called, "Race and Racism" to keep in touch with students.

Still, she finds time to participate on

the board of the Desert Hot Springs Boys and Girls Club and is president of the board for the Reynaldo Carreon Foundation.

It's no surprise that she has been recognized for her commitment to diversity and as Educator of the Year by the Coachella Valley Mexican American Chamber of Commerce.

**Best excuses for late homework:**

They have been from my own children, like the printer broke and I fell asleep.

**Best way to get students to learn:**

Reveal bits and pieces about yourself.

I share 'war stories' and make sure it's not a one-way dialogue.

**Worst grade I ever got:** I failed Intro to Statistics at UCSB. I took it again at the professor's encouragement. The second time I passed. Don't give up!

**Advice to Valley children:** Be all you can be. Aim high!

**Secret pastime:** Music! My husband plays guitar and harmonica and I love my private concerts.

**Favorite holiday food:** Tamales

**Favorite valley hideaway:** Borders. I love to listen to CDs, watch the people and look at the books.

**Finish:**

**Higher education is...** an empowering experience.

**In ten years CSUSB Palm Desert campus will be...** an independent California State University, still working in a strong partnership with local colleges and a true collaboration with the University of California.

**Allow children to...** learn in their own way. Ask questions. Color outside of the lines.

**I still want to...** travel, learn about new places and people.

**I wish people understood...** the issue of the day. I wish people were more involved and aware...

**Equality means...** inclusion, fairness, a balance in gender, ethnicity and a variety of perspectives.

**Racism can be ended by...** understanding our history, politics and our own biases.

**The future of the Coachella Valley is...** everything and anything. The Valley is dynamic, growing and full of culture.



Photo by Tony Tornay