

Introduction

Although less noted in popular culture for its social protest history than cross-bay rival UC Berkeley, Stanford has a rich legacy of activism that has often influenced other universities and had broad impact. Stanford students played an important role in civil rights movements of the 1960s. Called to travel to Mississippi by the former Dean of Men, Allard Lowerstein, in 1963, Stanford students formed the primary group of college students who helped organize the Freedom Vote drive that fall. The success of Freedom Vote laid the groundwork for the Mississippi Summer Project (Freedom Summer) in 1964, to which Stanford contributed the second largest contingent of volunteers. David Harris (Class of '67) traveled to Mississippi in the Fall of 1964 for the second Freedom Vote campaign, and later became a national leader of the anti-war and anti-draft movements, as well as Student Body President.

The "Taking of the Mic" by members of the Black Student Union in April 1968 initiated a four year period of upheaval and confrontation on campus. A series of disruptions related to the Vietnam War led the university to sever ties to classified research, SRI, and (until 2011) ROTC, but it also resulted in the dismissal of a number of students and one tenured faculty member (Franklin).

In the early 1970s, Native American students at Stanford were among the first to lead a successful campaign to end the use of an Indian symbol as a university mascot. In 1977, the arrest of 294 protesters at an Old Union sit-in inspired students on other campuses to join the South Africa divestment movement. Stanford students in the Black Student Union, MEChA, and other groups in the 1980s received national attention for challenging the Western Culture requirement, while the Stanford Rape Education Project helped lead a national movement to document and organize against campus sexual assault.

Following the death of Cesar Chavez, Stanford was one of several campuses where Chicano/Latino students organized hunger strikes. The 1994 Hunger Strike helped lead to the founding of the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity. Stanford students, inspired by the late Luke Cole (A.B. '84), helped transform campus environmentalists around the country into activists for environmental justice and workers' rights. The *Stanford Review* spearheaded a campaign against campus speech codes in the 1990s, culminating in a successful lawsuit that overturned Stanford's "Grey Interpretation."

In the present century, Stanford students have founded Face AIDS, the Roosevelt Institute Campus Network, and the National Marriage Boycott. Alongside their (often contro-versial) efforts to change Stanford and the world, student activists retain their Stanford identity. They are frequently seen studying for midterms and doing problem sets as they organize, rally, or engage in civil disobedience.

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