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MAKING THEM LESS HUMAN MAKES VIOLENCE POSSIBLE

HACERLOS MENOS HUMANOS HACE POSIBLE LA VIOLENCIA



By Dr. José A. Flores

From the earliest U.S. wars — including the American Indian Wars of conquest and the era of Westward Expansion — public language softened the brutality of conflict by reshaping the people on the receiving end. Indigenous nations were routinely described as savages, beasts, or obstacles to progress, language that made it easier to justify forced removals, massacres of families, and policies that exposed entire communities to deadly diseases. By reducing human beings to something less than human, the nation created a moral framework in which dispossession and mass death could be seen as inevitable, even necessary.

This pattern did not end with the frontier. Throughout U.S. history, the language of conflict has repeatedly transformed entire peoples into abstractions that make violence feel acceptable. During World War II, Japanese civilians were portrayed as vermin or caricatures, imagery that helped justify internment and the firebombing of cities. In Korea and Vietnam, slurs became part of military vocabulary, collapsing millions of civilians into a single hostile category. After 9/11, the phrase “collateral damage” entered public discourse as a way to describe the deaths of families in Iraq and Afghanistan without confronting the human cost. Again and again, the words we choose have made it easier to look away from suffering we would otherwise recognize as our own.

We see this same pattern today in the language used to describe people who are not enemies in any formal sense but are treated as if they were. Immigrants are routinely reduced to labels like “illegals,” “criminal aliens,” or “invaders,” terms that erase individuality and cast entire communities as threats. Militarized raids carried out by masked agents reinforce this framing visually, transforming neighborhoods into battlefields and families into targets. Social movements, too, are increasingly described through the vocabulary of extremism, with decentralized activist networks portrayed as coordinated dangers rather than citizens exercising their rights. These labels do more than categorize — they prepare the public to accept harsh treatment as normal, even necessary.

The consequences of this language are not theoretical; they are measured in human lives. When entire groups are framed as threats rather than people, the threshold for state violence drops dramatically. Public reporting has documented nearly one hundred Venezuelans killed in military strikes without arrest, detention, or due process — deaths justified through labels like “narcoterrorist,” which collapse political, economic, and humanitarian realities into a single criminal identity. Once a population is linguistically transformed into a danger, the public becomes more willing to accept actions that would otherwise violate our own stated principles of justice and human rights. The pattern is painfully familiar: dehumanizing lan-

guage clears the moral ground for policies that treat human beings as disposable.

We keep returning to these rhetorical tools because they are efficient. Dehumanizing language simplifies complex realities and makes harsh actions feel not only permissible but necessary. It is easier to justify a bombing when the victims are called “terrorists,” easier to defend a raid when the people inside are labeled “illegals,” easier to dismiss a protest when its participants are branded “extremists.” These words do more than describe conflict — they con-

struct a moral universe in which cruelty appears rational, even responsible. And unless we confront this habit directly, we risk repeating the darkest chapters of our history under new names.

If we want to break this cycle, we must begin by interrogating the words we use to describe those we fear or oppose. We should ask ourselves: Who benefits when people are reduced to labels? What actions become possible once a group is framed as less than human? What history are we repeating — and at whose expense? Introspection is not weakness. It is the first step toward refusing the narratives that make cruelty seem inevitable. Our nation has walked this path before. We do not have to walk it again.

Desde las primeras guerras de Estados Unidos —incluyendo las Guerras Indias de conquista y la era de la Expansión hacia el Oeste— el lenguaje público suavizó la brutalidad del conflicto al remodelar a las personas que estaban del otro lado. Las naciones indígenas fueron descritas rutinariamente como salvajes, bestias u obstáculos para el progreso, un lenguaje que facilitó justificar desplazamientos forzados, masacres de familias y políticas que expusieron a comunidades enteras a enfermedades mortales. Al reducir a los

seres humanos a algo menos que humanos, la nación creó un marco moral en el que el despojo y la muerte masiva podían verse como inevitables, incluso necesarias.

Este patrón no terminó con la frontera. A lo largo de la historia de Estados Unidos, el lenguaje del conflicto ha transformado repetidamente a pueblos enteros en abstracciones que hacen que la violencia parezca aceptable. Durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial, los civiles japoneses fueron retratados como alimañas o caricaturas, imágenes que ayudaron a justificar el internamiento y el bombardeo incendiario de ciudades. En Corea y Vietnam, los insultos se convirtieron en parte del vocabulario militar, colapsando a millones de civiles en una sola categoría hostil. Después del 11 de septiembre, la frase “daño colateral” entró en el discurso público como una forma de describir las muertes de familias en Irak y Afganistán sin enfrentar el costo humano. Una y otra vez, las palabras que elegimos han facilitado apartar la mirada del sufrimiento que de otro modo reconoceríamos como propio.

THE WORDS THAT MAKE VIOLENCE POSSIBLE

LAS PALABRAS QUE HACEN POSIBLE LA VIOLENCIA

- 1. Indigenous Peoples (1600s–1800s)**
“Savages,” “hostiles”
Justified removals, massacres, land seizure.
- 2. Mexican–American War (1846–1848)**
“Greasers,” “banditos”
Framed conquest as moral and inevitable.
- 3. Westward Expansion (1860s–1890s)**
“Obstacles to progress”
Normalized genocidio y desplazamientos forzosos.
- 4. World War II (1941–1945)**
“Japs,” “Nips”
Enabled internamiento y tácticas brutales.
- 5. Korea & Vietnam (1950–1975)**
“Gooks,” “slopes”
Collapsed civilians into enemy categories.
- 6. War on Drugs (1980s–1990s)**
“Superpredators,” narcostates”
Superdepredadores, “narcoestados.”
- 7. Global War on Terror (2001–2021)**
“Terrorists,” “collateral damage”
Normalized drone strikes and militaria policing.
- 8. Immigrants (2010s–Present)**
“Extremists” “domesthreats”
Enabled surveillance of social movimientos.
- 9. Activists (2010s–Present)**
“Extremists,” “domestic threats”
Enabled surveillance of social movimientos.
- 10. Venezuelans (2020s)**
“Narcoterroristas,”
Nearly 100 killed without due proceso.

LANGUAGE SHAPES WHO WE SEE AS HUMAN.

