



**GRAND VIEW**  
UNIVERSITY

# MANIFEST YOUR HIGHEST DREAMS



**LW Media**  
Latin World Media

**2023 Academic Scholarship Award Ceremony & Dinner**

# Mission Statement

Latinos Unidos of Iowa is a non-profit organization with the goal of generating leadership and unity within Latin & Hispanic organizations in Iowa. Our main focus is promoting educational opportunities for students so they can obtain the knowledge needed to succeed! We support our scholarship recipients beyond their Associate or Bachelor's degrees; into Graduate Studies, Doctorates, Medical School, and or any specialty field of study.



*Latinos Unidos of Iowa*



# Master of Ceremony



*Reyna Immerfall*

*Latinos Unidos of Iowa*

# PRESENTERS



*Marisol Flores*



*Sonia Parras*

***Latinos Unidos of Iowa***

# ENTERTAINMENT



# PROFESIONAL FIELD OF STUDY



## Angelica Castro Bueno

### Ph.D. Student Counseling Psychology Program

Angelica Castro Bueno (*she/her/hers*) is a fifth-year Ph.D. student in the Counseling Psychology program at Iowa State University. Angelica was born in Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico and at 6 months old her family moved to the U.S. eventually settling in Salina, KS. Angelica's family includes her mom Bertha, dad Miguel, two sisters Jessica and Maria, and brother Miguel Jr. Her research interests focus on the experiences of undocumented immigrants in the Midwest and stigma related to mental-health help-seeking. In particular, as a DACA recipient herself, she is interested in how DACA recipients access mental health services and ways of reducing barriers to promote help-seeking. In her free time, Angelica enjoys gardening, true crime podcasts, doing puzzles, and spending time with her pups Coco and Bella.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY



# PROFESIONAL FIELD OF STUDY



Liz Vargas Perez

University Iowa  
College of Law - JD.

My name is Liz Vargas Perez, I was born and raised in Marshalltown, IA and my parents are from Michoacán, Mexico. My parents are Silvestre Vargas Gonzalez and Liz M Vargas, I am the oldest of my 3 siblings and a first generation student. My parents have always encouraged me to follow my dreams and pushed me to do my best in anything I decide to do. I plan to attend University of Iowa College of Law this fall to obtain my JD.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA



# PROFESIONAL FIELD OF STUDY



Wendy Alvarez

Master's Degree in Public  
Administration

"My name is Wendy Alvarez and my parents immigrated to the United States from Chihuahua, Mexico in 1992. My parents raised my two brothers and I here in Iowa. I am now married and currently focusing on my career as a Family Support Worker. I'm excited to attend Drake University this Fall and pursue the Masters in Public Administration program. "

DRAKE UNIVERSITY





# PROFESIONAL FIELD OF STUDY



## Juan Daniel Lopez Master of Accountancy

My name is JuanDaniel Lopez and I am from Osceola, IA. I will be graduating from the University of Northern Iowa in May. I will receive my degree in Accounting with plans to work in public accounting for the fast pace experience and then transition into the private sector as well as teach part-time at DMACC."

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA



# FOUR-YEAR MATCHING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



## Jenna Hernandez

### Biochemistry and Biology

Hello all! I am Jenna Hernandez and I am from Slater, Iowa. I currently attend Central College and am studying Biochemistry and Biology with a minor in Spanish. I have applied to Dental school this year and I am currently in the interview process. I love being outside, playing tennis, and spending time with my family. I am an only child so I get all the love from my parents, John and Shari Hernandez. I am very thankful for the continued support from Latinos Unidos of Iowa to support my education. It is truly an honor to be a recipient of this award.

