



2018 Lideramos Fellows

The 2018 Fellows direct exemplary Latino programs across the country. These individuals work with programs that have a proven track-record and offer effectiveness models and best practices for other programs to emulate. Program emphasis includes nonprofit effectiveness, economic development, community empowerment, and women's advancement.

Rachel Griego – Denver, CO

Project Director at the Latino Community Foundation of Colorado where she directs the Latinas LEAD program. The Latinas LEADS initiative invests, trains and connects Colorado Latinas into a future leadership pipeline. The Foundation funds Latino programs throughout the state. Rachel earned a B.A. in political science and has previously served as a special Assistant to the Director of the Women's Bureau at the U.S. Department of Labor.

Sylvia Puente – Chicago, IL

Executive director of The Latino Policy Forum and has taken the organization to new heights. In 2009 she initiated the Illinois Latino Nonprofit and Multicultural Leadership Academies which has trained over 175 leaders from 75 organizations. The Academy's focus is on social change, policy impact, and improving the status of communities of color. Sylvia is a graduate of Leadership Greater Chicago and currently serves on 12 board of directors making her one of the most influential leaders in Illinois.

Monica B. Reyes – Great Lakes Bay, MI

Director of the Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute and leads its flagship leadership development program designed to foster and strengthen the Hispanic community which are integral to the future of Great Lakes Bay Region. Monica commitment is evident in that she has held this position for ten years. She was appointed by the Governor to the Michigan Hispanic/Latino advisory council, holds an MBA, and numerous other professional credentials which support her goal of expanding this program throughout Michigan.

Carol C. Rodriguez – San Antonio, TX

Director of Training and Development for the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB) where she leads the "Colegio", Community Economic Development Fellowship Program since 2010. The national program builds the capacity for the next generation of Latino leaders in the community development field. Carol has a long tenure at NALCAB and is dedicated to growing leadership in the Latino-serving organizations throughout the nation.

Yversha Roman – Rochester, NY

An assertive leader and strategist at the United Way of Greater Rochester, NY. Yversha is Senior Relationship Manager and Latino Leadership Development Program coordinator. The program has been operating for the past 20 years and has been instrumental in building the Latino community in the Rochester area. In addition to her B.S. degree in Social Work from Nazareth College, Yversha has an extraordinary background working with youth, persons with disabilities and health-based organizations.



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Isabel W. Rubio- Birmingham, AL

Founder of the Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama that works to change policy and creates opportunities for Latinos in the state. Isabel has grown the organization's influence from its founding in 2001 and has advised numerous Alabama private corporations on the attitudes, interests and policy issues of Latino customers. Isabel has a B.A. degree in History from the University of Southern Mississippi and a B.S. degree in Social Work from the University of Alabama.

Carlos Sanchez – Grand Rapids, MI

Director of the Latino Business and Economic Development Center where he leads the Latino Talent Initiative in Grand Rapids, MI. Latinx is an innovative leadership program designed to level the playing field to enable Latinos in western Michigan compete in the work and managerial labor market. The program covers four areas: Cultural Awareness, Professional Development, Leadership, and Civic Engagement. Carlos holds a B.A. Degree in Business Administration and is a Trustee of Grand Rapids Community College.