Wendy Lozano

1

00:00:01.319 --> 00:00:06.870

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): Alright, if you could just start by stating your name and where you were born and when you're born.

2

00:00:07.649 --> 00:00:20.520

Wendy Lozano: hi my name is Wendy Lucy Hello Sarno and I was born in January 1975 and I was born and raised in van nuys California it's in La county.

3

00:00:21.810 --> 00:00:25.590

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): Can you tell us a little bit about what the Community was like the you grew up in.

4

00:00:26.550 --> 00:00:34.770

Wendy Lozano: Yes, i'm growing up my father and mother, we all grew up in van nuys my parents were immigrants from Mexico.

5

00:00:35.100 --> 00:00:43.320

Wendy Lozano: But they came here very young, so they grew up in the United States, so I kind of felt like I was second generation because.

6

00:00:43.620 --> 00:00:55.650

Wendy Lozano: My parents spoke English and Spanish at home, they also adapted a lot to the culture, like my dad was into the Beatles so I grew up with a lot of bicultural ISM in my home.

7

00:00:56.010 --> 00:01:08.820

Wendy Lozano: and Van nuys was very similar there were a lot of third generation chicanos it was a predominantly Mexican American Community with a lot of chicanos and.

8

00:01:09.420 --> 00:01:19.080

Wendy Lozano: it's changed over time with you know demographics, that have changed, but it was predominantly Mexican community and that's where I grew up.

9

00:01:21.480 --> 00:01:24.150

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): And was schooling like for you, when you were younger.

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00:01:25.260 --> 00:01:27.660

Wendy Lozano: I actually went to La USD and i'm a.

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00:01:27.660 --> 00:01:31.590

Wendy Lozano: product of La USD the same school district I currently work for.

12

00:01:31.920 --> 00:01:39.360

Wendy Lozano: and school and elementary because I went to school I my school experience and LSD began in 1980.

13

00:01:40.080 --> 00:01:52.740

Wendy Lozano: Before that my mom put me in private early childhood centers in 1978 and that was like really revolutionary back then, so my mom i'm glad she you know she really understood the value of early childhood education.

14

00:01:53.160 --> 00:02:02.910

Wendy Lozano: So when I got telly USD I was very fortunate to be very advanced because I was reading so school is very fun because, from the beginning.

15

00:02:03.240 --> 00:02:20.340

Wendy Lozano: They treated me like I was smart they put me in the reading groups, and it was fun, I had the fun classes, but I also noticed people that lived in my apartments or in my Community they didn't have that same experience, so I kind of started identifying what later I.

16

00:02:21.360 --> 00:02:26.400

Wendy Lozano: realized was tracking you know because that's what they were doing in the 70s and 80s.

17

00:02:26.820 --> 00:02:40.140

Wendy Lozano: And in 1980 when I began le USD I had a really good elementary experience but that's because schools were very similar to what we're trying to push now in our district, which are Community schools.

18

00:02:40.590 --> 00:02:49.470

Wendy Lozano: And back then the schools, we had a nurse every day we had an art teacher, I mean I really feel our schools were well funded.

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00:02:49.770 --> 00:03:00.480

Wendy Lozano: Because I didn't see the needs or lack the resources that i'm seeing now or I began to see in the 90s, so I had a really good elementary experience.

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00:03:00.870 --> 00:03:09.810

Wendy Lozano: In middle school, I had to move to a new Community it was still bad eyes, because my mom was trying to help my brother out because he was.

21

00:03:10.170 --> 00:03:13.410

Wendy Lozano: An active gang Member and he was you know choose trying to.

22

00:03:13.890 --> 00:03:22.620

Wendy Lozano: She thought take them to a different school, but we all learned that we need to fix our communities nothing's going to change if we move to another school and we still go home to our communities.

23

00:03:23.130 --> 00:03:31.080

Wendy Lozano: But we so we I had to come to another school and where the majority of the students were not Mexican.

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00:03:31.530 --> 00:03:40.050

Wendy Lozano: So I started, I was identified put in the honors honors program and I had a really great middle school experience.

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00:03:40.440 --> 00:03:51.090

Wendy Lozano: And, but then, when I got to high school in the same community everything changed because then you kind of started noticing like they're not treating everyone the same here.

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00:03:51.420 --> 00:03:59.640

Wendy Lozano: So, because I was now in in the school, I was at what there were a lot of a fluent children like students and I was still in the honors.

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00:04:00.240 --> 00:04:12.120

Wendy Lozano: program but now I noticed i'm now like one or three Mexicans in my entire honor system, so I started like identifying very young, like wait a minute something's off here.

28

00:04:12.510 --> 00:04:22.620

Wendy Lozano: we're all in the Community, we all go to school here, but yet everyone that's being put in these good classes don't look like me or the kids that live in my community.

29

00:04:22.950 --> 00:04:35.070

Wendy Lozano: So I started asking questions very young just realizing like something's off here, and so I also I was not I always was a good student because I knew I was bright I love school.

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00:04:35.520 --> 00:04:46.080

Wendy Lozano: But because of those questions I had and because I was growing up in a community that had a lot of gang activity, a lot of drug use a lot of adversity.

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00:04:46.410 --> 00:05:00.480

Wendy Lozano: Because our Community was being basically started from social services, because when my mom was in van nuys in the 70s, they used to have Community centers they had like a lot of youth programs.

32

00:05:01.260 --> 00:05:08.310

Wendy Lozano: jobs for young people, but then, when the 80s hit and I always watch 2020 with my dad so Reaganomics.

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00:05:08.820 --> 00:05:17.010

Wendy Lozano: Everything I saw started just changing, and I was young, but I always watch the news because that was like the time I got to spend with my dad you know, because you would.

34

00:05:17.280 --> 00:05:24.330

Wendy Lozano: turn on the news or watch 2020 and that was our time so I was like just observing, even though I was like 345 years old.

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00:05:24.720 --> 00:05:30.360

Wendy Lozano: And I started making connections very young, like Okay, and then I noticed there's a lot of police in our Community.

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00:05:30.660 --> 00:05:40.800

Wendy Lozano: But then when I was in encino I didn't see as many police, so I started figuring things out like okay we're there policing certain communities in La.

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00:05:41.250 --> 00:05:48.540

Wendy Lozano: So I just started making a lot of connections, but not understanding how to you know make sense of it, I just basically rebelled.

38

00:05:48.960 --> 00:05:59.370

Wendy Lozano: And I knew I was smart, so I always kind of had a chip on my shoulder like Why am I in class i'm not learning anything, this is boring this isn't about us they don't talk about us, and these classes.

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00:05:59.910 --> 00:06:08.340

Wendy Lozano: And later I realized that's ethnic studies, which is something we're trying to push in our schools now right, because we know that works that helps everyone, not just.

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00:06:09.000 --> 00:06:16.230

Wendy Lozano: Black indigenous people of color it helps white people too, so you know, so I just started making all these connections and at the same time.

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00:06:16.740 --> 00:06:22.620

Wendy Lozano: I was connected to a family that had three generations of being from the same body.

42

00:06:23.190 --> 00:06:33.300

Wendy Lozano: So my grandfather my my dad was never an active gang Member but like people he grew up in the body my brother was a gang Member all my cousins my aunts like.

43

00:06:33.570 --> 00:06:45.870

Wendy Lozano: So we grew up in a family that there was a lot of gang connection, but it wasn't that it's gang activity, it was really a way of solidarity, because people needed a connection.

44

00:06:46.260 --> 00:06:53.610

Wendy Lozano: And a lot of it began at school, because you live with who you live, or you talk to who you talk to, and even though my dad.

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00:06:54.030 --> 00:07:02.820

Wendy Lozano: He always tried to move to another site like, even though we were in van nuys and the video is here my dad would move on the edge of it.

46

00:07:03.150 --> 00:07:09.510

Wendy Lozano: Because my dad knew they're going to treat the schools different on the edge of that right there as opposed to inside.

47

00:07:09.990 --> 00:07:14.160

Wendy Lozano: So that gave me an opportunity to really get.

48

00:07:14.610 --> 00:07:23.100

Wendy Lozano: an education that every student should be entitled to not just students who are whose parents are smart enough to think let's go to the edge.

49

00:07:23.340 --> 00:07:29.250

Wendy Lozano: or let's start moving around, because it really didn't help our communities actually started breaking them apart more.

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00:07:29.610 --> 00:07:37.920

Wendy Lozano: or I wish we would have known that maybe we should stay and fight in our communities to change the schools, but you know when you're trying to.

51

00:07:38.430 --> 00:07:46.920

Wendy Lozano: Feed yourself and survive, you have to make different choices, so in my dad's world you know, he was like this has been a work for us.

52

00:07:47.280 --> 00:07:53.460

Wendy Lozano: But I want it back up because the reason we had a lot of challenges with my dad had to make choices is because.

53

00:07:53.820 --> 00:08:03.780

Wendy Lozano: When I was four years old, my mother was shot my mom got shot she didn't die, it was an accidental shooting but I found her and saved her life.

54

00:08:04.260 --> 00:08:11.340

Wendy Lozano: Back then we didn't have 911 I called operator luckily I knew my address, because I wanted to know things.

55

00:08:11.670 --> 00:08:18.570

Wendy Lozano: And I was able to give them the address and they came and saved my mom's life she actually flatlined and she came back.

56

00:08:18.990 --> 00:08:32.190

Wendy Lozano: Even now, my mom jokes around she's like i'm on overtime or she'll say you know, thank you for saving my life, but it was it was a real big eye opening moment for me, too, because even when I when that happened.

57

00:08:33.300 --> 00:08:42.840

Wendy Lozano: And I went outside to get my brother who's playing outside to let them know you know my mom's been shot she's dying inside the ambulance is coming and i'm four years old.

58

00:08:43.350 --> 00:08:51.300

Wendy Lozano: And, and I remember everything vividly I could tell you what I was wearing what sounds with everything because it's that shock moment right that trauma.

59

00:08:51.870 --> 00:09:02.340

Wendy Lozano: And so, when I remember feeling frustrated even being young I was like people don't listen to kids because the ambulance stop there, the firemen and.