EL LENGUAJE DETERMINA A QUIEN VEMOS COMO HUMANO



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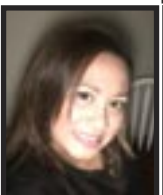
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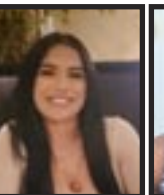
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Identidad Bilingüe entre la Juventud Latina de los EE. UU.

Bilingual Identity Among Latino Youth in the U.S.



By Edgar León

Cada día, en los salones de clase de las escuelas públicas y los vecindarios llenos de vida que se extienden a lo largo y ancho de Estados Unidos, presenciemos el crecimiento de una nueva generación de jóvenes latinos que están redefiniendo lo que significa ser americano. Estos muchachos cargan sobre sus hombros el peso y la belleza de una herencia cultural Latina y diversa, al mismo tiempo, persiguen con determinación las oportunidades ilimitadas que ofrece el sueño americano. Lo que a veces ignoramos es que su capacidad de moverse fácilmente entre dos idiomas y dos mundos culturales, algo que muchos ven erróneamente como un obstáculo o una desventaja, resulta ser en realidad su arma secreta más poderosa en este siglo XXI cada vez más globalizado e interconectado.

Contrario a lo que algunos podrían pensar, los latinos no ocupamos un lugar secundario de servidumbre en la sociedad estadounidense. Tampoco somos todos indocumentados que se esconden por miedo a que los agentes de ICE los secuestre en sus autobuses y los vuele de forma involuntaria sin respetar sus derechos a países que no necesariamente son de su origen. Somos una fuerza transformadora que impulsa la nación hacia adelante en múltiples frentes.

Soy fiel testigo de que podemos hacerlo aun con todas las limitaciones, discriminación, abusos y trabas que recibimos en nuestra jornada hacia el éxito. Me fui de Puerto Rico a Michigan por primera vez en enero de 1976 donde lo único que tenía eran \$200.00 dólares y una beca para estudiar la maestría en la Universidad del Estado de Michigan. Gracias a que dominaba ambos idiomas pude tomar mis cursos y unirme a otros latinos del mundo para poder sobrevivir el ambiente solitario de un latino en un estado donde veían a los latinos como campesinos migrantes.

El acento de un latino cuando habla inglés era tratado diferente a un acento de una persona de la India, Alemania o de la China. El acento latino se tomaba como una deficiencia de capacidad mientras que los acentos de Asia y Europa se tomaban como algo valioso y se asumía una superioridad académica automática. Durante décadas los latinos hemos luchado y sobrevivido a pesar de la situación discriminatoria y rechazadora. Me doy cuenta hoy que todavía en el siglo 21 no ha cambiado mucho la manera de pensar hacia los latinos una gran parte de la sociedad americana. Esto puede ser porque hasta el presidente ve a los latinos como delincuentes, violadores y personas sin valor propio que vienen a robar a la nación americana. Tal vez las películas y las series de televisión han servido para perpetuar el discrimin y el pensamiento de desconfianza hacia los latinos al creer que somos de una ganga, vendemos drogas y somos sicarios.

En este nuevo año 2026 tenemos que juntarnos como familia Latina. Hay que ayudar a nuestros amigos y familiares para que se sientan seguros y motivados a seguir adelante con sus sueños. Tenemos que sentirnos orgullosos de nuestra raza, nuestra música, nuestros artistas, nuestros escritores, nuestros periodistas, nuestros maestros, nuestros científicos, nuestro hombres y mujeres de negocios. Cada padre latino debe hacer valer su cultura y no rechazar sus raíces para que sus niños no se sientan inferior a los otros niños. Hay que ayudar a desarrollar sus sueños y su creatividad. Recuerden que la esclavitud comienza con limitarles el conocimiento del idioma para que no se puedan leer nada ni comunicarse correctamente y de esta

manera se queden sin la oportunidad de competir globalmente en el futuro por una vida más digna.

El regalo más valioso que pueden hacer los padres es enseñar a leer a sus niños en español y en Inglés. Esto hay que hacerlo antes que se apunten en la escuela.



Cuando miramos el impacto económico, las cifras resultan verdaderamente impresionantes y deberían llenarnos de orgullo: si los 68 millones de latinos que vivimos en Estados Unidos formáramos un país independiente, nuestro producto interno bruto superaría los tres puntos dos billones de dólares, lo cual nos posicionaría como la quinta economía más grande del planeta, por encima de potencias reconocidas como el Reino Unido, que alcanza los 3.1 billones, e India, con sus 2.9 billones.

Recuerden que el bilingüismo y la identidad bicultural no son limitaciones, sino puentes extraordinarios que conectan mundos y abren puertas inimaginables hacia el futuro. Sigamos creciendo en números y sirviendo de líderes para que algún día cercano tengamos un presidente latino.

Each day, in public school classrooms and vibrant neighborhoods across the United States, we witness the rise of a new generation of Latino youth who are redefining what it means to be American. These young people carry on their shoulders both the weight and the beauty of a diverse Latino cultural heritage while determinedly pursuing the boundless opportunities offered by the American Dream. What we sometimes overlook is that their ability to move effortlessly between two languages and two cultural worlds—often mistakenly seen as an obstacle or disadvantage—is, in fact, their most powerful secret weapon in this increasingly globalized and interconnected 21st century.

Contrary to what some may think, Latinos do not occupy a secondary, subservient role in American society. Nor are we all undocumented individuals hiding in fear of being snatched by ICE agents from buses and involuntarily flown—often without respect for their rights—to countries that are not necessarily their own. We are a transformative force driving the nation forward on multiple fronts.

I am a faithful witness that we can achieve this despite the limitations, discrimination, abuse, and obstacles we face on our journey to success. I left Puerto Rico for Michigan for the first time in January 1976 with only \$200 and a scholarship to pursue a master's degree at Michigan State University. Thanks to my command of both languages, I was able to take my courses and join other Latinos from around the world to survive the lonely environment of being Latino in a state where Latinos were seen as migrant farmworkers.

The accent of a Latino speaking English was treated differently from the accent of someone from India, Germany, or China. The Latino accent was seen as a sign of intellectual deficiency, while accents from Asia and Europe were considered valuable and assumed to reflect academic superiority. For decades, Latinos have fought and survived despite discriminatory and exclusionary conditions. I realize today that, even in the 21st century, the mindset toward Latinos among a large portion of American society has not changed much. This may be because even the president views Latinos as criminals, rapists, and people without intrinsic value who come to steal from the American nation. Perhaps movies and television series have perpetuated discrimination and distrust toward Latinos, portraying us as gang members, drug dealers, and hitmen.

