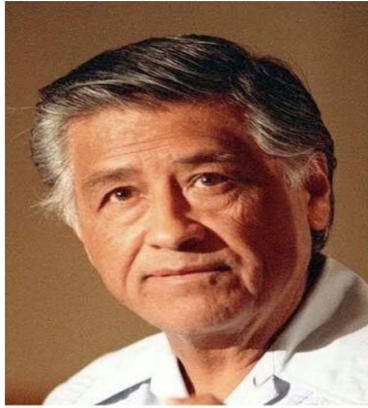


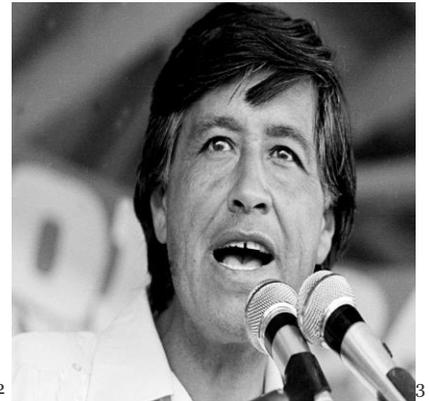
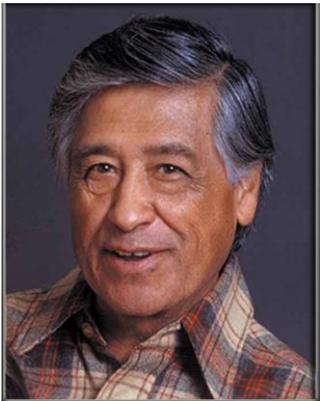
## Lake Worth ISD Celebrates César Chávez and Dolores Huerta Emphasizing Service Learning and Environmental Justice



### *An Honor and A Commitment:*

Throughout history the noblest hearts and minds amongst us have been those individuals who have fought for compassion, justice and championed the causes of the innocent and the powerless. As a district, we are very proud to honor both Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez on Monday, March 23, 2020.

We want to pay tribute to the vision and foresight that these Civil Rights Leaders extended through their circle of compassion and respect for all without exceptions. Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta both believed in protecting the rights of others and improving the working conditions of their fellow farm workers. Additionally, they fought to increase their pay and supported farm owners treating their farm workers fairly. They both made history by following their dreams and standing up for justice to make life better for the families in farm worker communities.



### **If you're unfamiliar with the history of César Chávez, Union Farm Workers and the labor movement, here are amazing facts about César Chávez:**

- On March 31, 1927, César Chávez was born in Arizona and moved to California with his family as a child when they lost their land in the Great Depression. He and his family worked as migrant farm

<sup>1</sup> Cesar E. Chavez 1927-1993, photograph, Emerson Kent, [http://www.emersonkent.com/history\\_notes/cesar\\_estrada\\_chavez.htm](http://www.emersonkent.com/history_notes/cesar_estrada_chavez.htm)

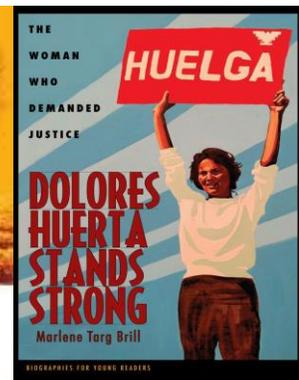
<sup>2</sup> Nicolaus Mills, *Cesar Chavez and Immigration Reform*, June 28, 2013, photograph, Dissent Magazine, <https://www.dissentmagazine.org/blog/cesar-chavez-and-immigration-reform>

<sup>3</sup> Erika Okano, *Cesar Chavez Honored With National Landmark*, February 21, 2011, photograph, NBC Bay Area, <https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/cesar-chavez-honored-with-national-landmark/1909549/>

workers. They moved all around California harvesting different kinds of produce, but eventually moved to East San Jose. César Chávez left school after 8th grade to work in the farm lands full time with his family because his father was injured. Chávez joined the U.S. Navy during WWII. After he returned home from two years of service, he returned to farm work. He even taught migrant workers how to read. César Chávez worked full time at an orchard when he first began professional organizing with the CSO and helped thousands of workers register to vote as he fought for the rights of Latino workers.