60

00:09:02.700 --> 00:09:12.090

Wendy Lozano: You know i'm waving them down but they're looking at me like who's this little brown girl she's for like the Shiva like who is she because I also live in a Community where.

61

00:09:12.510 --> 00:09:23.160

Wendy Lozano: we're like the only Mexicans, I live in this apartment building and now i'm on the shot, so people are just stereotyping probably thinking whatever right because it's not a community that were used to living it.

62

00:09:23.700 --> 00:09:30.660

Wendy Lozano: So, then, that the ambulance gets there again my brother and I, my mom really Mexicans in the building.

63

00:09:31.050 --> 00:09:37.350

Wendy Lozano: there's no Mexican firemen that I see unless you're passing on the real light so it's just a different world but we're in it.

64

00:09:37.920 --> 00:09:42.960

Wendy Lozano: And I start telling the firemen because they go upstairs to the wrong department.

65

00:09:43.500 --> 00:09:51.030

Wendy Lozano: And I know my mom's dying on the floor she's bleeding out she's been bleeding out i'm i'm smart I know what guns are I know what they do.

66

00:09:51.630 --> 00:09:58.830

Wendy Lozano: So i'm telling the firemen my mom's down here my mom's down here nobody's listening to me they look at me they ignore me.

67

00:09:59.430 --> 00:10:11.070

Wendy Lozano: till the rookie looks at me and taxes is a superior and he's like she's telling us something and then, finally, they look at me and they come downstairs and they say my mom's life.

68

00:10:11.580 --> 00:10:21.150

Wendy Lozano: But even in that moment i'm like hey like you're not listening so even in that moment I knew like adults are not recognizing children know things.

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00:10:21.660 --> 00:10:31.710

Wendy Lozano: So that's already four years old i'm building on that, and you know so things like that just started affecting me and I always looked in question things in my community.

70

00:10:32.040 --> 00:10:39.870

Wendy Lozano: So then, by the time I get to high school and now i'm because i'm really good at math UCLA because now they're recruiting.

71

00:10:40.800 --> 00:10:47.400

Wendy Lozano: You know chicanos so they're now looking designing their quota right, because now, now there are also people.

72

00:10:47.850 --> 00:10:55.200

Wendy Lozano: are advocating for us to get pulled in so there's both of that going on and we'll take it, because we're like Okay, you want to get some.

73

00:10:55.560 --> 00:11:11.010

Wendy Lozano: Good good PR, but we have chicanos and blacks and people of color pushing for us to get into these ucs to so now they're recruiting me at Birmingham high school because I have the highest math score in.

74

00:11:11.880 --> 00:11:21.300

Wendy Lozano: Out of the students are looking at and i'm Mexican so it's a it's a win so i'm honored they start recruiting me they sent me to UCLA with another.

75

00:11:21.870 --> 00:11:28.830

Wendy Lozano: Mexican and I fact I think he's myself, although it another student from a siloed, and so we get there and.

76

00:11:29.670 --> 00:11:40.860

Wendy Lozano: It would have been a much better experience, but again i'm there no connection i'm like this isn't talking to me to my Community i'm here it's great.

77

00:11:41.220 --> 00:11:47.220

Wendy Lozano: But it's not connecting with anything that has to do with me and the good thing, though, was.

78

00:11:47.610 --> 00:11:56.250

Wendy Lozano: The black student Union got was involved with that, so I felt a bit connected, because I was like I can relate to some of that, like, I feel that right.

79

00:11:56.640 --> 00:12:01.560

Wendy Lozano: Because i'm still young i'm not understanding the parallels as well as I do now.

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00:12:02.040 --> 00:12:08.850

Wendy Lozano: But I still feel that connection, like okay that's something that you know it's talking to me in my Community I can relate to that.

81

00:12:09.300 --> 00:12:19.680

Wendy Lozano: But then I go back home and nothing really connected like I knew Okay, you see ellie's there but i'm still in my Community where i'm seeing now friends die.

82

00:12:20.880 --> 00:12:33.090

Wendy Lozano: family members overdose on heroin i'm seeing over policing i'm seeing now press unit which stands for a city resources against St hoodlums patrolling my community.

83

00:12:33.540 --> 00:12:42.930

Wendy Lozano: So talking about a negative approach to youth right and that's what they're called and now they're patrolling and they're the gang unit, so now, I see.

84

00:12:43.200 --> 00:12:54.270

Wendy Lozano: Civil Rights being you know kind of dismantled in the Community, most of the people in my Community don't understand what civil rights are but I had an amazing fifth grade teacher who loved.

85

00:12:54.840 --> 00:13:07.290

Wendy Lozano: The bill of rights and the US Constitution so I was like i'm I knew my rights and then my father was also working in the legal field, and he would always educate me like.

86

00:13:07.680 --> 00:13:17.040

Wendy Lozano: You know your rights you don't answer questions you don't let them search your bag, we have rights so even at school, like when they started bringing school police.

87

00:13:17.850 --> 00:13:26.790

Wendy Lozano: In 11th grade at they would sometimes try to stop us and you know, like if we were late to class or sometimes ditching.

88

00:13:27.150 --> 00:13:32.070

Wendy Lozano: They would stop us in the Group, and they would say you know what empty your backs, we need to search you.

89

00:13:32.580 --> 00:13:39.600

Wendy Lozano: And a lot of students, they didn't know their rights, so they get scared and start dumping their bags, and I would tell them no you don't do that.

90

00:13:39.900 --> 00:13:46.440

Wendy Lozano: We have rights and I would tell them, you need to call my dad I am not going to give up my rights, you call my dad i'm a minor.

91

00:13:47.130 --> 00:13:58.560

Wendy Lozano: So that also started some you know you know issues, because now, I was being vocal i'm also involved with delinquency i'll own it i'm not gonna lie like i'm also you know because i'm.

92

00:13:58.860 --> 00:14:08.640

Wendy Lozano: i'm lashing out i'm just mad because I don't connect and I know something's off and it's not an excuse, but it is something valid because.

93

00:14:09.150 --> 00:14:23.700

Wendy Lozano: If I would have felt connected at my school or in my classroom it would have been a game changer because the classrooms that I did feel like that I went to class and I participated, and we really grew as a Community.

94

00:14:24.120 --> 00:14:30.450

Wendy Lozano: But we didn't have a lot of that back then in 1991 92 that I was experiencing in the district.

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00:14:30.990 --> 00:14:41.250

Wendy Lozano: And that's what brings us to now, which is why I fight so hard with my Union to see these things come forward for our students because again.

96

00:14:41.790 --> 00:14:52.380

Wendy Lozano: I wasn't la usc student and that's why i'm teaching in this district so, then I ended up going I go to valley college I end up at pierce college and at pierce college.

97

00:14:52.920 --> 00:14:57.930

Wendy Lozano: I wanted to go there because remember i'm also thinking well if I get away, maybe i'll do better.

98

00:14:58.650 --> 00:15:10.770

Wendy Lozano: I learned, now that that was the worst thing so, then I go to another Community that is away from mine because i'm probably going to do better, and I have a job on that side of town so i'm just going to stick to working and going to school.

99

00:15:11.490 --> 00:15:17.670

Wendy Lozano: But then when i'm in class again, the majority of the students do not look like me at that Community college.

100

00:15:18.120 --> 00:15:26.700

Wendy Lozano: And, and the reason I didn't apply to the ucs because I could have applied to the ucs I graduated with honors I did very well, even though I wasn't delinquent.

101

00:15:27.000 --> 00:15:37.080

Wendy Lozano: But I just did not, I felt like I didn't want to leave the Community I graduated early I was 17 when I graduated I wasn't even a team.

102

00:15:37.470 --> 00:15:42.690

Wendy Lozano: And I didn't turn 18 until the following January, when I was in my second semester of college.

103

00:15:43.170 --> 00:15:47.820

Wendy Lozano: I was I also had a boyfriend I was young and naive, I was like I don't want to leave.

104

00:15:48.240 --> 00:15:57.510

Wendy Lozano: But i'll be honest, it wasn't even that I just knew like i'm not ready i'm not ready to leave home and I don't want to leave my neighborhood like I just felt like.

105

00:15:57.750 --> 00:16:02.400

Wendy Lozano: I want to be here, I could still make it and be here because people would try to tell me like.

106

00:16:02.640 --> 00:16:07.800

Wendy Lozano: You should probably go away, you know and i'm like no i'm going to try it out i'll make it here to i'm going to try to make it.

107

00:16:08.070 --> 00:16:14.670

Wendy Lozano: And then I started thinking you know what i'm gonna try to encourage my friends to come with me like we're gonna all move up not just me.

108

00:16:15.090 --> 00:16:19.590

Wendy Lozano: Because i'm like i'm all about Community i'm a team player, even if i'm a delinquent i'm like we're all doing it together.

109

00:16:20.130 --> 00:16:32.400

Wendy Lozano: So, then, I end up at peers and at pierce college I started taking a sociology class and I took this class with this professor and.

110

00:16:32.820 --> 00:16:44.970

Wendy Lozano: He made this crazy comment, where I was like am I, the only one in this room that sees this is crazy so he's talking about he's he's just talking about.

111

00:16:45.660 --> 00:16:53.100

Wendy Lozano: I don't even know how he started talking about his gardening it's totally off topic i'm like it's not even part of the curriculum so he's talking about like gardening.

112

00:16:53.790 --> 00:17:00.240

Wendy Lozano: And then he looks at me and he says this comment because i'm the only Mexican in the class.

113

00:17:00.630 --> 00:17:08.070

Wendy Lozano: Again there's other people, but I also looked very Mexican because remember i'm coming from Mexican Community a gang community.

114

00:17:08.310 --> 00:17:18.660

Wendy Lozano: So you could tell like she probably grows up with people in the body or she knows people, because even though i'm dressing Nice, you could still tell like i'm I don't i'm not from this Community.

115

00:17:19.320 --> 00:17:31.770

Wendy Lozano: So he looks over and he says, you know I do my gardening but I swear I speak Spanish when I do it, and the whole class laughs and i'm just like.

116

00:17:33.420 --> 00:17:39.990

Wendy Lozano: Wait a minute me like I know i'm not crazy but that's some pretty crazy stuff to say in a classroom.