....English version continues on page 06

Community News

Obituary

Alice Arizola

January 19, 1951 ~
November 27, 2025

Alice (Marie) Arizola, age 74, of Allendale, Michigan, passed away on November 27, 2025. She enjoyed playing bingo, going to the movies, family gatherings, dancing, and spending time with friends. Alice was preceded in death by her parents and sister. She is survived by her children, brothers, sisters, 7 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and many relatives and friends. Funeral services are scheduled for December 9, 2025, at MKD Funeral Home, with a visitation prior to the service.

Alice (Marie) Arizola, de 74 años, residente de Allendale, Michigan, falleció el 27 de noviembre de 2025. Le gustaba jugar al bingo, ir al cine, las reuniones familiares, bailar y pasar tiempo con sus amigos. A Alice le precedieron en la muerte sus padres y su hermana. Le sobreviven sus hijos, hermanos, hermanas, 7 nietos, 19 bisnietos y muchos otros familiares y amigos. Los servicios funerarios están programados para el 9 de diciembre de 2025 en la funeraria MKD, con un velorio previo al servicio.



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HISPANIC SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER ATTACK!

The American Alliance for Equal Rights (AAFER) recently filed a lawsuit challenging the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) for violating the Civil Rights Act of 1866 by limiting participation in the benefits to persons of Hispanic ethnicity.

The (AAFER) is a Trump aligned, right wing conservative group that sees this DEI organization as a target for a wider "anti-woke" agenda. The HSF has awarded more than \$750 million in scholarships to more than 65,000 students during its existence and was started to assist Hispanic students left out of scholarship circles gain a foothold in college admissions by targeting financial barriers inherent in the process. Two students are named as having been harmed by not meeting the "ethnic requirements to receive funding."

The American Alliance for Equal Rights requested a TRO, "temporary restraining order" and preliminary injunction preventing HSF from closing the current application window or selecting winners while the court considers the merits, among other forms of relief.

The Community Voice/La Voz Magazine welcomes your commentary and opinions on this topic.

La Alianza Estadounidense por la Igualdad de Derechos (AAFER) ha presentado una demanda contra el Fondo de Becas Hispanas (HSF), alegando una violación de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1866 debido a la restricción de beneficios que impone HSF a personas de origen hispano. AAFER, un grupo conservador afín a Trump, ataca a HSF como parte de una iniciativa más amplia contra las políticas de inclusión y diversidad. HSF ha otorgado más de 750 millones de dólares en becas, beneficiando a más de 65.000 estudiantes, con el objetivo específico de ayudar a estudiantes hispanos que enfrentan dificultades económicas para acceder a la universidad. La demanda identifica a dos estudiantes afectados por el requisito de origen étnico para obtener financiación. AAFER solicita una orden de restricción temporal y una medida cautelar preliminar para detener el proceso de solicitud actual mientras el tribunal revisa el caso.

Bilingual Identity Among Latino Youth in the U.S.

By Edgar León Continuation of the English version of the article, page 05

In this new year of 2026, we must come together as a Latino family. We must help our friends and relatives feel safe and motivated to pursue their dreams. We must take pride in our race, our music, our artists, our writers, our journalists, our teachers, our scientists, and our businesspeople. Every Latino parent must affirm their culture and not reject their roots so that their children do not feel inferior to others. We must help nurture their dreams and creativity. Remember, slavery begins with limiting language knowledge, preventing people from reading or communicating properly, thereby depriving them of the opportunity to compete globally in the future for a more dignified life.

The most valuable gift parents can give their children is teaching them to read in both Spanish and English. This must be done before they enroll in school.

When we look at the economic impact, the numbers are truly impressive and should fill us with pride: if the 68 million Latinos living in the United States were to form an independent country, our gross domestic product would exceed 3.2 trillion dollars, positioning us as the fifth-largest economy in the world—ahead of recognized powers like the United Kingdom, which stands at 3.1 trillion, and India, at 2.9 trillion.

Remember, bilingualism and bicultural identity are not limitations but extraordinary bridges that connect worlds and open unimaginable doors to the future. Let us continue to grow in numbers and serve as leaders so that one day soon, we may have a Latino president.

Michigan Lawmakers Propose Social Media Restrictions for Minors

Michigan lawmakers are reigniting debate over youth access to social media, introducing a bill that would require parental consent for anyone under 18 to hold an account. The proposal, led by Rep. Mark Tidel (R-Rochester Hills), comes amid growing concern about the impact of on-line platforms on children's mental health.

Under the legislation, social media companies with more than 5 million users—including Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, and Snapchat—would be required to verify the age of new and existing users. Those under 18 could only join with parental approval, and consenting parents would gain full access to their child's account, including posts and private messages. Adults who fail to verify their age would also be blocked until compliance.

Tidel told the House Regulatory Reform Committee that the measure is designed to give parents more authority to intervene. "If parents are going to be responsible for the bad outcomes, give them some authority to intervene on the front end," he said, likening acceptance of a platform's terms of service to signing a contract—something minors cannot legally do.

The bill would also require platforms to implement curfews for minors and provide tools for parents to limit daily usage. Oversight would fall to the Michigan attorney general, who would determine acceptable methods for verifying age and residency while ensuring protections for user data.

Supporters argue the legislation is a necessary response to rising rates of anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts among youth, often linked to heavy social media use. Schools across Michigan have struggled to address these

challenges, with administrators frequently citing online platforms as a contributing factor.

Opponents, however, warn the bill could infringe on First Amendment rights and lead to costly litigation. Caden Rosenbaum of the Reason Foundation called the proposal "privacy-invasive," noting that age verification could require IDs or biometric data. Megan Stokes of the Computer and Communications Industry Association added that platforms already offer parental controls, time limits, and privacy settings, urging lawmakers to focus on digital citizenship education instead of blanket restrictions.

Michigan's debate reflects a broader national trend. States across the U.S. have introduced similar measures, though many have faced constitutional challenges that blocked or delayed enforcement. The outcome in Michigan could signal whether lawmakers are willing to risk legal battles in pursuit of stricter oversight.

For now, the bill underscores a growing tension: balancing parental authority and child safety with individual rights and free speech in the digital age.