**CENTRAL COLLEGE**



# FOUR-YEAR MATCHING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



## Noemi Vega

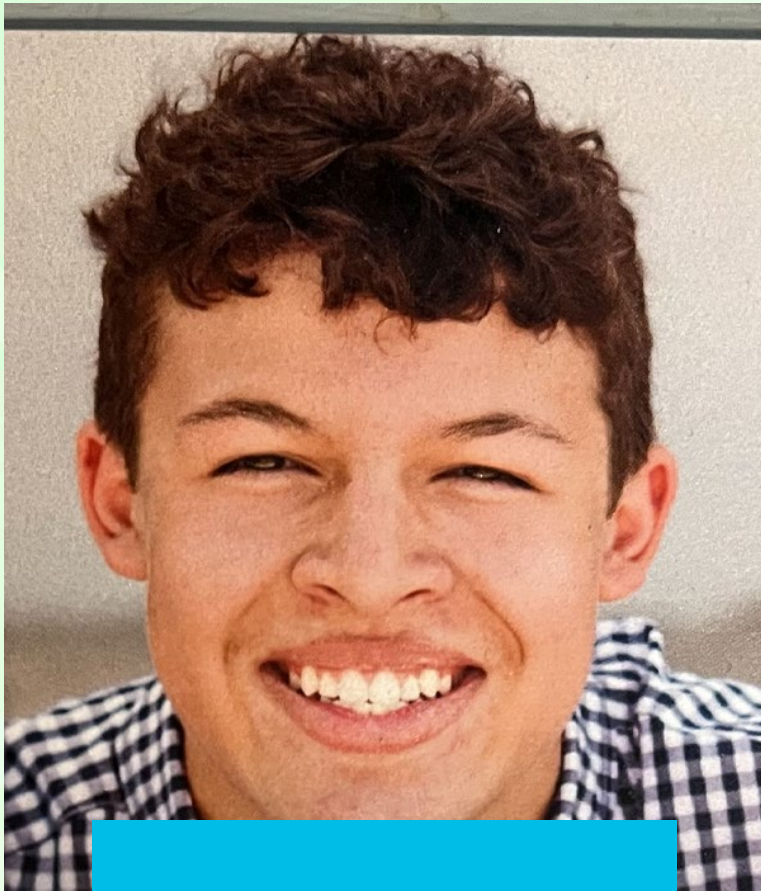
### Sociology and Communications

My name is Noemi Vega, and I am a first-generation college student at Central College. I was born and raised in Osceola, Iowa but my mom and dad are both from Jalisco, Mexico. I have two siblings, my oldest sister is in the Airforce and my younger brother is beginning his senior year in high school. Thanks to my hard working and selfless mom, my siblings and I were able to get the education my mom was never able to. I plan on double majoring in sociology and communications. I am blessed to have the support of Latinos Unidos and I am thrilled to continue representing Latinas in higher education!

**CENTRAL COLLEGE**



# FOUR-YEAR MATCHING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



## Luka Flores

### Liberal Arts

My name is Luka Flores. My family has origins in Honduras. I will be attending Central College, although my major is undecided.

# CENTRAL COLLEGE



# FOUR-YEAR MATCHING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



## Andrea Alvarado

### Nursing

Andrea Alvarado was born in Salinas, California. She grew up in Marshalltown, Iowa, where she attended Marshalltown Community College and earned her Associate of Arts. She was very involved while in college being part of multiple clubs like The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), TRIO Student Support Service, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), Honors, and many others. She is currently enrolled at Grand View University in Des Moines, where she plans to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She feels blessed to be able to continue her education with the support of her family. Andrea's parents are both from Mexico. She feels proud to be part of two wonderful countries such as the United States and Mexico. She is also the youngest of five siblings and the first in her family to attend college.

**GRAND VIEW UNIVERSITY**



# FOUR-YEAR MATCHING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



## Jesus Martinez Aviles

### Communications & Media Practice

My name is Jesus Martinez-Aviles and I am an immigrant from Nuevo Guerrero, Mexico. I came to the US at a very young age so Iowa has always been my home. My family is a mix of Mexican and Salvadoran heritage and all of my siblings and I have grown up on the East side of Des Moines. This will be my 3rd year at Grand View University and I am studying Communications and Media Practice with a minor in English and Spanish!

