

The Julian Samora Research Institute

The Midwest's Premier Latino Research Center



2008-2009 Recipients of the Julian Samora Endowed Scholarship

Each year the Julian Samora Endowed Scholarship, founded by Julian Samora in 1993, provides support to one undergraduate and one graduate student engaged in scholarly activities focusing on Latinos in midwestern communities. The recipients for the 2008–09 academic year are Marisa Crystal Cuevas and David Cordova.

Marisa Crystal Cuevas is a native of Los Angeles and is currently in her first year of law school at the Michigan State University College of Law. She studied sociology at the University of California-Berkeley where she was the Chair of the Associated Students of University of California Judicial Council. After she finishes law school, Cuevas envisions returning to Los Angeles and becoming an Assistant District Attorney.

David Cordova earned his bachelor's degree in Psychology from San Diego State University, a master's degree from Alliant International University, and is a doctoral candidate in MSU's Department of Family and Child Ecology. A student member of the National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse, his research and clinical interests are in developing, implementing, and evaluating culturally appropriate prevention interventions for high-risk Latina/o families. He works as a Research Intern on studies funded by the Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), which is part of the National Institute of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. Cordova provides clinical services and evaluates data as part of a 5-year SAMHSA study examining the effectiveness of an evidence-based prevention intervention for substance abuse, HIV, and hepatitis in high-risk Latina/o youth. He was awarded the 2008 Student of the Year Award by the Michigan Association for Marriage and Family Therapists, Outstanding Student Paper Award at the National Council of Family Relations, and a fellowship from the National Institute of Drug Abuse Summer Research Training Institute. He is a fellow of the SAMHSA Minority Fellowship Program.