This version is crisp, balanced, and ready for publication — under 500 words, with a strong lead and clear attribution. Jose, since you're shaping advocacy-driven editorials, we could also adapt this into a sidebar explainer or infographic script highlighting "What the Bill Would Do" vs. "What Critics Say." Would you like me to draft that companion piece for your magazine spread?

Yes, Ok
Perfect — here's a sidebar-style companion

piece you can drop into your magazine spread alongside the main article. It's designed for quick reader engagement, with clear contrasts and visual cues:

At a Glance: Michigan's Social Media Bill
What the Bill Would Do

🚫 Age Verification: Platforms with 5M+ users must confirm accounts are 18+.

👨👩👧👦 Parental Consent: Minors under 18 need parent/guardian approval to join.

🔑 Parent Access: Parents gain full visibility into posts and private messages.

🕒 Curfews & Limits: Platforms must provide tools for daily usage caps and curfews.

📋 Oversight: Michigan's attorney general sets rules for verifying age and residency, while protecting user data.

Supporters Say

📖 Addresses rising youth anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts linked to social media.

🛡️ Gives parents authority to intervene before harm occurs.

📄 Minors cannot legally consent to contracts, including terms of service.

Critics Warn

⚖️ Could violate First Amendment rights.

💰 May trigger costly litigation for the state.

🔍 Requires invasive age checks (IDs, biometrics). 🛡️ Platforms already offer parental controls and privacy tools.

HACERLOS MENOS HUMANOS HACE POSIBLE LA VIOLENCIA

Por Dr. José A Flores Continuación de la versión del artículo en español pag. 03

Vemos este mismo patrón hoy en el lenguaje utilizado para describir a personas que no son enemigas en ningún sentido formal, pero que son tratadas como si lo fueran. A los inmigrantes se les reduce rutinariamente a etiquetas como "ilegales", "extranjeros criminales" o "invasores", términos que borran la individualidad y presentan a comunidades enteras como amenazas. Los operativos militarizados llevados a cabo por agentes enmascarados refuerzan visualmente este encuadre, transformando vecindarios en campos de batalla y familias en objetivos. Los movimientos sociales, también, son descritos cada vez más con el vocabulario del extremismo, con redes activistas descentralizadas retratadas como peligros coordinados en lugar de ciudadanos ejerciendo sus derechos. Estas etiquetas hacen más que categorizar: preparan al público para aceptar un trato severo como algo normal, incluso necesario.

Las consecuencias de este lenguaje no son teóricas; se miden en vidas humanas. Cuando grupos enteros son presentados como amenazas en lugar de personas, el umbral para la violencia estatal cae dramáticamente. Informes públicos han documentado casi cien venezolanos asesinados en ataques militares sin arresto, detención o debido proceso —muertes justificadas mediante etiquetas como "narcoterrorista", que colapsan realidades políticas, económicas y humanitarias en una sola identidad criminal. Una vez que una población es transformada lingüísticamente en un peligro, el público se vuelve más dispuesto a aceptar acciones que de otro modo violarían nuestros propios principios declarados

de justicia y derechos humanos. El patrón es dolorosamente familiar: el lenguaje deshumanizante despeja el terreno moral para políticas que tratan a los seres humanos como desechables.

Seguimos regresando a estas herramientas retóricas porque son eficientes. El lenguaje deshumanizante simplifica realidades complejas y hace que las acciones severas se sientan no solo permisibles, sino necesarias. Es más fácil justificar un bombardeo cuando a las víctimas se les llama "terroristas", más fácil defender un operativo cuando a las personas dentro se les etiqueta como "ilegales", más fácil descartar una protesta cuando sus participantes son marcados como "extremistas". Estas palabras hacen más que describir el conflicto: construyen un universo moral en el que la crueldad parece racional, incluso responsable. Y a menos que enfrentemos este hábito directamente, corremos el riesgo de repetir los capítulos más oscuros de nuestra historia con nuevos nombres.

Si queremos romper este ciclo, debemos comenzar por interrogar las palabras que usamos para describir a quienes tememos u oponemos. Debemos preguntarnos: ¿Quién se beneficia cuando las personas se reducen a etiquetas? ¿Qué acciones se vuelven posibles una vez que un grupo es presentado como menos que humano? ¿Qué historia estamos repitiendo —y a costa de quién? La introspección no es debilidad. Es el primer paso para rechazar las narrativas que hacen que la crueldad parezca inevitable. Nuestra nación ha recorrido este camino antes. No tenemos que recorrerlo de nuevo.

Nominations Encouraged for Michigan Lottery's Excellence in Education Awards to Honor Outstanding Educators

Parents, students, school staff members, and others are encouraged to nominate outstanding public-school educators for the Michigan Lottery's 2025-26 Excellence In Education awards.



**For fun.
For schools:**

Se anima a padres, estudiantes, personal escolar y otras personas a nominar a educadores destacados de escuelas públicas para los premios a la Excelencia en la Educación 2025-26 de la Lotería de Michigan.

All public-school employees may be nominated for the Excellence In Education awards, which recognize educators who go "above and beyond" to make a difference in the lives of children. To nominate a public school educator, go to <https://www.michiganlottery.com/excellence-in-education>.

The Michigan Lottery established the Excellence in Education awards in 2014 to recognize outstanding public-school educators across the state during the school year.

One outstanding educator will be selected each week and will receive a \$2,000 cash prize. At the end of the school year, one of these weekly award winners will be selected to receive the Lottery's Educator of the Year award and will receive a \$10,000 cash prize.

The winner of the 2025 Educator of the Year award was Kelly Herberholz, a science teacher and administrative intern with Dakota High School in Macomb.

Hundreds of educators were nominated during the 2024-25 school year, which was the 11th year of the Excellence in Education awards program. Thirty-four of these nominees, including Herberholz, were selected to win a weekly award.

Previous winners of the Educator of the Year award:

- 2024 – Samantha TwoCrow, the director of the Indigenous Education Program for Suttons Bay Public Schools in Suttons Bay.
- 2023 – Kathryn Kluzak, a kindergarten teacher with Robert L. Green Elementary in East Lansing.
- 2022 – Spencer Vanderheide, a high school teacher with Kenowa Hills High School in Grand Rapids.
- 2021 – Janice Smith, a school social worker at Fisher Magnet Lower Academy in Detroit.
- 2020 – Megan Sidge, an Autism Spectrum Disorder teacher at Hickory Woods Elementary in Walled Lake.
- 2019 – Stewart Kieliszewski, an Earth science, biology, mechatronics, and media teacher for eighth through 12 graders at the Ubly Community Schools.
- 2018 – Kerri Moccio, a first-grade literacy intervention specialist at Bedford Elementary School in Dearborn Heights.
- 2017 – Linda Holzwarth, a social studies teacher at Portage West Middle School in Portage.
- 2016 – Daniel Carr, a Spanish and sports marketing teacher at Waverly High School in Lansing.
- 2015 – Michael Craig, a special education teacher at the Charles Drew Transition Center in Detroit.

