

A Call to Action

Blanca Baltazar-Sabbah

San José State University

I am enraged by the racism, the stereotypes and the lack of respect for my gente.

What makes me angry about education, you ask?

Silence—the systems and people that make us voiceless

Passivity—the people who don't act upon *injusticias*

Stereotypes—the lack of expectations because of the color of our skin, our gender, *nuestra lengua natal*

Inequities—the tracking of students, the lack of resources, underachievement of Latinos

Apathy—complacency with the status quo

Silence, passivity, stereotypes, inequities, apathy— that's what makes me angry

I am enraged by the racism, the stereotypes and the lack of respect for my gente.

I've learned to let my anger fuel my passion for change

to make the voiceless have a voice

to call out the inequities and challenge the status quo

to rise to a position of influence despite being a Spanish-speaking, brown-skinned immigrant, born to teenage farm-working parents

to be an advocate for our most marginalized students

to hold people accountable, including myself

I am no longer enraged, I am empowered.

I will stand up and speak up, will you stand with me?

Will you break up the silence, passivity, stereotypes, inequities and apathy?

Let our voices tear through the silence and oppression!