117

00:17:40.710 --> 00:17:49.770

Wendy Lozano: So, then, I raised my hand and I told him I said that's really unbelievable that you can stand here and say that comment it just blows my mind.

118

00:17:50.520 --> 00:17:59.790

Wendy Lozano: And he's like well you know, but I do I speak Spanish doesn't even get it, the whole class and you say hey Professor we're just going to follow the system.

119

00:18:00.450 --> 00:18:12.960

Wendy Lozano: And i'm just like this is ridiculous so, then I decide i'm done with this Community college i'm going back to my neighborhood and i'm i'm just going to start and we're going to just do it like that.

120

00:18:13.320 --> 00:18:22.200

Wendy Lozano: So I go back to valley college well not back I end up at valley college and it was the best decision of my life.

121

00:18:22.710 --> 00:18:30.090

Wendy Lozano: I get there i'm pretty upset i'm already like this system sucks it's racist and this is not cool.

122

00:18:30.690 --> 00:18:43.260

Wendy Lozano: And so, when I get to valley college I start hooking up with people that I knew from middle school high school the neighborhood hey what's up what's up so you know we start talking and then I start looking at there's a lot of.

123

00:18:43.590 --> 00:18:56.490

Wendy Lozano: People that look like me now i'm like i'm home like people look like me, people are from the same socio economic status even be like don't look like me like we still relate, because we all live in the same type of community.

124

00:18:56.880 --> 00:19:07.050

Wendy Lozano: So that started making me feel good and then I started talking to other chicanos and I started connecting with Mitch as student organization.

125

00:19:07.530 --> 00:19:12.420

Wendy Lozano: And I wasn't really happy with the leadership that was happening during that time.

126

00:19:12.840 --> 00:19:18.510

Wendy Lozano: And I started seeing a lot of conflict, so I started my own student organization Latinos for higher education.

127

00:19:18.750 --> 00:19:30.180

Wendy Lozano: To make it a bridge with people who didn't identify as chicanos to try to build solidarity to bring the communities together to show more brown power on campuses and in our communities.

128

00:19:30.750 --> 00:19:41.640

Wendy Lozano: And with that I experienced chica needs more and and when I see I experienced it is because growing up, we would hear that, like channels channels channels channels yeah.

129

00:19:42.450 --> 00:19:46.920

Wendy Lozano: But I never understood or experienced what it really meant.

130

00:19:47.460 --> 00:19:57.180

Wendy Lozano: it's kinda like when people like in Jamaica, like the roster far as like people will be like rastafari, but if you experience rastafari ISM it's a whole different thing, just like chicken easel.

131

00:19:57.840 --> 00:20:07.350

Wendy Lozano: And it was the best thing that happened to me and radicalized me into the activist, I am today and will be until the day I die.

132

00:20:07.920 --> 00:20:22.080

Wendy Lozano: Because when I experienced chica knees mall I learned that not only do we have a history, but our family stories are that history, and that is us history.

133

00:20:22.500 --> 00:20:35.280

Wendy Lozano: So this whole time I felt so disconnected it wasn't that it was my fault, it was that the system was never giving me or my community and many other communities.

134

00:20:35.640 --> 00:20:53.850

Wendy Lozano: An opportunity to connect with the curriculum that is offensive to not include all of us who have built this country together, and when I understood that I was like oh it's on i'm on a mission because i'm going to help other.

135

00:20:55.080 --> 00:21:07.200

Wendy Lozano: People experience cheap anymore, because that's going to change our communities, because that's going to transform the institutions that are really keeping our communities from progressing.

136

00:21:07.500 --> 00:21:17.070

Wendy Lozano: which our educational institutions, the prison industrial complex the court systems, the immigration system public policy.

137

00:21:17.610 --> 00:21:27.030

Wendy Lozano: And that's how I made the connection and then I started becoming an activist, where I was out vocalizing because something hit.

138

00:21:27.570 --> 00:21:35.640

Wendy Lozano: That was really basically what I make a connection to when trump took office we experienced proposition.

139

00:21:36.600 --> 00:21:49.260

Wendy Lozano: In 1994 proposition when 87 was a proposition that was going to deny undocumented immigrants their children, education and basic health care.

140

00:21:50.100 --> 00:21:57.300

Wendy Lozano: and luckily I was studying pre law so when that whole thing hit and i'm already vocal.

141

00:21:57.720 --> 00:22:11.970

Wendy Lozano: And in my pre law class I know visiting my Professor because i'm upset that How can this happen, it, you know when there's a constitution and then he educates me on something called precedence and he said there's a precedent.

142

00:22:13.350 --> 00:22:17.160

Wendy Lozano: Pilar versus dough go check it out and go comfort your community.

143

00:22:17.910 --> 00:22:29.580

Wendy Lozano: And that's when I realized knowledge is power and i'm just going to keep learning what I can and bring it back to the Community but also going to last right i'm just doing this because i'm empowering.

144

00:22:30.150 --> 00:22:38.400

Wendy Lozano: So, then, I ended up transferring to uc Irvine as a pre law major for criminology Law Society for the school of social ecology.

145

00:22:38.940 --> 00:22:48.840

Wendy Lozano: Perfect major because I get my eight I received my a BA in sociology so i'm like i'm on a mission I love people, I want to help so i'm going to law school.

146

00:22:49.470 --> 00:22:58.260

Wendy Lozano: When I get to uc Irvine I have the opportunity to meet a man who becomes a mentor who's no longer live Dr quantum sisco ladder.

147

00:22:58.980 --> 00:23:12.240

Wendy Lozano: he sees the value in me because, again i'm always challenging asking questions i'm like I don't care i'm here, I need to know things i'm not paying tuition to guess I need to know what's going on and I need you to answer my questions.

148

00:23:12.750 --> 00:23:22.980

Wendy Lozano: So he caught me and and I went to ask them for a work, study job because i'm like I need to work and he said and I told him look i'll file papers I just need a job.

149

00:23:23.490 --> 00:23:30.570

Wendy Lozano: And I remember he looked at me and he said no you're not filing papers, I need you on the field, you need to work with kids you need to go work.

150

00:23:30.840 --> 00:23:34.620

Wendy Lozano: At the high school and you're going to help recruit these kids so they can come.

151

00:23:35.070 --> 00:23:43.560

Wendy Lozano: apply to their early academic outreach program because we're going to try to pull them in because it was a last year that affirmative action was closing out in the uc system.

152

00:23:44.160 --> 00:23:54.150

Wendy Lozano: Because we had the legislation took it out so i'm like all right i'm down for that let's do it because you know I want to help so then he pulls me in there and I start.

153

00:23:54.690 --> 00:24:05.160

Wendy Lozano: I get a uc Irvine car now and driving the city of Santa Ana a community that resembles van I so i'm like perfect i'm in orange county, but I can still help a community that looks like mine.

154

00:24:05.850 --> 00:24:14.160

Wendy Lozano: So, then, I start going there and I start working with students at that time there were still allowing us to pull in any students even high risk students.

155

00:24:14.490 --> 00:24:22.530

Wendy Lozano: It changed later, where it was only kids that made the cut had the grades, so it was the last year, we can basically pull those students in.

156

00:24:22.860 --> 00:24:31.590

Wendy Lozano: So I start pulling in the delinquents the ones that the unteachable kids because i'm like those are the kids that are going to make the change those are the meat.

157

00:24:31.860 --> 00:24:36.270

Wendy Lozano: Those are the kids that need to know you have an option to there's something called Community college.

158

00:24:36.720 --> 00:24:43.980

Wendy Lozano: So I start pulling those kids in we start recruiting a lot of them end up coming to the summer bridge program I end up applying for that I get a job there.

159

00:24:44.190 --> 00:24:48.990

Wendy Lozano: So now i'm just working with students i'm mentoring i'm creating you know programs.

160

00:24:49.260 --> 00:25:01.230

Wendy Lozano: For the kids i'm living with them i'm the residential hall advisor during the summer and i'm loving it because i'm empowering these kids that look like me to keep on moving forward and help their families.

161

00:25:01.770 --> 00:25:11.460

Wendy Lozano: So then same doctor Lada has an opportunity, but because he's like you know, I have a four tickets for this program at uc riverside like he knows on the law.

162

00:25:11.850 --> 00:25:17.010

Wendy Lozano: And I can't go, can you take the tickets and go and maybe find students to go with you i'm like sure.

163

00:25:17.340 --> 00:25:23.940

Wendy Lozano: And he sends me to students that he connected with them like sure they can go i'll drive the car because i'm like i'm driving the uc Irvine car.

164

00:25:24.480 --> 00:25:35.340

Wendy Lozano: And we end up going to uc riverside and first time there and now i'm blown away from us, you know what he's a chancer now i'm just blown i'm learning more information as i'm there.

165

00:25:35.880 --> 00:25:50.010

Wendy Lozano: So, then, I get to 10 Latinos in the law and whole Sam can with yet is who's that she got an icon who basically started live so neither and did a lot of great work mobilizing and Texas, is a guest speaker.

166

00:25:50.580 --> 00:26:02.880

Wendy Lozano: So now, all these people are speaking and he gets up to speak and he basically helped me figure out what i'm what I was going to do, because I was already feeling like.

167

00:26:03.600 --> 00:26:14.580

Wendy Lozano: Because I was good at my constitutional law class the the judge she adored me, we were close you know I she was so proud, I was going to law school she was willing write my letter frank, I mean we it was good, like.

168

00:26:15.120 --> 00:26:22.350

Wendy Lozano: A lot of the professors like they could tell I had something I could read brief like I was good at what I was doing.

169

00:26:23.040 --> 00:26:30.300

Wendy Lozano: But when I went to that seminar it changed me because I remember, he said, because he had a PhD and a ged.

170

00:26:30.930 --> 00:26:42.870

Wendy Lozano: And he said, you know if you want to make change go to graduate school because if you go to law school he's all that's good too, but you're just going to practice law.

171

00:26:43.620 --> 00:26:50.520

Wendy Lozano: If you want to change the laws if you want to change the systems, then public policy is important too.

