

Apr 17th, 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

2015 NACCS Scholar Award Remarks

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Carranza, Miguel, "2015 NACCS Scholar Award Remarks" (2015). *NACCS Annual Conference Proceedings*. 6.
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2015 NACCS Scholar Award Remarks

Miguel Carranza

April 2015

I am honored, humbled and truly moved at being selected for the 2015 NACCS Scholar award.

I really appreciate Norma Cantú's kind words of introduction. My father, Atanacio Carranza, would have enjoyed her remarks, and my mother, Josephine Huerta Carranza, would have actually believed them.

I am especially thrilled at receiving the award in the same year as Aida Hurtado. I am not saying I am old but I was the outside member of Aida's dissertation committee at the University of Michigan. To add further insult to injury, Ed Muñoz, a member of the NACCS Coordinating Committee, called to inform me I had been selected. Ed was a mentee of mine while he was a graduate student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Híjole, I am really 'carbon dating' myself.

I actually thought I might have lost any consideration for any type of award from NACCS some 32 years ago. I was Chair of the NACCS Coordinating Committee from 1981-83. My first year as NACCS Chair we held our national conference at Arizona State University in Tempe. However, many of you may know that I am always looking to strengthen and focus on the NACCS Midwest Foco. Additionally, my good friend, Gary Keller, happened to be then Dean of Graduate Studies at Eastern Michigan University at that time. Does anyone outside of the Midwest know in what city Eastern Michigan University resides? – Ypsilanti, Michigan. Gary Keller put together an excellent conference proposal, and it was accepted by the Coordinating Committee. We even selected the dates April 14-16 to avoid the possibility of any bad weather. Well you guessed it – the night before the conference began it snowed 1-2 inches. But the weather was rather mild so by the next day the snow had quickly turned to slush. But to hear it from some of our colegas from the Southwest and the West you would've thought it was the NACCS Blizzard of 1983!!

I am pleased to see that the foundation for NACCS is strong and has been influenced by those who have come before us, like Julian Samora and Americo Paredes, just to name two trailblazers, and also by those who have gone before us much too early in their careers, like Gloria Anzaldúa.

Make no doubt about it, the challenges for NACCS loom large and are real and many – worker's rights, immigrant children, anti-gay/lesbian legislation, and proper education for our young ones, just to name a few.

The real merit of NACCS is that it is not just an association, but it is a real 'home' to me and we must continue to fortify the place where we live, breathe and even dream. The legacy of NACCS will survive but it is up to all of us as to what it means to those who follow us. I look forward to continuing *en la lucha* with you, *mis colegas*. I, for one, am at home.