



"We are a diverse organization that promotes a united community, positive change, and achievement."

Latinos Unidos of Iowa, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Latinos Unidos was founded in 1989 by **Lena Avila-Robison** with the mission of providing support to Hispanics and Latinos in central Iowa. Over the years, the organization's mission has changed to reflect the greater diversity of Latinos in Iowa and the needs for community building and educational access. The current focus is on education and employment in skilled occupations and professions.

Latinos Unidos offers these activities and services:

- two community-sponsored scholarship programs for Latinas/os who seek education beyond high school in Iowa. One program is directed specifically at Mercy College of Des Moines & its offerings in health care services.



- resource fairs that acquaint Latinos and others with employers, especially those that make a diverse workforce part of their mission.

- fund-raising for special events and needs. In 2005 and 2006, Latinos Unidos partnered with community sponsors & the **Des Moines Public Library** in a Books in Spanish program that will make more library materials available in Spanish and promote greater use of the library among Latinos.





- *a conference* that addresses the issues faced by Hispanics & Latinos in Iowa & that promotes a positive image for people of Latin American origin.
- *Officers & board members* who reflect a wide range of agencies, businesses, community programs, employers, & educational institutions, & whose experience & leadership make Latinos Unidos a leading organization for supporting Hispanics & Latinos

2006-2007 Officers

Lena Avila-Robison, *President & Founder* (Iowa Civil Rights Commission)

Leland Searles, *Vice President* (Instructor, Des Moines Area Cmty. Coll.)

Nicole Bleckwehl, *Secretary* (New Iowan Centers/Iowa Workforce Development)

Kara Perez, *Treasurer* (Wells Fargo Bank)

Ann Morris, *Public Relations Coordinator* (Iowa Workforce Development)

Board of Directors

Barbara Quijano Decker, Mercy College

Maria Heidebrecht, United Parcel Service

Eric Idehen, Wells Fargo Financial

Claudia Soto Schabel, Principal Financial

Jerry Tormey

For more information about when our upcoming events will be held, for scholarship applications, membership in Latinos Unidos, or to assist us through sponsorship, please get in touch with us:

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