Excellence In Education award nominees should demonstrate the following qualities:

- Excellence – Their work consistently helps students and/or their schools or school districts advance to higher levels of academic achievement.
- Dedication – They consistently go above and beyond expectations to help students succeed.
- Inspiration – Their work inspires others around them to exceed expectations either academically or professionally.
- Leadership – They demonstrate clear leadership skills in their positions with their school or school districts.
- Effectiveness – The nominee's work has clear and positive results on the educational advancement of students within the school or school district.

Scan the QR code to nominate an outstanding educator in your life today!



Todos los empleados de escuelas públicas pueden ser nominados para los premios a la Excelencia en la Educación, que reconocen a los educadores que se esfuerzan al máximo para marcar la diferencia en la vida de los niños. Para nominar a un educador de una escuela pública, visite <https://www.michiganlottery.com/excellence-in-education>.

La Lotería de Michigan estableció los premios a la Excelencia en la Educación en 2014 para reconocer a los educadores destacados de las escuelas públicas de todo el estado durante el año escolar.

Cada semana se seleccionará un educador destacado, quien recibirá un premio en efectivo de \$2,000. Al final del año escolar, uno de estos ganadores semanales será seleccionado para recibir el premio al Educador del Año de la Lotería y recibirá un premio en efectivo de \$10,000.

La ganadora del premio al Educador del Año 2025 fue Kelly Herberholz, profesora de ciencias y pasante administrativa de la Escuela Secundaria Dakota en Macomb.

Cientos de educadores fueron nominados durante el año escolar 2024-2025, que fue el undécimo año del programa de premios a la Excelencia en la Educación. Treinta y cuatro de estos nominados, incluida Herberholz, fueron seleccionados para recibir un premio semanal.

Ganadores anteriores del premio Educador del Año:

- 2024 – Samantha TwoCrow, directora del Programa de Educación Indígena de las Escuelas Públicas de Suttons Bay en Suttons Bay.
- 2023 – Kathryn Kluzak, maestra de jardín de infantes en la Escuela Primaria Robert L. Green en East Lansing.
- 2022 – Spencer Vanderheide, profesor de secundaria en la Escuela Secundaria Kenowa Hills en Grand Rapids.
- 2021 – Janice Smith, trabajadora social escolar en la Academia Fisher Magnet Lower en Detroit.
- 2020 – Megan Sidge, maestra especializada en Trastorno del Espectro Autista en la Escuela Primaria Hickory Woods en Walled Lake.
- 2019 – Stewart Kieliszewski, profesor de ciencias de la Tierra, biología, mecatrónica y medios de comunicación para estudiantes de octavo a duodécimo grado en las Escuelas Comunitarias de Ubly.
- 2018 – Kerri Moccio, especialista en intervención de alfabetización para primer grado en la Escuela Primaria Bedford en Dearborn Heights.
- 2017 – Linda Holzwarth, profesora de estudios sociales en la Escuela Secundaria Portage West en Portage.
- 2016 – Daniel Carr, profesor de español y marketing deportivo en la Escuela Secundaria Waverly en Lansing.
- 2015 – Michael Craig, profesor de educación especial en el Centro de Transición Charles Drew en Detroit.

Los nominados al premio a la Excelencia en la Educación deben demostrar las siguientes cualidades:

- Excelencia: Su trabajo contribuye de forma constante a que los estudiantes y/o sus escuelas o distritos escolares alcancen niveles superiores de rendimiento académico.
- Dedicación: Se esfuerzan constantemente al máximo para ayudar a los estudiantes a tener éxito.
- Inspiración: Su trabajo inspira a quienes los rodean a superar las expectativas, tanto en el ámbito académico como profesional.
- Liderazgo: Demuestran claras habilidades de liderazgo en sus puestos dentro de su escuela o distrito escolar.
- Eficacia: El trabajo del nominado tiene resultados claros y positivos en el progreso educativo de los estudiantes dentro de la escuela o el distrito escolar.

¡Escanee el código QR para nominar hoy mismo a un educador excepcional!



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Los sorteos se realizan dos veces al día, los siete días de la semana, a las 12:59 p.m. y a las 7:29 p.m. Visita a tu vendedor favorito de la Lotería y juega Daily 3&4 hoy mismo.



2 WAYS, BOXED AND 1 OFF BETS NOT ELIGIBLE. WHEEL BET WINNERS WILL BE PAID THE STRAIGHT PRIZE ONLY AND ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE REVERSE PRIZE. Daily 3 odds: Straight Back Bonus: 1 in 1,010; Straight: 1 in 1,000; 3 Way Box: 1 in 333; 6 Way Box: 1 in 167; 1 Off Straight: 1 in 1,000; 1 Off One Digit: 1 in 167. Daily 4 odds: Straight Back Bonus: 1 in 10,101; Straight: 1 in 10,000; 4 Way Box: 1 in 2,500; 6 Way Box: 1 in 1,666; 12 Way Box: 1 in 833; 24 Way Box: 1 in 416; 1 Off Straight: 1 in 10,000; 1 Off One Digit: 1 in 1,250. Knowing your limits is always the best bet. Call 1-800-GAMBLER for confidential help.



Room 4314: Daniel Verdugo's Ñ Magazine



Daniel Verdugo's pathway to the classroom: 4314 at Ann Arbor Huron High School, showcases education and journalism feats. Dozens of copies of Ñ Magazine rest along the wooden shelf, with a row of neatly arranged volumes. The covers have been illustrated by students, Verdugo approaches the rack, picking up a copy from the top row and continues explaining.

"The world is increasingly digital, and it is important that students have something to take and hold in their hands. We will try to publish in print for as long as we can," he said. The printed pages, to him, are a symbol that his students' projects merit the per-

manence and legitimacy of a physical publication.