172

00:26:51.090 --> 00:26:57.690

Wendy Lozano: And I was like you know what he's right, I need to start thinking out of the box like how am I going to change the system.

173

00:26:58.410 --> 00:27:12.660

Wendy Lozano: And then I ended up going home and thinking, maybe law school is not it and then i'm also taking a juvenile delinquency class with Joan Peter cilia from the Rand corporation who's no longer with this either a marvelous educator.

174

00:27:13.560 --> 00:27:24.060

Wendy Lozano: Great educator so and she's giving us the research that she's doing you know for the biggest research tank of the country and she's coming to class giving us the research that she's participating in.

175

00:27:24.510 --> 00:27:36.330

Wendy Lozano: And they're focusing on juvenile delinquency and then she starts talking about how the biggest predictor to prevent juvenile delinquency and incarceration.

176

00:27:36.750 --> 00:27:48.930

Wendy Lozano: are strong classrooms and good schools, and this is before we're even talking about the school to prison pipeline that term is not even out yet right, and if it is it's in academia we're really it's not mainstream.

177

00:27:49.770 --> 00:27:59.040

Wendy Lozano: And I and it clicks I was like that's what helped me that's why i'm here it's it's my education it's that I knew from elementary I could go to college.

178

00:27:59.310 --> 00:28:11.310

Wendy Lozano: I knew I was smart because they treated me like that, and I also had amazing teachers and schools in my and my classrooms so, then I was like that's what i'm going to do.

179

00:28:11.910 --> 00:28:23.670

Wendy Lozano: I am going to go into the classroom and i'm going to litigate for my students every day and i'm not going to wait for them to go to jail, to get them better sentencing.

180

00:28:24.060 --> 00:28:34.440

Wendy Lozano: i'm going to keep them out of jail, because they they're going to go somewhere else and that's when I decided to become a teacher and it was hard for a lot of people, even in my family.

181

00:28:34.860 --> 00:28:44.010

Wendy Lozano: A lot of people even were like you're just can be a teacher, I was like that says a lot about you, if you're feeling like that we need to reflect because.

182

00:28:44.580 --> 00:28:50.250

Wendy Lozano: But it was hard, because people would tell me like you can help so many more people as a lawyer, why would you be a teacher.

183

00:28:50.550 --> 00:29:01.020

Wendy Lozano: And I and i'm like they don't get it, because what I really wanted to do is keep kids that looked like me out of jail and living communities, like the ones I came from.

184

00:29:01.680 --> 00:29:05.670

Wendy Lozano: Education is the ticket, so I decided to become a teacher.

185

00:29:06.120 --> 00:29:20.010

Wendy Lozano: And I spoke to my professors and lot of them, they were so happy for me, because they knew I was going to impact the classroom they were like you're going to make such a change in that classroom because I was so driven.

186

00:29:20.400 --> 00:29:29.400

Wendy Lozano: You know just to go to law school and I decided to become an educator I continued on I got my master's I got my teaching credential.

187

00:29:29.790 --> 00:29:40.020

Wendy Lozano: And I don't regret it one day I still love law, so I won't lie, and when I was in graduate school when my babies I stayed home, and I was raising them and going to graduate school.

188

00:29:40.470 --> 00:29:49.350

Wendy Lozano: I did an internship with justice core, so I worked with neighborhood legal services as a volunteer and I would help litigants.

189

00:29:49.800 --> 00:29:57.780

Wendy Lozano: indigent litigants with their intakes and also with divorces judgments I learned how to do all the processes with them and then.

190

00:29:58.200 --> 00:30:06.570

Wendy Lozano: Because I did so well, they actually hired me after and they were willing to work with my schedule, because they knew I was a stay home mom.

191

00:30:06.960 --> 00:30:16.020

Wendy Lozano: And I was able to work with them two days out of the week, when I was able to get my mom to help me with my children because they were off in the summer and my priority was always my girls.

192

00:30:16.380 --> 00:30:25.230

Wendy Lozano: So I was able to work there, and a lot of people would see me there and they were like Wendy because i'm now in van nuys again, you know working in the Community.

193

00:30:25.680 --> 00:30:31.440

Wendy Lozano: And they would say like Why do I got you into law school and i'm like no i'm still a teacher i'm just doing this for volunteer and they're like.

194

00:30:32.400 --> 00:30:44.250

Wendy Lozano: And i'm like I like to help so and then they actually asked me to interview for the news for the organization and I spoke about why I was doing you know my volunteer work.

195

00:30:44.910 --> 00:30:59.040

Wendy Lozano: Because I was bilingual so that was also something that worked out in my favor even for that, so all these things like being bilingual growing up in a community that had a lot of adversity it didn't.

196

00:30:59.610 --> 00:31:11.940

Wendy Lozano: play in a negative light for me because I really put it in a positive light, my life hasn't been perfect I mean I I have family that I have a cousin one of my first cousins.

197

00:31:12.240 --> 00:31:28.410

Wendy Lozano: died of a heroin overdose I have family that's incarcerated I mean it's far from perfect but have I dealt with the adversity as best as I can, with the growth mindset, yes, because that's, the only way.

198

00:31:28.920 --> 00:31:36.240

Wendy Lozano: I know how to keep it moving while bringing people up with me and that's what I still do in my classroom because.

199

00:31:36.630 --> 00:31:42.480

Wendy Lozano: That i'm in my classroom that's one thing I teach with love that's like it.

200

00:31:42.780 --> 00:31:47.940

Wendy Lozano: People always ask me like, how do you make these connections, how do you because I always give me the unteachable kids like.

201

00:31:48.210 --> 00:31:55.170

Wendy Lozano: i'm the one like if you're scared of that student give that student to me because i'm cool like I don't judge the kids even if.

202

00:31:55.470 --> 00:32:04.500

Wendy Lozano: They look like they're you know and their elementary I some people they get scared of elementary students are the behaviors because also to i'm also aware.

203

00:32:04.890 --> 00:32:15.720

Wendy Lozano: there's teachers who have experienced trauma so it's not always that they don't like the students it's that there's teachers that are also dealing with their own trauma from childhood from life.

204

00:32:16.020 --> 00:32:23.520

Wendy Lozano: And they're learning how to deal with those behaviors themselves so you know it's so i'm always willing to be a team player.

205

00:32:23.940 --> 00:32:34.290

Wendy Lozano: But I always make connections with the students that are seen as like the behavior problems, the kids that are seen as and teachable.

206

00:32:34.680 --> 00:32:44.370

Wendy Lozano: And all I do is bring them in I don't judge them I teach with love and I teach them to learn to forgive themselves.

207

00:32:44.760 --> 00:32:52.170

Wendy Lozano: And that's big because growing up a nobody really taught us that, and when I think back like two things, you know that.

208

00:32:52.590 --> 00:33:02.670

Wendy Lozano: went down when we were younger that we would be upset about ourselves, or we needed to learn to forgive ourselves or even to understand it's okay to make mistakes, like where does it have to be perfect, we live in, learn.

209

00:33:03.240 --> 00:33:08.370

Wendy Lozano: And that really helps my classroom setting, because it really helps my students.

210

00:33:10.020 --> 00:33:14.340

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): So where was the first school that you started teaching out after you graduated.

211

00:33:14.850 --> 00:33:23.520

Wendy Lozano: The first school I taught at and it's it's funny because I have a habit of saying like i'm going to do this and my friends are like you really to it.

212

00:33:24.150 --> 00:33:32.370

Wendy Lozano: I would tell people when I come back from uc Irvine i'm going to van nuys and i'm going to teach at the school around the block from my house and I got a job there.

213

00:33:33.030 --> 00:33:44.820

Wendy Lozano: But I won't lie, it was a very challenging experience, because I started dealing with racism immediate immediately and even.

214

00:33:45.570 --> 00:33:54.870

Wendy Lozano: ageism because I was young, I was an emergency credential teacher, I was 2322 years old.

215

00:33:55.590 --> 00:34:07.800

Wendy Lozano: And I remember my first day one of the teachers, who was a veteran teacher and she wasn't very kind she wasn't very she didn't favor the Community she worked for.

216

00:34:08.460 --> 00:34:16.710

Wendy Lozano: And she didn't look like the Community she worked for and back then, a lot more was tolerated in our district than it is now.

217

00:34:17.310 --> 00:34:25.890

Wendy Lozano: Today that situation would never be especially with the power that our Union has put forward that would never be something today.

218

00:34:26.520 --> 00:34:37.290

Wendy Lozano: But in 1998 it was something, because it was also the year that the English only initiative transferred over into our district.

219

00:34:37.680 --> 00:34:48.480

Wendy Lozano: And that initiative, there was a lot of xenophobia connected with it, it wasn't just about teachers teaching language, it was about culture and a lot of teachers.

220

00:34:48.870 --> 00:34:56.880

Wendy Lozano: felt the need to be vocal and i'm now coming into this school district in this transition emergency credential.

221

00:34:57.240 --> 00:35:11.010

Wendy Lozano: it's a new wave of chicano Latino educators coming into la USD So things are changing people are resisting the change because it's uncomfortable for whatever reason.

222

00:35:11.520 --> 00:35:20.610

Wendy Lozano: And so i'm in this, you know i'm going through this transition in the district, and my first day I go to my classroom because i'm teaching tinder.

223

00:35:21.060 --> 00:35:27.570

Wendy Lozano: And my room partner teacher because back then they were, we would teach am and pm.

224

00:35:28.050 --> 00:35:40.170

Wendy Lozano: And we were supposed to support each other, so I get there, and I could tell right away she's not happy i'm emergency credential because she probably thinks I don't know anything, even though i'm like I know what to do, I love these kids i'm going to teach.

225

00:35:40.680 --> 00:35:53.130

Wendy Lozano: And also, they do train us a bit, and I was already teaching, because I was working at a youth Center for a year as an undergrad and I ran my the youth Center of the academic component, so I had experience.

226

00:35:53.520 --> 00:36:04.410

Wendy Lozano: But when I walk in there were discussing things and she makes a comment about you know now there's no bilingual so i'm like Okay, I get it now, I see where she's headed with this conversation.

227

00:36:05.040 --> 00:36:09.120

Wendy Lozano: And then she looks at me and she says, and I said well yeah.

