



## Rose Espinola

A Coca-Cola Scholar and a Hispanic Heritage Award winner, Rose Espinola brought a sustained record of community involvement and civic awareness, including serving as the student representative on the Broward County School Board Diversity Committee, with her to Penn. Over her four years at Fort Lauderdale High School, Rose served as a tutor with Student Tutoring and Resources (STAR) and founded and coordinated STARlit, a long-term and intensive math tutoring program for at-risk students with disabilities. At Penn, Rose has engaged in a number of activities, but most important to her have been student organizing with el Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA) and the Student Labor Action Project (SLAP). As a MEChA member, Rose initiated student involvement in the South Philadelphia immigrant community. As a member of SLAP, Rose organized tirelessly until Penn university officials announced that they had no plans to reinvest in HEI Hotels & Resorts, and also organized in solidarity with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. Rose has had summer internships organizing with the Student/Farmworker Alliance in Immokalee, Florida; teaching with the Breakthrough Collaborative; and working in the Venezuela office of the School of Americas Watch. Rose majored in Latin American and Latino Studies and minored in Africana Studies in the College. As part of her coursework, she spent one semester studying abroad in Cuba at the University of Havana and another with contemporary social movements in Mexico.

### CAPSTONE PROJECT

## Walking Towards a Radical Pan-Latinidad: Agency and Structure in Latinx Youth Narratives of Farmworker Solidarity

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ann Farnsworth-Alvear, School of Arts & Sciences, Department of History

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In the 1970s and 1980s Chicanxs organized in solidarity with farmworkers. Today Latinx youth continue to work as allies on farmworker-led campaigns for dignity and fair wages. However, there has been no research about what today's organizing means to contemporary Latinx youth.

This project entails oral history interviews with twenty young Latinx allies of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. Six of these interviews are employed to understand the significance of structure and agency in work as allies. The narratives demonstrate that agency is necessary to understanding involvement in farmworker solidarity. Second, the stories about identities, farmwork, class, home, and interpersonal experiences in the Borderlands, reveal, in both senses, oppression and privilege. Lastly, participants in this project talk about a plan for a utopia, and how activism on farmworker issues has allowed for the personal decolonization.

The stories suggest the emergence of a radical pan-Latinidad. To be Latinx is to be systematically misidentified as belonging to a homogenous category of people in the United States. Yet, radicalizing Latinidad involves taking strategic action on campaigns and taking personal action towards the decolonization of ourselves.