

High school mural shows female role models

Students studied accomplished women and placed four in painting.

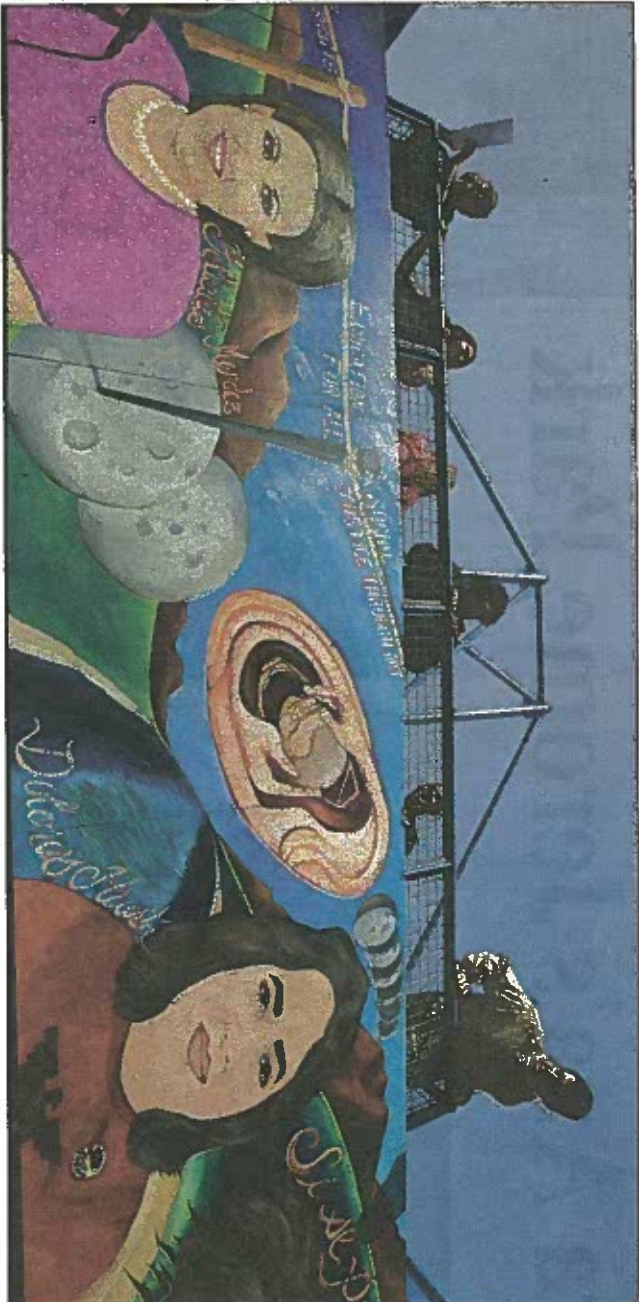
BY THERESA CISNEROS
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

SANTA ANA • When Cesar Chavez High School students were asked to list female role models as part of a class discussion last year, one name rose to the surface: Paris Hilton.

So Riggo Maldonado — a senior human relations specialist with OC Human Relations — got to work educating the students on female artists, educators, historians, community activists and other heroines.

On Friday, the same group of students unveiled a 5-foot-by-25-foot color mural they painted depicting four of the women they studied.

The work, "I Change My-



Students at Cesar Chavez High School in Santa Ana unveil on Friday a mural depicting female role models they painted on a series of panels, 5 feet tall and 25 feet long.

PHOTOS: SAM GANGWER, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

founder of the National Farm Workers Association; Felicitas Mendez, who successfully sued to end school segregation in Orange County; and Modesta Avila, an early Orange County resident jailed for opposing

About 20 students worked on the mural. Participants examined the lives of the women they studied, doing Internet research, listening to guest speakers and taking field trips.

Jessica Perez, 18, worked

ble women inspired her to set and achieve her own goals.

"I saw that everything they did, I can do too," said Perez, now a freshman majoring in psychology at Santa Ana College. "Just be-

The mural, unveiled in the school courtyard, will be permanently displayed inside a yet-constructed building on campus.



Roman Reyna, member of the Santa Ana School Board, speaks to students at Cesar Chavez High School in Santa Ana as they unveiled a mural depicting female role models.