**GRAND VIEW UNIVERSITY**



# FOUR-YEAR MATCHING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



## Carlos Ochoa

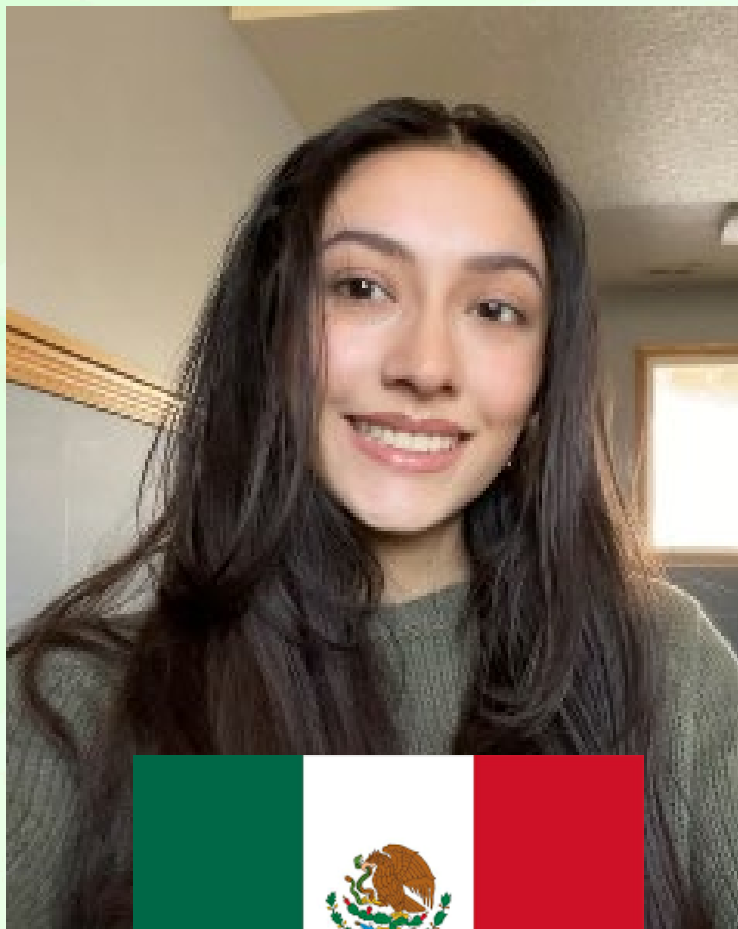
### Computer Science & Math

My name is Carlos Ochoa. I am of Mexican origin from my mother's side, and Salvadoran origin from my father's side. I am the oldest out of six siblings. I am currently attending my senior year at Grand View University as a Computer Science major and minoring in Mathematics.

# GRAND VIEW UNIVERSITY



# FOUR-YEAR MATCHING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



## GISELLE YEPIZ

### Biology

My name is Giselle Yepiz. My country of origin is Mexico. My father is an Mexican immigrant and my mother is a first generation Mexican immigrant. I'm a first generation, student at Grandview University. I'm currently obtaining my bachelors degree in Biology with a minor in Spanish. I currently work as a vet assistant. My plans are to attend vet school and become a bilingual veterinarian.

**GRAND VIEW UNIVERSITY**





# FOUR-YEAR MATCHING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



## Caroline Pugh

### Diagnostic Medical Sonography

I was born and raised in a small city in the state of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. I am a first generation immigrant and college student. In 2018, I started attending college in Michigan at Oakland Community College, where I took my ESL classes and prerequisites for the DMS (Diagnostic Medical Sonography) program. I then moved to Iowa in 2021 and was later accepted into the sonography program at Mercy College of Health Sciences. I started my program in the fall of 2022 and am set to graduate in the spring of 2024. Going to college, especially in a foreign country, is something that I never expected to happen to me, and I am very excited for the support provided by Latinos Unidos of Iowa to help me pursue this goal!

**MERCY**



# Participating Colleges & Universities



## Brenda Medel Martinez

### Business & Marketing

My name is Brenda Medel. My family's country of origin is Mexico. We are a family of 6 including my mom who I have everything to thank her for. We have always been there for each other in good times and bad. I plan to attend Buena Vista University. My major I am working towards is business concentration in marketing.

**BUENA VISTA UNIVERSITY**



# Participating Colleges & Universities



## Juanita Tibocha

### Psychology

My name is Juanita Tibocha, I am from Bogota, Colombia, I'm the youngest in 5 children and I am currently 19 years old, I am attending Clark University in Dubuque, Iowa, my major is psychology, I am currently a Junior and I'm also part of the soccer program.

**CLARK UNIVERSITY**



# Participating Colleges & Universities



## Dania Nicoleth Larios

### Pharmacy

My name is Dania Nicoleth Larios. My parents are both from Mexico. I am the youngest of six. The oldest being my sister, followed by four brothers. I will be attending Drake University and my major will be Pre-pharmacy.

**DRAKE UNIVERSITY**



# Participating Colleges & Universities



## Carlos Jose Perez

### Mechanical Engineering

My name is Carlos Jose Perez, I was born in Los Angeles, California on October 3rd, 2004. My mother, Karen Salvador originated from San Salvador, El Salvador. While my father, Carlos Perez originated from La Paz, El Salvador. My family arrived in the United States about 22 years ago, they met in Los Angeles, California and got married in 2004. Afterward, my family moved to Des Moines, Iowa in 2006. I also have a younger brother, Kevin Perez who's currently going to be a senior at East High School this year. I graduated from East high last May and I'll be attending Iowa State University on August 21st. I plan on majoring in Mechanical Engineering for the Automotive field.