Verdugo's pathway to the classroom.. He began in Spain where he spent twenty years of his life. He later taught in Añasco, Puerto Rico, where he learned to engage students in project based learning models that link education to students' daily experiences outside of school. He joined the Huron High School staff in 2018 as a Spanish II and III teacher, and brought his new perspectives of education to the classroom in this new job.

As Ñ Magazine emerged. Each semester, students write, illustrate, and design a full bilingual issue. Past themes include: "#We. the. People.",



tation.

The magazine is directed under Verdugo's teaching philosophy, which draws heavily from Brazilian educator Paulo Freire. He explains that "education is a practice of freedom" and describes language as "a fundamental tool of cognition." These ideas give the publication a structure through which students write understanding themselves, their community, and their social realities.

Ñ Magazine circulates through the district/ Copies can be found at the University of Michigan Language Resource Center and the Ann Arbor District Library. Community members have found the magazine in local cafes, at times contacting him after discovering student pieces. Families also answer with appreciation for their children's writing being treated with such dedication.

Students have described the project's impact as life-altering. A student enrolled in his Spanish II shared that "the dedication Mr. Verdugo consistently shows motivated me a lot personally, and encouraged me to continue learning Spanish for all 4 years. He really did change my learning as a whole." A former Spanish III student explained that "being able to engage with real world



content in a different language helped me understand that language is actually lived in other parts of the world and even in many parts of the United States," adding that this realization is "quite hard when you are learning it just in a classroom."



The project's influence has reached far beyond the district. Ñ Magazine received third prize at the IX Jornadas Didácticas de ELE in Madrid, and Verdugo earned recognition from Cursos Internacionales de Español in Salamanca for his classroom practice. His commitment to culturally responsive teaching was acknowledged by the Ann Arbor Education Association, and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages recently honored him with the ACTFL LCF Award for Excellence in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Classroom. These recognitions, spanning

from local to international institutions, reflect his dedication to student agency and representation.

For the past three years, printing has been supported by a five thousand dollar Charles H. Herkner Instructional Grant from the Michigan World Language Association. With that grant ending, the project will need new structures to continue in print.

The financial transition creates another challenge for Verdugo who has overseen the project since the magazine's very creation. Editing, layout, and production require time far surpassing school hours, and collaboration adds additional complications.

Verdugo also considers national patterns in language education. He noted that bilingualism in the United States is often treated as "something extra," contrary to many regions of the world where students graduate fluent in several languages. The magazine thus becomes an opportunity to promote an appreciation for bilingualism.

What began as an experiment during Verdugo's early teaching years has now grown into a bridge connecting students and the broader community. Each issue of Ñ Magazine conveys the belief that language learning stands beyond proficiency as a vivid realm of reflection and reality



El aula de Daniel Verdugo en la escuela secundaria Ann Arbor Huron High School cuenta con la revista bilingüe estudiantil Ñ Magazine, lo que refleja su compromiso con el aprendizaje basado en proyectos y la participación cultural. Verdugo, quien enseñó en España y Puerto Rico antes de incorporarse a Huron en 2018, enfatiza la importancia de los materiales impresos en la era digital, convencido de que otorgan legitimidad al trabajo de los estudiantes. Cada semestre, los estudiantes crean de forma colaborativa un número temático centrado en la identidad personal y la pertenencia cultural, guiados por la filosofía pedagógica de Verdugo, inspirada en Paulo Freire.

La revista ha recibido reconocimiento tanto a nivel local como internacional, y los comentarios de los estudiantes destacan su impacto transformador en el aprendizaje del español. A pesar del apoyo financiero recibido a través de una subvención, Verdugo se enfrenta a dificultades para mantener las ediciones impresas una vez que finalice la financiación. En definitiva, Ñ Magazine sirve como un vínculo vital entre los estudiantes y su comunidad, demostrando la importancia del bilingüismo en la educación.

A photograph of a family walking away from the camera on a sandy beach. A woman is carrying a young child on her back, and they are holding the hand of another child. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. In the background, there are beach houses and a few other people in the distance.

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NALAC Announces the 2025 Catalyst for Change Fellows

The National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC) announces the selected 2025 NALAC Fund for the Arts: Catalyst for Change (CFC) Fellows. The 2025 fellowship highlights five Latinx/é arts and culture leaders from across the U.S., including Puerto Rico, whose work is intended to catalyze community-based and artist-produced visions for creative solutions to social injustices.

"The Catalyst for Change Fellowship is a unique opportunity for community-based artists to deepen and expand the critical work they are already doing in their communities. We are thrilled to support this group of innovative and creative change makers," shared NALAC CEO and President Mari Hernandez. "This program is rooted in NALAC's commitment to social justice, aligning with our core values of advocacy, empowerment, and equality."

The Catalyst for Change (CFC) Fellowship is a collaboration between NALAC and the Surdna Foundation and focuses on radical imagination as a key component of pursuing racial justice. The fellowship aims to uplift the work of Latinx/é culture workers who use community-informed artmaking to increase civic engagement and activism, creating systemic change through artistic interventions. Projects are guided by meaningful engagement with community members and designed to foster community relationships through the arts and culture.

The Catalyst for Change (CFC) fellowship program began in 2020 and expanded in 2023. To date, the program reflects an investment of approximately \$1 million to support artists from diverse artistic disciplines whose projects aim to address systems of injustice within their own communities. Previous projects have addressed social jus-



tice issues, such as immigration, healthcare, incarceration, and education, through a variety of media, including visual art, performance art, and creative writing.

Meet the 2025 Catalyst for Change Fellows:

Eric J. Garcia
Sarah Maritza Hernández
Alan Pelaez Lopez
Mildred Beltre Martinez
Diógenes Ballester Rodríguez

La Asociación Nacional de Artes y Culturas Latinas (NALAC) anuncia a los becarios seleccionados para el Fondo NALAC para las Artes: Catalizador del Cambio (CFC) de 2025. Esta beca de 2025 destaca a cinco líderes latinos/as del ámbito de las artes y la cultura de todo Estados Unidos, incluyendo Puerto Rico, cuyo trabajo busca impulsar visiones comunitarias y producidas por artistas para encontrar soluciones creativas a las injusticias sociales.

