

Dear UCI Latinx Community,

Last year brought many difficulties and uncertainties to everyone on campus. The pandemic caused abrupt changes and forced students to transition from in-person to online schooling. Unfortunately, the pandemic came at a time where the class of 2020 was preparing to graduate. Last year's Nuestra Graduación's participants were eager to celebrate their accomplishments with their loved ones and community. Nuestra Grad participants paid their dues and were expecting their graduation stoles and senior care packages. Unfortunately, during the transition from in-person to online, there was a lack of communication from the previous Nuestra Grad co-chairs. During this precarious time and unresponsiveness, it delayed the delivery of the packages to our community members and unfortunately were unable to resolve the issue until December 2020. This left many participants angry and disappointed and they withdrew their orders. Those that still received their packages were disappointed with the quality of the packages and items. The lack of transparency and miscommunication deeply hurt the relationship between Nuestra Grad and the community. If you would like to read the statement that was released in December addressing the issue, you can find it here <https://nuestragraduci.weebly.com/ng-2020-statement.html>.

The new committee of 2021 is fully aware of the situation and is working hard to rebuild the trust with potential Nuestra Grad participants. We do not want our predecessors' actions to influence the new committee's dedication. We are learning from past mistakes and are ensuring a situation like that does not occur in the future. The 2021 Nuestra Grad committee will uphold the traditional values of the mission behind the cultural celebration. We are committed to providing a festive, inclusive, and cultural celebration despite our online circumstances. As an organization that is run by students for students, we will always put the communities' needs first. To rebuild the trust, we are going to ensure we are consistently communicating with our participants and being transparent about decisions made for the ceremony.

During the Spring quarter, we commit to the following;

1. We will host two town hall meetings to provide the public with updates and details of the virtual ceremony. During the town hall, participants will also get the opportunity to voice their concerns, ask questions, and share their comments.
2. To ensure there is transparency, the committee will also open the last 30 minutes of committee meetings to the general public. This is an opportunity for participants to partake in the planning process and provide their valuable feedback.
3. Participants will be able to view on the website how the Nuestra Grad committee is allocating their funds.
4. This year we are working closely with our advisors and have set up a university account to receive the payments for the sarapes and packages. Our committee will not be using venmo as a form of payment at all. This will enable us to be held accountable for the

funds and the Latinx Resource Center will have the ability to monitor the funds and ensure that everything is ordered in a timely manner.

We want to thank 2021 grads for being patient with the new committee as we update you all on this year's virtual Nuestra Graduación. We hope that we can give you a beautiful ceremony that you can enjoy with your loved ones, despite our difficult circumstances.

To the 2019-2020 participants, the 2021 committee apologizes for any inconvenience and frustration. We understand how overwhelming it may have been for you. If you have not received a refund or stole, please contact us asap. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out. We are more than happy to assist you.

With love and community,

2020-2021 Nuestra Graduación Committee