

Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot uneducate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore. We have seen the future, and the future is ours.

-Unknown

Let's get ready  
to go to and  
through college  
successfully!



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**A dream doesn't become reality  
through magic; it takes sweat,  
determination and hard work.**

**-Colin Powell**



**ALMA**  
ASSOCIATION FOR LATINO MEN  
IN ACADEMIA



UNIVERSITY OF  
WISCONSIN  
OSHKOSH

## Introduction

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The Association for Latino Men in Academia (ALMA) is an outreach program that focuses on retaining and graduating Latino men at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. The program seeks to inspire, promote and prepare students through leadership, cultural and educational activities. ALMA is designed to help Latino men on campus who would otherwise not have the insight, support, or necessary social networks to succeed on their academic journey. ALMA also supports the notion that Latino students who have been successful and have prevailed, mentor the upcoming students in the program.

## Need for Program

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In an article written by Gustavo A. Mellander (Hispanic Outlook, October 2015), states that Latino/Hispanic men are not going to college and if they do, they have a very high dropout rate. "In a word, their participation is anemic as it is nationwide."

They lag behind the general population, even behind Latinas. What's sad about this is that those Latino/Hispanic students that drop out carry the burden of a presumed failure. Some of these students become alienated, anti-social and find mediocre jobs with low wages.

Latinos/Hispanics are the fastest growing population in the United States despite its slowing growth rate, reaching a record 58.6 million in 2017, according to the Census Bureau's latest estimates, thus playing a

significant role in the nation's population trends (August 3, 2017). However, the educational achievement for this population has not kept pace with this increase. Participation in ALMA will help Latino/Hispanic men go to and through college successfully!

## Contributing Factors

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An article in the Journal of Hispanic Education entitled, The Vanishing Latino Male in Higher Education, states that there are factors that account for the differences in the educational attainment of Latino males. These include:

- Childhood educational school experiences between boys and girls.
- Cultural and gender norms within the Latino community.
- Factors that facilitate college access and degree attainment.
- Alternative career pathways.

## Purpose

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- To assist with personal growth and development.
- To empower students to continue with their professional careers.
- To enhance retention and graduation of Latino/Hispanic men on campus.
- To instill a sense of pride among all Latino/Hispanic men on campus.

### Activities

- Latino/Hispanic men support group meetings.
- Leadership development programs.
- Cultural understanding and enrichment.
- Presenters and speakers on topics relevant to Latino/Hispanic students.
- Pathways to success strategies.

## If you are interested in becoming an ALMA Scholar

Contact Victor Alatorre, ALMA Program Facilitator at [alatorrev@uwosh.edu](mailto:alatorrev@uwosh.edu) or Irma Burgos, Latin@x/Hispanic Coordinator at [burgos@uwosh.edu](mailto:burgos@uwosh.edu)

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