La beca Catalyst for Change (CFC) es una colaboración entre NALAC y la Fundación Surdna y se centra en la imaginación radical como componente clave para la búsqueda de la justicia racial. La beca tiene como objetivo impulsar el trabajo de artistas y gestores culturales latinos/latinx que utilizan la creación artística con base comunitaria para aumentar la participación cívica y el activismo, generando un cambio sistémico a través de intervenciones artísticas. Los proyectos se guían por una interacción significativa con los miembros de la comunidad y están diseñados para fomentar las relaciones comunitarias a través de las artes y la cultura.

El programa de becas Catalyst for Change (CFC) comenzó en 2020 y se amplió en 2023. Hasta la fecha, el programa representa una inversión de aproximadamente 1 millón de dólares para apoyar a artistas de diversas disciplinas artísticas cuyos proyectos buscan abordar los sistemas de injusticia dentro de sus propias comunidades. Proyectos anteriores han abordado temas de justicia social, como la inmigración, la atención médica, el encarcelamiento y la educación, a través de una variedad de medios, incluyendo artes visuales, artes escénicas y escritura creativa.

Conozca a los becarios de Catalyst for Change 2025:

Eric J. Garcia
Sarah Maritza Hernández
Alan Pelaez Lopez
Mildred Beltre Martinez
Diógenes Ballester Rodríguez



FEBRUARY BRUNCH

THE AVENUE OF CREATIVITY 2026

As we step into January with renewed purpose, the Southwest Business Association extends heartfelt wishes for a prosperous and uplifting New Year to all Southwest businesses.

We warmly invite you to connect, collaborate, and grow with us at our February Brunch Gathering. Join fellow business owners and community leaders as we set the tone for a year filled with opportunity, unity, and progress.

LOCATION:

**COOK LIBRARY
1100 CESAR E CHAVEZ AVE SW
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503**

TIME: 10 AM

FEBRUARY 4TH

WE ARE SOUTHWEST

Fernando Mendoza: Heritage, Heart, and a Historic Hoosiers Season



By Odille Parker

Each month we will feature a Latin American athlete representing our community in professional sports.

Fernando Mendoza didn't just step into college football's spotlight – he rewired it. The Miami-born quarterback, raised in a proudly Cuban-American family, transformed Indiana football from perennial afterthought to national headline, blending historic production with a story that feels bigger than the box score.

Mendoza's heritage has never been a footnote. It's a compass. Born in the U.S. to Cuban parents and grandparents who emigrated from Cuba, he has consistently spoken about carrying their sacrifices with him every time he takes the field.

"My heritage is Cuban American. I was born in America. However, all four of my grandparents were born and raised in Cuba," Mendoza has said, often emphasizing how deeply family and culture fuel his drive. It's a duality he embraces – honoring where he comes from while unapologetically claiming space where he's going.

That mindset powered one of the most improbable seasons in recent college football history. In 2025, Mendoza led Indiana to a perfect 13-0 regular season, the program's first outright Big Ten title since 1945, and a No. 1 seed in the College Football Playoff. Along the way, the Hoosiers knocked off traditional powerhouses, survived late-game nail-biters, and played with the kind of collective confidence that only comes from believing something special is happening.

Mendoza was the engine. He finished the season with 2,980 passing yards, 33 passing touchdowns, six rushing scores, and a 71.5 percent completion rate, leading the nation in passing touchdowns and posting one of the most efficient quarterback seasons in the FBS.

Indiana didn't just win – it announced itself, and Mendoza was the megaphone.

His road there wasn't linear. After beginning his collegiate career at Cal, Mendoza transferred to Indiana searching for the right fit. What he found was a program willing to build around him and a locker room ready to follow his lead. The result was a quarterback who played loose but prepared, and the kind of leader teammates trust when the game tightens.

That grounding comes from home. During his Heisman Trophy acceptance speech, a moment that made him the first Hoosier and first Cuban-American to win the award, Mendoza centered his family, especially his mother, Elsa, who has lived with multiple sclerosis for nearly two decades.

"Mami, this is your trophy as much as it is mine," he said. "Your sacrifices, courage, and love have been my first playbook." It was raw, emotional, and unmistakably authentic – a reminder that resilience isn't always forged under stadium lights.

Off the field, Mendoza has turned that inspiration into action, helping raise funds for MS research alongside his family, using his growing platform to spotlight causes that shaped him long before football did.

As for what's next, the College Football Playoff comes first. Indiana enters the postseason as a legitimate title contender, with Mendoza's poise and efficiency anchoring a Hoosiers team that has already rewritten program history. His command of the offense has turned Indiana from a surprise into a problem for anyone in its path.

Beyond January, the NFL looms – and scouts are watching closely.



Mendoza is widely viewed as a late first- to early second-round prospect, with evaluators pointing to his accuracy, decision-making, and leadership as traits that translate to the next level. He's emerging as a cultural touchpoint: a visible Cuban-American star in a sport still expanding its definition of leadership and representation.

Fernando Mendoza's legacy won't just be measured in touchdowns or trophies. It lives in a historic Hoosiers season, a Heisman moment rooted in gratitude, and a reminder that when heritage and opportunity align, the impact can stretch far beyond the field.

Fernando Mendoza, un mariscal de campo cubano-estadounidense de Miami, ha tenido un impacto significativo en el equipo de fútbol americano de Indiana, llevándolo a una temporada invicta de 13-0 y a su primer título de la Big Ten desde 1945. Con impresionantes estadísticas, incluyendo 2,980 yardas por pase y 33 touchdowns, se ha convertido en uno de los principales candidatos al Trofeo Heisman, el cual ganó, convirtiéndose en el primer jugador de Indiana y el primer cubano-estadounidense en lograrlo. Mendoza atribuye su éxito a sus raíces y a su familia, y en su discurso de aceptación rindió homenaje a su madre, quien padece esclerosis múltiple. Apoya activamente la investigación sobre la esclerosis múltiple y es considerado una gran promesa para la NFL gracias a su liderazgo y precisión. La trayectoria de Mendoza destaca la intersección entre la herencia cultural y las oportunidades, demostrando que un impacto duradero puede trascender el ámbito deportivo.

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January Events / Eventos en Enero

February 1 - March 1, 2026

World of Winter 2026

Grand Rapids, Mi

Downtown Grand Rapids will host the 9th annual World of Winter Festival, featuring free winter-themed activities such as snow yoga, ice sculpture walking tours, a silent disco, and the Human Hungry Hippos Tournament on Ice. A highlight of the festival is Valent-ICE, showcasing over 50 ice sculptures, the largest collection of ice art in Michigan. Organized by Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., the festival aims to encourage outdoor enjoyment of winter while enhancing Grand Rapids as a year-round city. For more details, visit worldofwintergr.com.