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY



# Participating Colleges & Universities



## Julieana Munoz

### Marketing & Public Relations

My name is Julieana Munoz, I was born and raised in Des Moines, Iowa by my two amazing parents, who are from El Salvador and Mexico. I am the youngest of five children and a first-generation college student. My family is my biggest support system. I would not be able to pursue my educational and life goals without them continuously cheering me on. I am a rising Junior at Iowa State University studying Marketing and Public Relations. Opportunities like this are such an important factor in the ability to reach my educational goals and I extend my utmost gratitude to Latinos Unidos of Iowa for granting me this honor!

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**



# Participating Colleges & Universities

## Brandy Lopez

### Human Physiology



Hello! My name is Brandy Lopez and I'm a freshman at the University of Iowa. I feel honored to be a recipient of the 2023 Latinos Unidos of Iowa Scholarship as it will be a great support throughout my studies. I am a Human Physiology major in the Pre-Med track with a minor in Global Health Studies. I'm the youngest of 4, all of which are West Liberty High School alumni. My two oldest siblings are University of Iowa alumni and the other a Muscatine Community College alumna. I chose to study at the University of Iowa because growing up it has always felt like home and they provide great support to first generation students like myself. With that being said, my father was born in Durango, Mexico and my mother in Chicago, Illinois. I am very fortunate to be able to go to college and further my education. At an early age, I knew that I wanted to care for those in need of medical attention. During the pandemic, that passion grew when I realized that healthcare is needed worldwide, no matter the circumstance or background of an individual. So accordingly, I hope to earn a medical degree and travel internationally to be of service to the underserved and providing the health care they deserve. With the help of this scholarship, I feel confident that I will be able to achieve just that!

**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**



# Participating Colleges & Universities



## Allyxandria Phongsavanh

### Enterprise Leadership & Minor in Spanish

My name is Allyxandria Phongsavanh, but you can call me Ally. My country of origin is Mexico. I come from a loving family that includes my parents, two sisters, and myself. We have a strong appreciation for Mexican traditions and family gatherings always include our favorite authentic dishes. I am currently enrolled at the University of Iowa, pursuing a major in Enterprise Leadership and a minor in Spanish.

