

Edwin Melendez's Remarks for Professor Xavier F. Totti's 10th anniversary as Managing Editor of the Centro Journal

(April 25, 2012)

Buenos Dias.

On behalf of Edwin Melendez and all the Centro staff, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this event commemorating Professor Xavier F. Totti's 10th anniversary as Managing Editor of the Centro Journal.

The Centro Journal has become the leading journal in the field of Puerto Rican Studies and is among the leading journals in Latino and ethnic studies. The journal is indexed by over 20 different services and has won 10 academic, design, and community services awards. Centro Journal has been published twice a year uninterrupted since 1987 for a total of 43 issues. Last year alone, more than 100,000 copies of articles from the Centro Journal were downloaded from academic distribution services such as Ebsco and Redalyc.

Such great accomplishments are in no small measure due to the extraordinary dedication and leadership of Professor Xavier Totti. He reads and recommends for blind review 4 to 6 manuscripts for each paper that is published in the journal. He has instituted management systems to insure the highest standards and continuous publication of the Journal.

The journal is also evolving into a new format that allows us to take advantage of new printing technologies. These technologies will adapt the journal content to new media formats and reduce production costs significantly. Dedication and leadership produces innovation.

For most of you in the audience, these accolades to Professor Totti are not new. What few know about is the entrepreneurial vision and leadership that Professor Totti brings to Centro as an organization. Under his leadership, Centro has launched Voices, an electronic magazine, and Centro Press, an academic publisher that is about to become a reality in a few weeks. These publications have the potential for greatly enhancing the field of Puerto Rican studies.

The success of the journal over the last decade or any of the new publishing ventures will be possible in the absence of an academic entrepreneur. Professor Totti possesses the breadth of knowledge and the gentle experience of a seasoned administrator. Today we celebrate his many contributions to the field and offer a well-deserved recognition for making a difference in our community.

I hope that you will enjoy the festivity of this occasion with us.

Muchas gracias.