- **César Chávez later founded the Union Farm Workers with Dolores Huerta:** The Union Farm Workers (UFW) successfully unionized the grape industry with strikes, pickets, and boycotts, including the Delano Grape Strike. UFW worked to get new laws passed that allowed farm workers to unionize. César Chávez was the face and heart of the push to allow farm workers the right to unionize. He and the farm workers faced violent union-busting tactics from the grape growers during this process.
- César Chávez fasted to bring attention to his cause. Taking inspiration from the nonviolent heroes who inspired him, Chávez used long fasts to protest violence against farm workers who were trying to unionize and to bring attention to the dangerous working conditions workers faced from pesticides and long hours in the sun.
- The Grape Strike was the largest strike in the history of US labor. It lasted five years and ended in major growers signing union contracts with the UFW. César Chávez continued to fight for the rights of workers until his death in 1993. Until the last moment of his life, he was an active organizer working to improve conditions, register voters, and take growers to court. César Chávez received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor possible in the United States. After his passing, 50,000 mourners attended Chávez's funeral and 17,000 UFW members marched to Sacramento in his honor.

### Facts about Dolores Huerta: A Hero to Migrant Workers



- Dolores Huerta was born April 10, 1930 in Dawson, New Mexico. After she graduated from the University of Pacific's Delta College in Stockton, she received her provisional teaching credentials. Then she decided to become a teacher. She was interested in fixing the injustice in economics after she left her teaching job. Huerta is super famous among the people in the Latino Community. She has been made as a role model and this is why Huerta is found as a figure on various murals and included in poems.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Dolores Huerta, internet and photograph, Dolores Huerta Foundation, <https://doloreshuerta.org/dolores-huerta/>

- She co-founded the National Farmworkers Association. In the later years, the organization was renamed the UFW or United Farm Workers. Huerta is one of the most honored women in the United States due to her advocacy for women, immigrants, workers as well as her community service. Huerta is a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States Presidential Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights and the Eugene V. Debs Foundation Outstanding American Award.<sup>5</sup>
- Huerta raised awareness on the impacts of pesticide poisoning due to its chronic exposure to toxic synthetic chemicals that brought about a surge in birth defects and mystery illnesses in rural communities, mostly impacting people of color. With the challenges that lie ahead for the environmental movement and mankind in general, we should all follow Huerta’s notion of “people power” and “solidarity amongst groups”.<sup>6</sup>



Huerta and Chavez were champions of change in the 1960’s as people were worried about the lives of the farm workers. During this time, Huerta and Chavez organized these workers into a union, the National Farm Workers Association, that peacefully demanded change in working conditions and increasing pay wages. When the companies who owned the farms refused to change, they spoke out during protests and strikes. During the strike in 1965, Huerta and Chavez organized farm workers from the grape farms of California to leave work and halted the purchase of grapes from these farms until all of their working conditions improved. It took five years before companies and the union were able to make a compromise which led to farm workers returning.

### *~Let’s Make a Commitment~*

In LWISD, we would like all scholars in our community to be inspired by celebrating Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. We aim to bring awareness to these civil rights leaders and their commitment to social justice. On March 23, 2020, we want our Bullfrogs to think of ways they can make changes in the community that will make a huge impact on others.

<sup>5</sup> 10 Facts about Dolores Huerta, October 8, 2016, internet, Fact File, <https://factfile.org/10-facts-about-dolores-huerta>

<sup>6</sup> Maria Juur, *Activism as an Art: Dolores Huerta Her Rightful Place In American History*, Bioneers, article and photograph, <https://bioneers.org/activism-as-art-giving-dolores-huerta-her-rightful-place-in-american-history-zp0z1803/>