228

00:36:09.660 --> 00:36:21.300

Wendy Lozano: i'm the bilingual teacher so i'm the level a teacher, I was hired to be you know the teacher that helps those students, so you won't have to worry i'll be working with those students and then she's like oh.

229

00:36:22.260 --> 00:36:38.880

Wendy Lozano: Are you like one of those chicanos I left that I said Oh yes, I am a cheat Donna and i'm so excited for my students that look like me to know they have a cheat on a teacher and after that she was like.

230

00:36:39.660 --> 00:36:48.870

Wendy Lozano: Okay, so she knew, like the lines drawn in the sand, because I know where you're going with this so i'm not now i'm dealing with this so i'm like okay great.

231

00:36:49.230 --> 00:36:56.040

Wendy Lozano: This is what we deal with but i'm still here i'm happy i'm going to keep moving because i'm not here for this i'm here to help.

232

00:36:56.580 --> 00:37:09.810

Wendy Lozano: So, then, I go into the to make copies, and on the first thing because I went there, like the three days before to see the classroom so now i'm there, the first day and I go in there to make copies.

233

00:37:10.380 --> 00:37:22.650

Wendy Lozano: And I kid you not a veteran teacher and other ones, not that Nice to flunk the other teacher looks at me and says oh gee teachers go first Th need to go after like.

234

00:37:23.730 --> 00:37:34.200

Wendy Lozano: Basically, like doing that to me and I, and I looked at her, and I said hi I have a new teacher, so you can go after me and I kept making my copies.

235

00:37:35.160 --> 00:37:40.110

Wendy Lozano: i'm like who acts like that, why does she think i'm a ta is it my eight.

236

00:37:40.650 --> 00:37:49.950

Wendy Lozano: Or is it what is it regardless that's not how you treat a fellow colleague at your school site so right away we're on a bad foot, because nobody.

237

00:37:50.250 --> 00:37:59.640

Wendy Lozano: You know talks back to these teachers, because everyone treats people like there's a hierarchy and that wasn't going to fly with me because I understood from the beginning.

238

00:38:00.240 --> 00:38:07.170

Wendy Lozano: I am also a union member, I am also a colleague, and I also graduated from college so we're all team players.

239

00:38:07.590 --> 00:38:16.590

Wendy Lozano: And I was very positive and then I start hearing in the meetings this animosity towards this parent group that's trying to create a parent Center.

240

00:38:17.250 --> 00:38:23.370

Wendy Lozano: And i'm like Who are these parents are so mad at so, then I go outside walk because I walk home.

241

00:38:23.880 --> 00:38:32.310

Wendy Lozano: And I see the group of parents there and I walk over to them hi i'm the new kindergarten teacher and I hear that you have a parent group can you share what's going on.

242

00:38:32.640 --> 00:38:42.690

Wendy Lozano: So now, they give me their side so there's a big division, with the parents and the teachers and i'm all about the Community i'm trying to bridge things together.

243

00:38:43.110 --> 00:39:01.380

Wendy Lozano: it's a real divided line, I take the side of the Community and I stand with the parents, because the issue was they did not want to honor them and let them have their bilingual coordinator that now we have at schools that have that need so.

244

00:39:01.860 --> 00:39:12.630

Wendy Lozano: There was there, so now i'm in this system and i'm like you gotta be kidding me this is happening and i'm just trying to teach so now i'm i'm participating in activism from the get with the parents.

245

00:39:13.230 --> 00:39:24.810

Wendy Lozano: But then I decided to get married have kids and then I stay home because I want to stay home with my children and I stay home for about eight years, and I was always will stay on for five.

246

00:39:25.410 --> 00:39:36.030

Wendy Lozano: I try to go back, but now Arnold Schwarzenegger has done a recall the state budgets upside down education's being defunded nobody's carrying nobody's crying.

247

00:39:36.450 --> 00:39:43.830

Wendy Lozano: Like you know we've cry about the funding, the police, but back then nobody, like you, barely even the activists like we're trying to make noise.

248

00:39:44.790 --> 00:39:57.570

Wendy Lozano: dead silence education is being cut cut cut cut cut i'm seeing the impacts my kids are in school, yet, but i'm hearing i'm seeing what's going on i'm talking with kids in the Community parents.

249

00:39:58.170 --> 00:40:10.350

Wendy Lozano: And then I go back to work, but there's still a shortage, they only hire me because they need bilingual teachers so boom and again yay it works out for me, so I get hired.

250

00:40:10.620 --> 00:40:20.370

Wendy Lozano: I worked for one year i'm so excited I have a paycheck I feel like i'm doing upward mobility, because remember I stayed home eight years, I took a big pay cut.

251

00:40:20.910 --> 00:40:39.000

Wendy Lozano: So, then, we move on and I get rift I get laid off for four years, I have to sub I make half of my income and I barely survived but I don't leave because i'm invested, and I want to come back to the district.

252

00:40:39.780 --> 00:40:55.560

Wendy Lozano: And then I come back when I work, a few years things I see are still horrible I now have 36 students and I teach fifth grade, why is this a norm and then that leads us up to 2013.

253

00:40:55.800 --> 00:40:59.820

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): Okay that's what I was going to ask, so that was all through the early 2000s.

254

00:41:00.030 --> 00:41:12.540

Wendy Lozano: Yes, and then in 2013 that's when I start, I have 36 students again the district keeps claiming a fiscal emergency our class sizes are out of control.

255

00:41:13.080 --> 00:41:34.440

Wendy Lozano: It is so bad that when i'm walking my class to my to the auditorium a substitute stops to ask me why do you have two classes are you are you covering for the other teacher, while you watch the auditorium I said no, these are all my fifth grade students 36 students, I had.

256

00:41:35.550 --> 00:41:45.480

Wendy Lozano: it's not fair, not only to me as a teacher it's not fair to our students, because they do not get the time they need or the help.

257

00:41:46.050 --> 00:42:00.090

Wendy Lozano: Or the emotional support that so many of our students need so that's when everyone now is upset we came back or if we've been laid off everything's upside down or we're not getting our pay raises I mean.

258

00:42:00.420 --> 00:42:15.990

Wendy Lozano: So now we also get more rank and file members getting active we get new Union leadership the momentum keeps building and then we finally start creating actions and we go and vote to strike.

259

00:42:19.260 --> 00:42:21.390

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): So yeah back up a little bit to.

260

00:42:23.070 --> 00:42:23.280

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): The.

261

00:42:24.360 --> 00:42:30.870

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): Contract I remember that you remember you all did some actions at that point as well, can you describe those.

262

00:42:31.620 --> 00:42:42.150

Wendy Lozano: A lot of our actions they they were like we would have like you know protest at boat at the school board and vote for things like that, but a lot of action started becoming like.

263

00:42:42.750 --> 00:42:51.390

Wendy Lozano: We don't go to the Faculty meeting we all go in the parking lot, and you know actively like protests like that, or we don't.

264

00:42:51.750 --> 00:43:00.660

Wendy Lozano: We don't turn something in that we were doing you know they became actions like that, where we would basically not attend some meetings, or we wouldn't.

265

00:43:01.080 --> 00:43:08.220

Wendy Lozano: Do something that they were asking because it wasn't something we agreed to so that's how the actions began.

266

00:43:08.580 --> 00:43:20.070

Wendy Lozano: And we started seeing the momentum of the Members because it with those actions we start communicating and then you start seeing like we're not alone like we have power together.

267

00:43:20.580 --> 00:43:29.220

Wendy Lozano: And that's what really started moving us because the district continue to claim there was a fiscal emergency because of the budget.

268

00:43:29.670 --> 00:43:42.750

Wendy Lozano: And because of that section 1.5 they were allowed to continue to raise our class sizes, we never really had a real pap so they basically had a loophole in our contract.

269

00:43:43.140 --> 00:43:59.280

Wendy Lozano: And they would use that up as much as they could because it was that loophole and that's when we went on strike to get rid of that loophole, and that was the best thing we did for ourselves, because now, I have 27 students CAP.

270

00:44:00.570 --> 00:44:02.220

Wendy Lozano: yay UCLA our power.

271

00:44:03.180 --> 00:44:08.970

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): So what do you remember about the environment within the school in the months leading up to the strike.

272

00:44:09.330 --> 00:44:12.540

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): What were the conversations between you and other colleagues or or.

273

00:44:12.720 --> 00:44:14.730

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): Maybe, even with parents or students.

274

00:44:15.300 --> 00:44:22.020

Wendy Lozano: yeah we had a lot of conversations we were doing a lot of Community building to parents really.

275

00:44:22.290 --> 00:44:32.160

Wendy Lozano: Were pulled in that's how we want our strike because we started organizing with parents like reclaim our schools Los Angeles that's when they really got big and that's been.

276

00:44:32.700 --> 00:44:42.690

Wendy Lozano: group a coalition that's been working really hard with our Union and but the conversations, all I will be honest, there was a lot of fear.

277

00:44:43.230 --> 00:44:52.140

Wendy Lozano: Because most of us are not rich, most of us do live paycheck to paycheck and or have mortgages or families, we support.

278

00:44:52.620 --> 00:45:02.040

Wendy Lozano: And you know, like most school teachers across the country right we're not live rich, we should get paid more but we most of us aren't rich we're working class and.

279

00:45:02.610 --> 00:45:16.440

Wendy Lozano: paying back loans things like that, so the fear was money, how long would we be out there would we win and a lot of the fear was for new teachers would they be fired would they be protected and then.

280

00:45:17.160 --> 00:45:23.250

Wendy Lozano: But once we started communicating about that fear and supporting one another with information.

281

00:45:24.060 --> 00:45:32.250

Wendy Lozano: That conversation then started moving towards How long do you think will be out there, do you think the Community will come out to support us.

282

00:45:32.550 --> 00:45:40.350

Wendy Lozano: And those conversations and then, when we got real close that's when the conversation began of.

283

00:45:40.920 --> 00:45:50.730

Wendy Lozano: who's really going to be out there with us who's going to who's going to disappoint us and not come out there and be on the picket line with us.