**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**





# Participating Colleges & Universities



## Stephanie Cortes

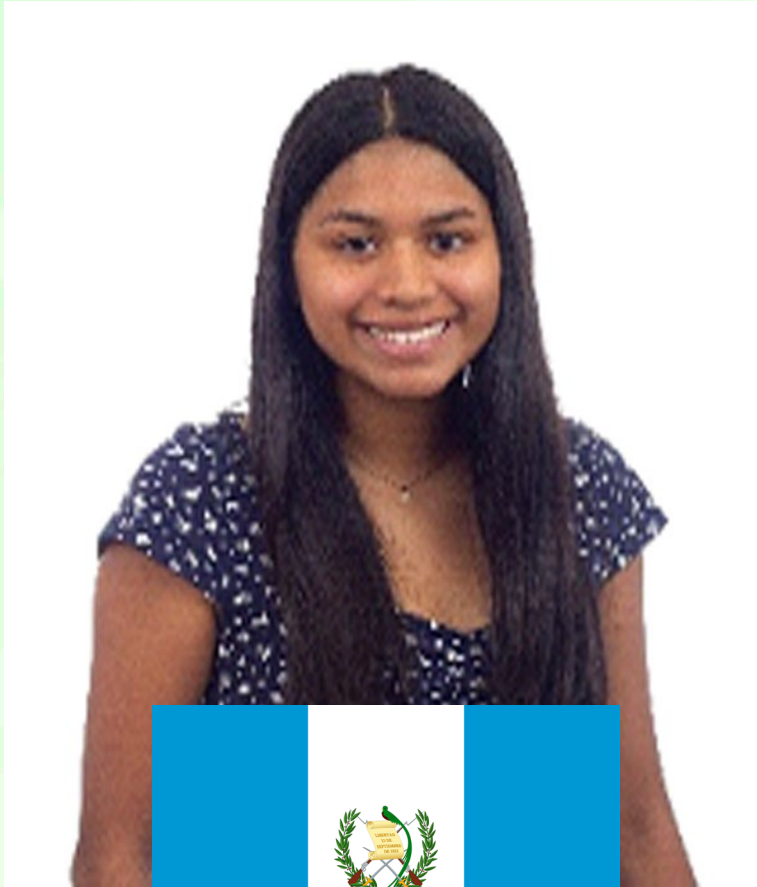
### Biology & Psychology

My name is Stephanie Cortes. I was born in the United States, but both of my parents are originally from Mexico. My culture and beliefs have formed my identity; I am proud to be Hispanic, and I embrace my Mexican heritage. My family is my motivation to continue learning. Growing up, my parents have always made education a priority. Being the oldest out of four children, I have to set the example for my siblings, which is why I am attending Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. I am majoring in Biology and Psychology and pursuing the Pre-Med program. My ultimate goal is to become a pediatrician and use my skills to help those in need.

**LORAS COLLEGE**



# Participating Colleges & Universities



## Maya Warren

### Visual Communications & Nordic Studies

My name is Maya Warren. I was born in Tiquisate, Guatemala and moved to Iowa with my mom when I was seven months old. I am currently a junior at Luther College in Decorah, where I am a double major in visual communications and Nordic studies.

**LUTHER COLLEGE**



# Participating Colleges & Universities



## Pablo Cuevas Montes

### Elementary Education

I am Mexican American. Born in the United States but I carry the blood of Mexican parents. A little about your family: I love my family, family is very important in my life. Both my parents couldn't earn their high school diploma due to all the obstacles they had to go through. They are both warriors for the hardships they had to go through. A big reason why I pursued an education after high school was because of them.

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA**



# COMMUNITY COLLEGES



## Valentina Del Carmen Weihe Schirrmeister

### Biology

My name is Valentina Del Carmen Weihe Schirrmeister. I live in Iowa with my mother; Fabiola Schirrmeister, brother; Chris, father; Christopher Weihe and German Shepard Lobo. I will be attending DMACC with a Biology major!

DMACC



# COMMUNITY COLLEGES

## Dayana Nicole Marinero Cea

### Graphic Design

My name is Dayana Nicole Marinero Cea. I was born and raised in El Salvador and came to the United States in 2015. I am a Graphic Designer in the state of Iowa in which I help immigrant Iowans like myself be able to accomplish their American Dream through design. I am currently attending DMACC to continue my education and accomplishing my dream of becoming a pediatrician. My hope with this career is to provide quality healthcare to children at a low cost for immigrant and low income parents.”



DMACC



# COMMUNITY COLLEGES



Denise Villatoro

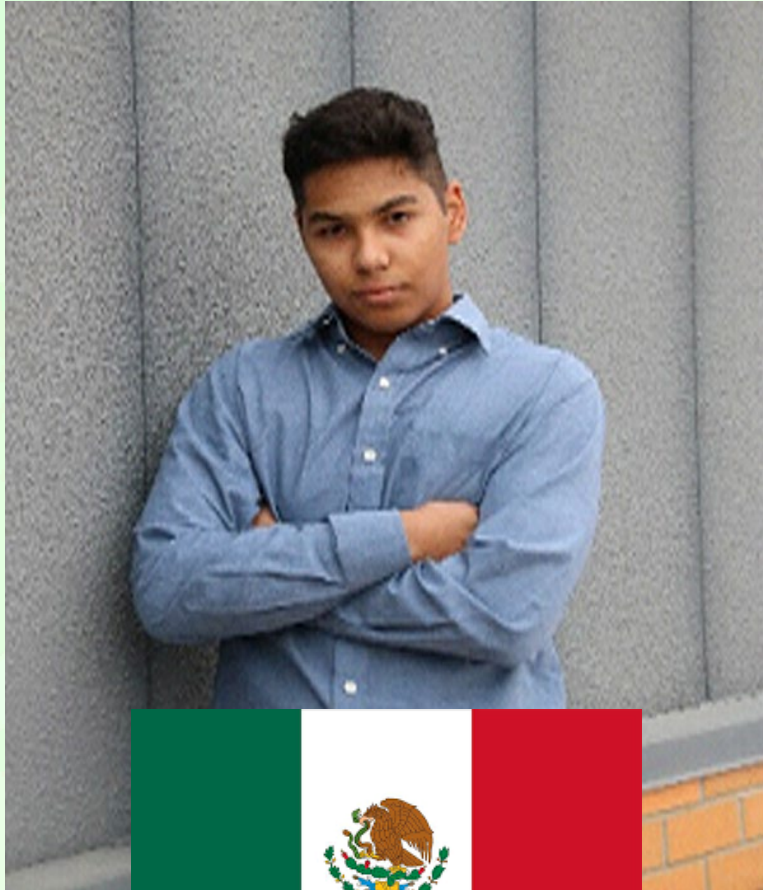
Software Engineering

I was born and raised in Des Moines and am one of a family of eight. I'm a proud first-generation student whose parents are from Guatemala. I'm currently a desktop specialist in IT but plan to obtain my bachelor's degree in computer science in pursuit of a career in software engineering. My current field(s) of study are AS and CIS at DMACC.

