

# Diversity is Strength

A little over 10 years ago *I left the Los Angeles immigrant barrio* where I was born and raised for UC, Berkeley with the hope that somehow, *I would return with the tools and resources to uplift my community.*

I had endured the classic LA Unified School District student of color experience: overcrowded classrooms, textbook shortages, teacher apathy, gang violence and my parents having to return to Mexico.

I had to support myself. At UC, I tutored poor minority students in Oakland and introduced them to “cool things” about being in college.

I volunteered with Loaves and Fishes and the Latino Issues Forum.

*I wanted to research the destructive things that disproportionately affect minority communities.*

I knew that I wanted to publish my findings and be able to teach them. *I wanted to be an eternal academic activist, better known as a Sociology Professor.* I chose Princeton.



## Cristina Mora Torres

*Awarded '01*

In my second year, I received one of the four National Science Foundation Pre-Dissertation Fellowships given in Sociology.

I am the woman who pours every ounce of herself into reaching each young boy and girl who leaves their immigrant community in search of what the wider world has to offer.

*I defended my dissertation with departmental distinction: De Muchos, Uno: the Institutionalization of Latino Panethnicity 1960-1990.*

I now hold a position at the University of Chicago.

