



## 2016-2017 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 2016–17 academic year are Gabriella Sanford and Adriana Flores.



**Gabriella Sanford** is a junior in the James Madison College at MSU where she is majoring in Comparative Cultures and Politics with a minor in Spanish. She grew up with her Honduran mother and two siblings, and has witnessed many of her extended family members immigrate to the United States for family unification or work opportunities. Having seen their struggles, she is interested in helping immigrant women and children in the United States gain access to education, housing, and other opportunities that many of her family members lack. During her time at MSU, she has worked with underprivileged high school students through MSU Upward Bound, many of them Latino/as, and hopes to continue doing this after graduation. Additionally, she is a strong advocate for reforming U.S. policies toward Central America and wants refugee status to be granted to minor children fleeing widespread violence from countries such as Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. Also, she condemns the Obama Administration for using ICE raids to detain and deport families back to countries where they may become victims of violence.

**Adriana Flores** is a second year student in the Advanced Standing Social Work program at MSU with a concentration in Organizational Community Leadership. She is a US-born Latina who lived in and taught English to the Guatemalan community for a year. In the social work program she considers it important to raise public awareness of issues facing the Latino population. She served as the President of the Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society and reorganized the Student Organization of Latino Social Workers (SOLASW). In these positions, she organized several service projects in the community to give members applied experiences in helping others. Currently, she is working on a research project with Dr. Pilar Horner focused on the retention of Master of Social Work Latino students, mentoring, and collaboratively linking Lansing Latino high school students with university social work students. After obtaining her degree she would like to open a nonprofit organization that would educate young women on leadership and community activism, which would be instrumental in meeting the growing needs of Latinas.

