



## 2012-2013 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 2012-13 academic year are Alma Ramirez and Bette Avila.

**Alma Ramirez**, a sophomore at MSU, aspires to have a successful career in finance. Alma is from a family of farm workers in Watervliet, MI, and came to MSU through its College Assistance Migrant Scholars Program (CAMP). Due to the financial hardships she has witnessed within Latino communities, her goals include assisting Latinos in the pursuit of their dreams by educating them on such matters as retirement planning, which many Latinos seldom engage in early in their work lives. She also hopes to inspire younger Latinos and Latinas to pursue a higher education degree. Alma is an active member of several student organizations on campus. She is involved with Culturas de las Razas Unidas (CRU), the Rising Farmworkers Dream Fund (an organization for business students aimed at educating students -- and families through the students -- on how to best manage and invest their money), and the Native American Hispanic Business Students.



**Bette Avila** was born and raised in Michigan. She attended MSU, where she earned her bachelor's degree in political science and international relations with a focus on Latin America. Upon completing her undergraduate degree, she moved to New York City, where she obtained her master's degree in public administration from Baruch College and worked for NYC's Office of Management and Budget. Realizing that budgeting did not provide her with enough opportunities to apply her policy skills in ways that would help make the world better, Bette returned to MSU and enrolled in the doctoral program in the Department of Sociology. Her personal research interests are domestic violence and the specific hurdles that Latina immigrants face in resolving these conflicts. She has worked on several projects at JSRI focusing on Latino entrepreneurship and is currently working at Michigan State University Extension Health and Nutrition.