284

00:45:51.240 --> 00:46:01.710

Wendy Lozano: And that was a conversation and it's okay to have that conversation we need to stop acting like we are so above that conversation that conversation is valid.

285

00:46:02.160 --> 00:46:07.110

Wendy Lozano: Because, maybe some Members have other reasons why they can't like one Member was retiring and.

286

00:46:07.650 --> 00:46:15.270

Wendy Lozano: In February, she couldn't strike because it would have hurt her retirement and she had a situation so that Okay, that was a past.

287

00:46:15.720 --> 00:46:20.430

Wendy Lozano: Then there were others who were just open like I don't believe in the Union, like we want to know that too.

288

00:46:20.790 --> 00:46:26.280

Wendy Lozano: You know that was like probably like one out of like 30,000 but you know people have to be vocal.

289

00:46:26.640 --> 00:46:35.880

Wendy Lozano: But if we are a Union, we need to be able to have those uncomfortable conversations, especially when we're going to do an action, like a strike right that's like.

290

00:46:36.120 --> 00:46:42.630

Wendy Lozano: that's the biggest action you can do that's the final action, the strike, so we had those conversations.

291

00:46:43.020 --> 00:46:51.930

Wendy Lozano: And then, once we knew we're going on strike, we just started organizing where we were going to be positioned and how we were going to build more.

292

00:46:52.170 --> 00:47:01.260

Wendy Lozano: Solidarity from other people in the Community and also how we would stay safe and avoid conflict with people who want to just you know come to start problems.

293

00:47:03.180 --> 00:47:09.360

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): So, you mentioned the reclaim our schools on way were you involved with that Oregon coalition before this drink.

294

00:47:09.840 --> 00:47:16.560

Wendy Lozano: No reclaim our schools Los Angeles, I wasn't involved I didn't even know they existed until during the strike.

295

00:47:16.920 --> 00:47:26.100

Wendy Lozano: That because when they were going and doing all those actions like going to viewers house going to Monica garcia's House like they were like we're coming to their houses like we are not playing.

296

00:47:26.400 --> 00:47:35.880

Wendy Lozano: And they started doing their advocacy their meetings are organizing that's when I learned who they were, and then I started learning well that's the coalition that our unions, a part of.

297

00:47:36.270 --> 00:47:40.650

Wendy Lozano: Currently, at this time i'm very active and reclaim our schools Los Angeles.

298

00:47:41.010 --> 00:47:51.750

Wendy Lozano: i'm actually part of the valley West core team, where we organize in the San Fernando Valley, because we've broken up our areas into all our board district areas.

299

00:47:52.080 --> 00:48:05.640

Wendy Lozano: And we even meet as reclaim our schools Los Angeles, we have monthly meetings with the board members of our areas to continue that dialogue and build community, but to also hold everyone accountable.

300

00:48:05.910 --> 00:48:16.140

Wendy Lozano: For what we need, as a community for our schools and that's something that's working really well it's a coalition of students parents, educators Community members.

301

00:48:16.440 --> 00:48:26.580

Wendy Lozano: And I really am hopeful that it's going to continue growing the valley we're really building it because, if this is the first year that it's growing here in the San Fernando Valley.

302

00:48:26.880 --> 00:48:39.570

Wendy Lozano: But it's already growing, and I really am hopeful that all over la we're going to see more reclaim our schools Los Angeles chapters popping up because it's our schools and we need to take them back.

303

00:48:42.300 --> 00:48:43.230

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): yeah definitely.

304

00:48:44.400 --> 00:48:45.150

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): So.

305

00:48:46.380 --> 00:48:58.950

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): Obviously reclaim our schools la and the coalition of students and teachers and Community organizations were a part of the strike itself, how did you feel in terms of Community support outside of that coalition.

306

00:48:59.970 --> 00:49:05.430

Wendy Lozano: Yes, the Community support it grew over time in the beginning.

307

00:49:05.910 --> 00:49:17.820

Wendy Lozano: that the support they was there, but I think people were also waiting, because a lot of parents, they have never experienced the strike, it was a learning experience for everyone, especially day one.

308

00:49:18.150 --> 00:49:29.040

Wendy Lozano: Because people are like Are they really on strike with is a strike mean you know, so I think that was happening, the first day, but every day, the support just continued.

309

00:49:29.430 --> 00:49:40.140

Wendy Lozano: And I will say the rain played in our favor because seeing teachers out in that rain I it has never rained like that in California and i'm not even lying I swear.

310

00:49:40.350 --> 00:49:49.530

Wendy Lozano: I feel like that rain was just for our strike like was it a Hollywood set or something, because it was so like perfect, even though we were out there drenched.

311

00:49:50.220 --> 00:49:58.440

Wendy Lozano: Oh, the we were so empowered like we were so pumped I was like I don't care if my Doc Martens are drip into the tiptoe.

312

00:49:58.710 --> 00:50:05.580

Wendy Lozano: i'm not going to start marching and holding the signs for parents, because we were so pumped up because we knew.

313

00:50:05.880 --> 00:50:13.770

Wendy Lozano: We were fighting, not only for us, but for our students and that's what empowered me that's what got me out there with fire.

314

00:50:14.070 --> 00:50:19.020

Wendy Lozano: I was like i'm fighting for my students and the Community because that's what it's about.

315

00:50:19.320 --> 00:50:32.910

Wendy Lozano: We need to fight together right if we're going to really change our communities, we need to fight together teachers parents students administrators i'm waiting for them to get on board, I need them to get out there with us admin we're calling on you.

316

00:50:34.590 --> 00:50:40.080

Wendy Lozano: yeah so, but the Community support grew over time, by the end of the week.

317

00:50:40.590 --> 00:50:49.920

Wendy Lozano: We had so many parents not sending their kids to school because they saw like this, not the same, without the teachers, the district kept trying to promote like it's okay it's okay.

318

00:50:50.280 --> 00:50:55.950

Wendy Lozano: By the third day parents would stop outside when they would pick up their kids because we would be at our school sites.

319

00:50:56.310 --> 00:51:04.770

Wendy Lozano: And we would talk to parents students would tell us we miss you I had some of my students because i've always promoted student activism for themselves.

320

00:51:05.280 --> 00:51:12.090

Wendy Lozano: With some of my students, when one of them came out she was holding a sign that would tell parents call the district.

321

00:51:12.420 --> 00:51:20.730

Wendy Lozano: Tell them your children deserve better, but it was a Spanish and she asked me, she says missiles on Oh, can I call the district, I said, you need to ask your parents.

322

00:51:21.090 --> 00:51:30.480

Wendy Lozano: and her mom gave her the cell phone and I almost cried she called right in front of me, she called Austin bueller's office, and she told him.

323

00:51:30.870 --> 00:51:45.240

Wendy Lozano: I am a student from missiles honors class she gave them her name and she told them, I want you to give a message to Austin buettner I want him to end the strike I want my teacher back in the classroom it's not the same.

324

00:51:46.200 --> 00:51:55.650

Wendy Lozano: I was like I was so proud, and I was so proud, because she took her voice to use her power.

325

00:51:56.220 --> 00:52:03.570

Wendy Lozano: I was so proud of my students and after other students saw what she was doing, and they were walking home.

326

00:52:03.960 --> 00:52:14.610

Wendy Lozano: She told me when we came back to school and when she was we were back two weeks later, she told me this one's on other kids asked me if they could call and I started giving them the number.

327

00:52:15.060 --> 00:52:22.890

Wendy Lozano: So it was inspiring and then parents to they would ask me like well how long is this going to continue, and I would tell them.

328

00:52:23.400 --> 00:52:31.050

Wendy Lozano: it's going to continue until they understand that your children deserve better if you can call and get them to understand like we're out here.

329

00:52:31.380 --> 00:52:38.400

Wendy Lozano: It will they will end faster and Paris started calling and getting more involved, because they started seeing they have the power to.

330

00:52:38.970 --> 00:52:58.050

Wendy Lozano: And by by that Tuesday, they had to give in, because the amount of people that came out to support us in downtown they could see the we had the power of the Community and everyone around the world could see teachers in La we were being supported by our Community.

331

00:52:59.220 --> 00:53:10.020

Wendy Lozano: And it was inspiring like to see everyone, and all those people like it's still inspiring like we still till this day, like the we talked about it like it was such.

332

00:53:10.860 --> 00:53:21.750

Wendy Lozano: A rewarding experience, but the best thing about being on strike that people don't want to talk about usually was the solidarity we built on on the picket line.

333

00:53:22.170 --> 00:53:30.420

Wendy Lozano: And I even tease my colleague sometimes like I think we need to go on strike again to rebuild our Community, because we became so tight.

334

00:53:30.780 --> 00:53:44.340

Wendy Lozano: I learned things about colleagues I have worked for for 10 years I never knew, and I mean just being out there on the picket line you know sacrificing together really build our Community, as a school.

335

00:53:47.430 --> 00:54:01.800

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): So what did they look like did for most of the days, did you go and pick it outside of your school or did you also go to these rallies you know at City Hall, and at La USD or What was your experience with each of the six days.

336

00:54:02.160 --> 00:54:10.350

Wendy Lozano: yeah so usually on a lot of the days, we would we always started at our school site, because it was important for the Community to have the visual.

337

00:54:10.650 --> 00:54:19.440

Wendy Lozano: And for people to know like this is why the schools aren't open like regular you know, so it was important always to be there and we would get there early.

338

00:54:19.830 --> 00:54:26.850

Wendy Lozano: I mean, some of us were there at 6am and we would just be there, so people would know like run strikes still and then.

339

00:54:27.210 --> 00:54:38.310

Wendy Lozano: Parents and students would come out two in the morning, but then midday, we would usually go back to La to all of us come together to show like a bigger action or.

340

00:54:38.580 --> 00:54:47.730

Wendy Lozano: We would stay in our areas like by our board members, you know, like that, but we were always doing some type of action midday.

341

00:54:48.330 --> 00:54:59.580

Wendy Lozano: And then, in the afternoon, we always went back to our school site to pick it there, so again, to have the visual when parents are picking up their children.

342

00:54:59.910 --> 00:55:10.620

Wendy Lozano: And when students are leaving the school, and it also gave us an opportunity to also see our students, because we were suffering we love our students, we missed them.

