

Interviewee: Shirley Romero Otero

Date: 02.17.2016

Location: Cooper Rm, Neilson Library

Time: 3:00pm

Where did you grow up?

What are your fondest memories from your childhood?

Did you grow up speaking Spanish or English at home?

Do you still speak Spanish today?

What are some of the common phrases and words that you use in Spanish?

When was the first time you remember being treated differently because of your language or the color of your skin?

Growing up, what were your early connections to the land?

What are your first memories of the mountain?

When did you first begin to get involved in the struggle to regain access to the mountain?

What motivated you over the years to stay involved in the struggle?

What was it like for the people to regain access to the mountain?

We understand you left the valley for a number of years. Why did you leave? Why did you eventually come back?

Elsewhere, in speeches for example, you define yourself as a Chicana. When did you become involved in the Chicana movement? What was the general purpose of the movement? And for you, as a Hispanic female, what was the personal importance of the movement? Do you feel Hispanic females were treated differently than Hispanic males during the movement (how so)?

Like many rural towns in the U.S., San Luis faces a number of social issues including high unemployment rates, migration of youth, and high rates of drug addiction. Do you think that these issues are related to discrimination against Hispanics in the region? If so, how?

You currently work closely with youth in San Luis. Can you tell us a little more about the work you do at the school?

Related to the last question, why do you think working with the youth is so vital?

You also work closely with your community to create a plan for a healthier future. Can you tell us what the community is envisioning for the future?