DMACC



# COMMUNITY COLLEGES



## Victor Daniel Escobedo Pimentel Automotive Engineer

From the age of 5, since I remember I wanted to study to drive a car. My parents explained to me that you don't have to go to university for that. At 7 years old I was driving a track race car, I went out to play in the street and all my neighbors and friends got into the car. At the age of 9 I understood that what I wanted to study was to be an Automotive Engineer. I went to primary school always drawing cars and reading about mechanics. I came to live in the USA and I continued with my goal. I went to study at high school and I kept reading about Automotive, my challenge to myself is to be an Automotive Engineer and I have never changed my mind and I keep fighting for my dream, in grade 12 I went to college to take classes as automotive mechanic, and repaired in One year of College several cars, I repaired my father's transmission in his car and it was a successful.

Iowa Lakes Community College



# COMMUNITY COLLEGES



## Fabien Rivera

### H.V.A.C.

My name is Fabian Rivera, I was born here in Iowa, but my parents come Jalisco and the City of México. My father works as a maintenance inspector at an egg farm, and my mother stays at home and crocheting to sell as a hobby, I plan on attending at NIACC and will be taking HVAC.

NIACC





# COMMUNITY COLLEGES



Yamileth Ramirez

Liberal Arts

I'm Yamileth Ramirez and was born in the United States. My family consists of my mother, father and three older brothers. I plan on attending DMACC and will major in Liberal Arts.

**DMACC/EVELYN DAVIS CENTER FOR WORKING FAMILIES  
2 SPECIAL Urban Campus Award 2024 Spring**



# COMMUNITY COLLEGES

## Priscila Suarez Nutrition



My name is Priscila Suárez, I am 21 years old, I have been living here in the United States for 1 year and 6 months, it has been a great change for me, moving from one country to another, even adapting to the language, since I graduated from high school my most My great aspiration has been to study Nutrition, I was saddened when I found out that due to lack of financial resources I could not go to the University, having two jobs at the same time is not enough and it is very difficult, I thought that perhaps I should just forget about that dream, that is why I see myself in the need to formally request a scholarship before you so as not to leave this dream aside and with enthusiasm to improve myself and fulfill it.

I describe myself as a responsible, sociable, cheerful, honest, diligent, decisive, visionary and reliable person. I like to paint, read, cook, dance, exercise, see landscapes with their beautiful colors and discover new things, investigate topics in depth, Learning to teach others is my greatest passion, I have been living here in the United States for 1 year and 6 months, it has been a great change for me, moving from one country to another, even adapting to the language, since I was studying in high school until I I graduated my greatest aspiration has been to study Nutrition, learn the English language and with my degree to be able to support my family achieving this dream will be one of my greatest desires finally come true, I am sure that university life will be a path of New knowledge and great challenges. I have waited for this moment for a long time. What motivates me to move forward is my family and the desire to improve myself and become a great professional in the career that I decided to undertake.

**DMACC/EVELYN DAVIS CENTER FOR WORKING FAMILIES**  
**2 SPECIAL Urban Campus Award 2024 Spring**



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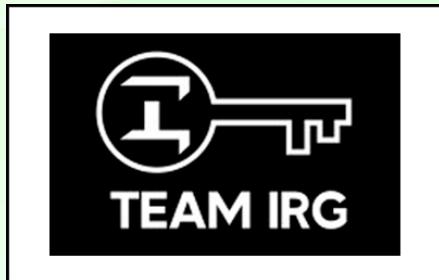
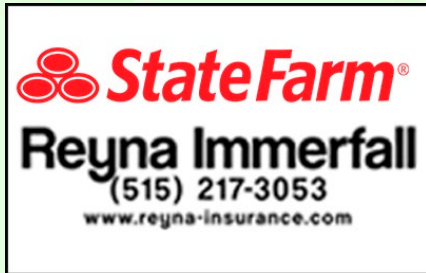
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