343

00:55:10.890 --> 00:55:18.420

Wendy Lozano: And I felt good seeing them, even though I felt sad because we were still out there, but I wasn't sad because of what I was doing.

344

00:55:18.870 --> 00:55:30.270

Wendy Lozano: I was sad that the district wasn't fixing it quicker, because it was about my students so but I I I enjoy doing that afternoon because we were able to see them.

345

00:55:30.600 --> 00:55:43.020

Wendy Lozano: And then the students would tell us we miss you we want you back, and then we would encourage parents like help us out support us we're doing this for our Community, and it really empowered them to get more involved.

346

00:55:44.970 --> 00:55:48.720

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): So what do you remember the main demands being for the strike.

347

00:55:49.590 --> 00:55:52.560

Wendy Lozano: The main demands the 6% raise.

348

00:55:53.430 --> 00:56:08.880

Wendy Lozano: The section 1.5 Community schools and the biggest thing was section 1.5 because of the class CAP, and that was really why the majority of I know at my chapter.

349

00:56:09.270 --> 00:56:16.830

Wendy Lozano: that's why they were willing to just risk it and sacrifice it all, because that section 1.5 it was a nightmare.

350

00:56:17.370 --> 00:56:26.730

Wendy Lozano: It was they could pull that random you know section whenever and there was never a consistent time where we knew like we're going to have.

351

00:56:27.060 --> 00:56:36.090

Wendy Lozano: Because class size is already out of control, even at 27 I think it should be 22 one I mean if we really want to research, private schools are where people have money.

352

00:56:36.750 --> 00:56:47.280

Wendy Lozano: My kids were in ballet and they went to a ballet academy where these kids had money and their parents would tell me they had 10 kids for two teachers.

353

00:56:49.590 --> 00:57:02.820

Wendy Lozano: Because they know if they get more attention like that and, yes, we know that's an Ivy league type of private school but there's a reason why they do that, so why are we allowing in a public schools 36 to one.

354

00:57:03.480 --> 00:57:14.430

Wendy Lozano: or even 27 to one when we know students in public schools don't even have all of the services or resources that most students doing say private schools.

355

00:57:14.730 --> 00:57:21.210

Wendy Lozano: So i'm like we need to even it out if our public schools are really the cornerstones of our democracy.

356

00:57:21.600 --> 00:57:43.230

Wendy Lozano: we're really failing our citizens, because we need to invest more in our schools and class size, would be the first investment, because we need to have smaller class sizes that's why we went on strike, and we got there we got somewhere, we still want to get it lower but 36 to 27.

357

00:57:44.250 --> 00:57:46.830

Wendy Lozano: If that was worth those days of striking.

358

00:57:48.540 --> 00:57:55.650

Wendy Lozano: And the Community schools, that is a big win but Community schools that we were able to secure during the strike.

359

00:57:55.950 --> 00:58:00.540

Wendy Lozano: And that's where reclaim our school as Los Angeles comes in again to because they're really big on.

360

00:58:00.840 --> 00:58:09.600

Wendy Lozano: Pushing that forward even now and we keep building we keep adding more Community schools, hopefully, that becomes a model for district.

361

00:58:09.870 --> 00:58:21.780

Wendy Lozano: Because that is the goal we want to have a wraparound services for students, like it's really, really uncomfortable that students are having to compete or going to other schools like what my dad had to do.

362

00:58:22.170 --> 00:58:35.790

Wendy Lozano: Like imagine if I would have been able to stay in my community and still have the same resources that I was given at another Community, and you know because everything's limited in certain communities and that's not fair.

363

00:58:39.540 --> 00:58:47.940

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): So, after the strike did you start working a little bit more with the Union and that's when you got involved with the reclaim our schools la.

364

00:58:48.960 --> 00:59:01.860

Wendy Lozano: Yes, i'm will reclaim our schools la I got involved a little later, but right after the strike I became more involved, because at our own chapter, we were having our.

365

00:59:01.860 --> 00:59:04.320

Wendy Lozano: own issues within the administrators so.

366

00:59:04.560 --> 00:59:11.370

Wendy Lozano: Even before the strike, we were already kind of collectively preparing for our own push back at our chapter.

367

00:59:11.790 --> 00:59:20.730

Wendy Lozano: And we were organizing before the strike to implement the llc at our school, which is a local school leadership Council.

368

00:59:21.210 --> 00:59:26.850

Wendy Lozano: And what that we were granted that when the teachers went on strike, and at night.

369

00:59:27.420 --> 00:59:41.250

Wendy Lozano: Because they want to strike to give us that opportunity, but sadly we fell asleep with that a lot of our chapters in our school sites, we did not continue or advocate for that at our schools.

370

00:59:41.670 --> 00:59:48.840

Wendy Lozano: And we gave up our power so be leading up to the strike our new Union leadership.

371

00:59:49.320 --> 00:59:58.980

Wendy Lozano: understood the power of the llc so started really pushing that to the chapter chairs to start recreating that because we have power in that.

372

00:59:59.400 --> 01:00:14.490

Wendy Lozano: So many schools began to do that and our school site, we knew because of the issues we were having with our administrator if we create our llc, we will have the power to override the dictatorship that we were dealing with.

373

01:00:14.910 --> 01:00:29.430

Wendy Lozano: So we began that process, we went on strike, and then, when we came back from strike we continue that process, and my good friend, my colleague was the chapter chair at that time and I began.

374

01:00:30.210 --> 01:00:42.900

Wendy Lozano: Volunteering, and I nominate myself for the llc but then in about me know April I started noticing that we didn't see the school budget.

375

01:00:43.410 --> 01:00:52.920

Wendy Lozano: So I was like what's going on here where's the budget why don't we haven't seen the school budget well the administrator was trying not to show it to our our chapter.

376

01:00:53.430 --> 01:01:03.000

Wendy Lozano: And I was like oh wait a minute that doesn't sound very fair or democratic or even legal, because this is a public document and I need to see it.

377

01:01:03.600 --> 01:01:06.000

Wendy Lozano: He wouldn't show it to the chapter chair.

378

01:01:06.420 --> 01:01:18.090

Wendy Lozano: So, then, I said i'm going forward as a rank and file Member because I have a right to see it, and anyone in the Community that's a taxpayer has a right to see it, because these are public funds.

379

01:01:18.450 --> 01:01:28.530

Wendy Lozano: So he gave me a hard time I didn't give up spring break happened he probably thought I forgot I messaged him at six in the morning hi welcome back I said at the budget.

380

01:01:29.280 --> 01:01:37.020

Wendy Lozano: I finally got him to say i'll show it at a meeting no he said i'll show it to you in a in a quick conference I said no.

381

01:01:37.410 --> 01:01:44.580

Wendy Lozano: You need to have a public meeting so other Members can see the budget to it's a public record this has never happened at our school, we need to see the budget.

382

01:01:45.000 --> 01:01:51.240

Wendy Lozano: So, then, I start rallying up my colleagues, because now i'm pumped i'm like I didn't all of you go on strike with me.

383

01:01:51.540 --> 01:01:59.550

Wendy Lozano: We went on strike because we didn't know where the money is that was what this whole strike was about so everyone needs to join in, because we need to see that money.

384

01:02:00.000 --> 01:02:09.870

Wendy Lozano: So then people rally rallied up and we ended up having the meeting, and he showed us the budget and it there was a lot of issues.

385

01:02:10.260 --> 01:02:21.120

Wendy Lozano: And that's when everyone got really empowered to get that llc moving because I said, we need to fix this, we need to start you know finding out what's going on our school.

386

01:02:21.690 --> 01:02:31.500

Wendy Lozano: And then, my colleague felt it was just too much, and she didn't want to do chapter chair anymore so she said, this will be her final year.

387

01:02:31.950 --> 01:02:38.940

Wendy Lozano: And I wanted to see if Maybe other colleague would step up because I want to promote leadership.

388

01:02:39.300 --> 01:02:45.810

Wendy Lozano: And I already do my activism work on the side regardless i'm like it doesn't matter if i'm at work or not I see an injustice i'm there.

389

01:02:46.200 --> 01:02:53.160

Wendy Lozano: i'm like i'm there I don't care if i'm at the market, I will stop my car me like i'll get a protest sign like I don't like injustice, we need support here.

390

01:02:53.820 --> 01:03:01.650

Wendy Lozano: You know, and so we had our meeting and I strategically did not say I was running for Chapter chair.

391

01:03:02.040 --> 01:03:11.430

Wendy Lozano: Because I wanted the administrator to think we weren't going to have a chapter chair, because if we don't have a chapter chair, we lose all rights to llc.

392

01:03:12.060 --> 01:03:23.400

Wendy Lozano: goes away, you have to have an active chapter chair So then, finally, we have our meeting and I volunteer and I am nominated chapter chair.

393

01:03:23.820 --> 01:03:35.820

Wendy Lozano: And that's how I became a lot more involved with the Union leadership, because I became chapter chair I pushed back for two years on a basically a hostile administrator.

394

01:03:36.270 --> 01:03:45.540

Wendy Lozano: And we push forward and our contracts prevailed and we're very happy now we have a new administrator we have our local school she.

395

01:03:46.110 --> 01:04:03.420

Wendy Lozano: School leadership Council and we now have a new member that stepped up so that way, I could move on and i'm now a steering cluster leader for valley West where I give support to the chapter chairs in my area.

396

01:04:05.850 --> 01:04:24.180

Wendy Lozano: And then I, and I also got connected to reclaim our schools Los Angeles, because I would represent the Union as a representative on some of the meetings and then I got pulled in because I live in the valley and I volunteered to be part of the core group to organize for the valley.

397

01:04:26.760 --> 01:04:31.770

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): Can you tell us a little bit about what you all discuss in meetings or what some of your initiatives are.

398

01:04:32.580 --> 01:04:43.380

Wendy Lozano: Yes, right now, we just had town hall meetings with as reclaim our schools Los Angeles, because we're going to be entering our bargaining because we're going to be.

399

01:04:43.830 --> 01:04:52.650

Wendy Lozano: Opening up the contract again with the district and we're going to start bargaining so we've been getting input at these town halls from the Community.

