



2015-2016 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 2015-16 academic year are Carolina Vasquez and Gabriela López-Zerón.



Carolina Vasquez is a senior at MSU majoring in Social Work. She was born and raised in Michoacán, Mexico and in 2005 moved to the United States in pursuit of opportunities for a better life. Once in the United States, she faced language barriers that motivated her to enroll at Lansing Community College (LCC) to attend English as a Second Language classes (ESL). After completing ESL classes, she took the required courses to transfer to Michigan State University. She is an Undergraduate Student Researcher in the College of Social Sciences and hopes one day to become an academic advisor at a major university. She hopes to inspire young people, especially Latinos, to pursue a higher education degree and motivate youth in general to continue their education.

Gabriela López-Zerón is a second-year doctoral student in Human Development and Family Studies with a concentration in Couple and Family Therapy. She is an Honduran-born Latina committed to the reduction of health disparities among Latino communities. Gabriela is the project manager for a study funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) focused on the cultural adaptation of an evidence-based parenting intervention for Latino immigrant parents with adolescent children in Detroit, MI. She is actively involved in the community through her service and research. She is a practicing clinician who delivers mental health services to a wide range of clients in the greater Lansing community, including low-income, Spanish-speaking individuals, couples, and families.