400

01:04:52.950 --> 01:05:01.560

Wendy Lozano: On what they feel the needs are in our schools or what they would like to see as part of the vision or demands of our Union.

401

01:05:02.160 --> 01:05:07.560

Wendy Lozano: And and and they understand that we're just really creating discussion and giving input.

402

01:05:07.890 --> 01:05:16.020

Wendy Lozano: But it's not anything we're you know, putting in stone, right now, but we are getting that input and i'm really proud of our Union, because it's very rare.

403

01:05:16.350 --> 01:05:23.730

Wendy Lozano: That unions bring in the Community to ask what else do you want us to pull in for the common good for our contract.

404

01:05:24.150 --> 01:05:33.480

Wendy Lozano: So i'm really proud of our Union, for doing that and i'm really proud of reclaim our schools Los Angeles, all the anchor organizations that are doing tremendous work.

405

01:05:33.810 --> 01:05:38.100

Wendy Lozano: to really move all of that forward and at our town hall meetings.

406

01:05:38.910 --> 01:05:48.240

Wendy Lozano: We share we shared you know what things were we need for coming good demands, but in other meetings we talked about just things like even.

407

01:05:48.540 --> 01:05:56.460

Wendy Lozano: How like one meeting when we were dealing with like the board meeting with school police, we talked about students shared their experiences.

408

01:05:56.700 --> 01:06:08.520

Wendy Lozano: And we we gave them a space where we could hear their experiences and they had a safe space where they were very open of how they felt about school police and then also.

409

01:06:09.000 --> 01:06:17.040

Wendy Lozano: We allow parents, you know, to get information about Community organizations like, for example in my.

410

01:06:17.790 --> 01:06:31.080

Wendy Lozano: bd three reclaim our schools Los Angeles meetings we always bring in someone from the Community that's doing great work like recently we've had an organization that helps teens deal with mental health we've had a.

411

01:06:31.830 --> 01:06:46.260

Wendy Lozano: pair of group that deals with Community gardening and then another group that deals with LGBT Q students that need mental health services in the Community, free of charge, so we just try to pull in resources so.

412

01:06:46.530 --> 01:06:54.180

Wendy Lozano: People at the meeting also get information about other resources that you know are available in our local community.

413

01:06:56.760 --> 01:07:04.080

Wendy Lozano: And when we meet with the board member we bring up any resolutions, where we propose like we claim our schools.

414

01:07:04.770 --> 01:07:15.600

Wendy Lozano: helped bring forward a resolution with Scott charleston the board member about nurses how right now, because a district isn't able to hire nurses, because of the competitive pay.

415

01:07:15.900 --> 01:07:26.010

Wendy Lozano: We created a resolution where they could hire people who were still in the medical profession, maybe not our friends, but they could still do some of those.

416

01:07:26.310 --> 01:07:28.950

Wendy Lozano: Jobs at the school site like you know.

417

01:07:29.310 --> 01:07:40.050

Wendy Lozano: Administering medicine inhalers because they still have some type of training, or so we were trying to see how that's going so we were still meeting and discussing that because we haven't.

418

01:07:40.290 --> 01:07:52.620

Wendy Lozano: received like say a report, so when we meet and we you know we have discussion we bring in nurses that talk to the board members, we bring in parents who have had horrible experiences, because they don't have a nurse or.

419

01:07:53.160 --> 01:08:03.060

Wendy Lozano: A student, so we bring in people to give their experience to the board member because we as teachers, we give our experiences to.

420

01:08:03.390 --> 01:08:14.340

Wendy Lozano: But the power in the parent and the student when they speak the board members, they tend to listen, a little different because they know that that's really.

421

01:08:14.700 --> 01:08:28.680

Wendy Lozano: Who they're representing when they go to work every day, including us too, but the parents that's that's the number one concern when they're giving you complaints about the school system because they need to be hurt.

422

01:08:32.040 --> 01:08:47.040

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): So I wanted to just ask you a little bit about the effects of on you know the aftermath of the strike and then also just on your all's organizing and your ability to organize as a Union, so.

423

01:08:47.640 --> 01:08:54.600

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): I mean coven hit within the year after the strike right so did it cause any difficulties in terms of implementing that.

424

01:08:55.170 --> 01:08:57.600

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): What you did gain in the contract.

425

01:08:58.530 --> 01:09:10.680

Wendy Lozano: Actually, no i'm really proud of our Union, because the leadership and the rank and file members everyone pulled it together, but the best thing was the bargaining team, because we.

426

01:09:12.030 --> 01:09:17.070

Wendy Lozano: Re we kept re bargaining our side letter when things would change county measures.

427

01:09:17.370 --> 01:09:29.280

Wendy Lozano: And that that kept us really safe our Union kept us alive, I really feel like that, because our Union was pushing to even get the schools closed in the beginning, because we were seeing what was happening.

428

01:09:29.610 --> 01:09:42.360

Wendy Lozano: around the country and I was really just proud our Union continued connecting the Members, even on zoom's we continue to having our meetings I mean zoom just.

429

01:09:42.990 --> 01:09:51.570

Wendy Lozano: Fixed it all for us if zoom wouldn't have been around, I think it would have been a lot harder, but we really utilize zoom like a like an in person, setting.

430

01:09:52.140 --> 01:09:59.760

Wendy Lozano: And once we were all fine with that of course we had our tech issues here and there, like not knowing how to shoot you know, but that all passed after a month.

431

01:10:00.150 --> 01:10:06.840

Wendy Lozano: But we continued our meetings, and I really feel that we started organizing a lot more during the pandemic.

432

01:10:07.170 --> 01:10:16.530

Wendy Lozano: Because people have that desire to be connected I think they were making more of that you know, trying to find out and then just being nervous of what's next what's next.

433

01:10:16.950 --> 01:10:21.240

Wendy Lozano: And then we also started doing more things on social media where we would.

434

01:10:21.450 --> 01:10:28.980

Wendy Lozano: You know, try to talk to one another, even though that can sometimes turn into like a little nightmare, you know, because people aren't fact checking all the time in social media.

435

01:10:29.280 --> 01:10:37.200

Wendy Lozano: But it at least gave us a place to continue that dialogue while the zooms and everything connected, and you know things kept moving.

436

01:10:37.590 --> 01:10:48.150

Wendy Lozano: But I feel our Union really kept organizing and we're still organizing during the pandemic and then, when George floyd and all those things began happening, too, and the.

437

01:10:48.570 --> 01:11:01.560

Wendy Lozano: Police shootings even in our communities, I feel like Members really stepped it up to with even their attitudes towards you know the school board and funding school police, I felt like we saw a lot.

438

01:11:02.040 --> 01:11:17.850

Wendy Lozano: We saw more people becoming vocal who I would never see them become vocal in the past, but I just see I saw a lot more people rise up during the pandemic, but when we came back.

439

01:11:18.780 --> 01:11:30.870

Wendy Lozano: It started to change because we're still good, but people are just really exhausted right now but we're still moving it's I mean it's not it's nothing that it's over our Union is still pushing.

440

01:11:31.320 --> 01:11:38.040

Wendy Lozano: But I think this week break is going to really revamp a lot of us, because people are just really exhausted.

441

01:11:38.610 --> 01:11:53.250

Wendy Lozano: And we have so many shortages in our schools, right now, like across the nation, and you know, but I think people for the most part during the pandemic, when we were not on campus I feel like we were jamming as a Union.

442

01:11:56.250 --> 01:12:00.720

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): Well that's really amazing that's really good to hear that you all were able to continue organizing in that way.

443

01:12:01.830 --> 01:12:08.910

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): Just for the last question what are some of the current initiatives that you all, are working on and what are some of your priorities at the moment.

444

01:12:09.930 --> 01:12:12.060

Wendy Lozano: Well, right now, our priority.

445

01:12:12.090 --> 01:12:18.960

Wendy Lozano: is to get nurses into our schools, because that's something we already won in our strike.

446

01:12:19.410 --> 01:12:30.000

Wendy Lozano: But the nurses are not there and we understand that there we don't have competitive pay but that's where we need to start pushing the district to create that competitive pay.

447

01:12:30.360 --> 01:12:34.080

Wendy Lozano: Because we already won that demand, they need to now fulfill it.

448

01:12:34.530 --> 01:12:42.480

Wendy Lozano: And that's our big priority right now, and also, we want to see more an increase another salary increase.

449

01:12:42.780 --> 01:12:51.390

Wendy Lozano: Even though we got a one right now, but we want it to compete with inflation, too, because an la is it's really hard to live here.

450

01:12:51.690 --> 01:13:04.980

Wendy Lozano: And so we want to be recognized for that, too, but something that we really want to push to and and especially through reclaim our schools Los Angeles and i'm sure our Union is going to adapt that to.

451

01:13:05.730 --> 01:13:11.640

Wendy Lozano: We want to push the district, because our district is has a lot of real estate.

452

01:13:12.360 --> 01:13:18.690

Wendy Lozano: And we want to really push our district to use some of that real estate for student housing.

453

01:13:19.110 --> 01:13:29.340

Wendy Lozano: We have many students that are homeless in our school district, and if we really want to pride ourselves on helping our students and even.

454

01:13:29.670 --> 01:13:38.340

Wendy Lozano: keeping our students in our school district, we need to start looking at the housing options that we, as a district can also provide.

455

01:13:38.670 --> 01:13:49.710

Wendy Lozano: To students, because we want our students to stay living in their communities students shouldn't have to go on a bus for two hours to be in a school that they feel comfortable are they like.

456

01:13:50.100 --> 01:14:00.990

Wendy Lozano: And that's why, if we had student housing in their communities with their schools, maybe that could change how students feel when they are in their community.

457

01:14:04.860 --> 01:14:09.120

Marcella Loprinzi Hardin (She/Her/Hers): Well, thank you so much for talking with us, I loved hearing your story, so thank you for sharing.

458

01:14:09.990 --> 01:14:14.760

Wendy Lozano: Thank you so much, and I feel like I feel like I was in therapy just kidding don't put that in there.

459

01:14:16.260 --> 01:14:16.950

Wendy Lozano: My moms like.