El centro de Grand Rapids acogerá la novena edición del Festival World of Winter, con actividades invernales gratuitas como yoga en la nieve, recorridos a pie para admirar esculturas de hielo, una discoteca silenciosa y el torneo de los Hipopótamos Hambrientos Humanos sobre hielo. Uno de los platos fuertes del festival es Valent-ICE, que exhibirá más de 50 esculturas de hielo, la mayor colección de arte en hielo de Michigan. Organizado por Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., el festival tiene como objetivo fomentar el disfrute de las actividades al aire libre durante el invierno y consolidar a Grand Rapids como una ciudad vibrante durante todo el año. Para más información, visite worldofwintergr.com.

January 4, 2026

Harlem Globetrotters

Grand Rapids, Mi

The Original Harlem Globetrotters will perform their 100 Years of Wow Tour at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids on Sunday, January 4, 2026, at 3:00 PM. This celebration marks a centennial season featuring spectacular basketball moves and tricks. Ticket prices may vary and are subject to change; they can be purchased at the box office or via Ticketmaster.com, with a limit of 8 tickets per order and requiring tickets for children ages 2 and up.

Los Original Harlem Globetrotters presentarán su gira "100 Years of Wow Tour" en el Van Andel Arena de Grand Rapids el domingo 4 de enero de 2026, a las 15:00 horas. Esta celebra-

ción conmemora un siglo de historia con espectaculares jugadas y trucos de baloncesto. Los precios de las entradas pueden variar y están sujetos a cambios; se pueden adquirir en la taquilla o a través de Ticketmaster.com, con un límite de 8 entradas por compra y se requiere entrada para niños a partir de los 2 años.

January 10, 2026

Ice Breaker at World of Winter Grand Rapids, Mi

Watch a 5,000-lb block of ice transform live, carved by the Ice Brigade team!

Each year, the community picks the design, what will it be this year? The winning design will be revealed at the event.

¡Observa cómo un bloque de hielo de 2268 kg se transforma en directo, esculpido por el equipo de Ice Brigade! Cada año, la comunidad elige el diseño. ¿Cuál será el de este año? El diseño ganador se revelará durante el evento.

January 10-11, 2026

Tahquamenon Country Sled Dog Race Newberry, Mi

We are so excited to announce the Tahquamenon Country Sled Dog Race will be coming to a peninsula near you on January 10th and 11th 2026! Similar to last year, we will be offering two professional classes that will run a two day event, and 2 sportsman/youth categories that will each have a one day event, so mushers of all ages can join in on this years fun!

¡Nos emociona anunciar que la carrera de trineos tirados por perros de Tahquamenon Country llegará a una península cerca a ti los días 10 y 11 de enero de 2026! Al igual que el año pasado, ofreceremos dos categorías profesionales que se desarrollarán durante dos días, y dos categorías para aficionados/jóvenes, cada una con un evento de un día, ¡para que los conductores de trineos de todas las edades puedan unirse a la diversión de este año!

January 17, 2026

Michigan Adventure Race: Winter Edition Rockford, Mi

Join us for the largest, craziest winter adventure race in the USA.

You and your team-mate(s) will hunt for checkpoints, running on and off trail, navigating with a map, snowshoeing (short loop, snowshoes provided), and conquering Amazing Race-like challenges. Up to 3 hours. New family division added. Entry includes ¼ zip pullover and chili lunch. Capped at 475 and expected to sell out!

Únete a nosotros en la carrera de aventura invernal más grande y emocionante de Estados Unidos. Tú y tu(s) compañero(s) de equipo buscarán puntos de control, corriendo dentro y fuera de los senderos, orientándose con un mapa, practicando senderismo con raquetas de nieve (circuito corto, raquetas incluidas) y superando desafíos al estilo de The Amazing Race. Duración máxima de 3 horas. Nueva categoría familiar disponible.

January 20-21, 2026

CHICAGO The Musical Kalamazoo, Mi

CHICAGO is a vibrant musical capturing the essence of the Jazz Age, featuring a captivating story of rivalry between notorious murderers Velma Kelly and Roxie Hart. The show boasts a collection of hit songs and impressive dance numbers. Tickets start at \$46.56, with a 50% discount for WMU students. Purchases can be made online, by phone, or at the Miller Auditorium Box Office, which operates Monday-Friday from Noon-6 p.m.

CHICAGO es un vibrante musical que captura la esencia de la Era del Jazz, con una cautivadora historia de rivalidad entre las famosas asesinas Velma Kelly y Roxie Hart. El espectáculo cuenta con una colección de canciones exitosas y números de baile impresionantes.

January 24-25, 2026

Orchid Show Grand Rapids, Mi

One of the beautiful, beloved qualities of Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park? We're in bloom every season! This January, winter gets a radiant glow-up at our annual Orchid Show. Presented by



**January 10-11, 2026
Tahquamenon Country
Sled Dog Race
Newberry, Mi**

the Grand Valley Orchid Society, this perennially popular showcase turns the Welcome Center, Garden Pavilion, and Gordon Food Service Corridor near the DeVos Keeler Gift Shop into a stunning sight as orchid clubs from across Michigan exhibit their enchanting displays. ¿Una de las cualidades más bellas y apreciadas de Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park?

¡Estamos en floración en todas las estaciones! Este enero, el invierno se ilumina con un brillo radiante en nuestra Exposición Anual de Orquídeas. Presentada por la Sociedad de Orquídeas de Grand Valley, esta popular exposición transforma el Centro de Bienvenida, el Pabellón del Jardín y el Corredor Gordon Food Service, cerca de la tienda de regalos DeVos-Keeler, en un espectáculo impresionante, donde los clubes de orquídeas de todo Michigan exhiben sus encantadoras creaciones.

January 29-31, 2026

Michigan International Auto Show Grand Rapids, Mi

This is the greatest annual opportunity to view your "next new vehicle" with hundreds on display - trucks, SUV's, crossovers, electrics, hybrids, luxury and performance vehicles from manufacturers from all over the world. Visit special features spotlighting custom and exotic cars, muscle and antique vehicle displays, as well as Electric Avenue (an EV display of innovation and technology).

Esta es la mejor oportunidad del año para ver su próximo vehículo, con cientos de modelos en exhibición: camionetas, SUV, crossovers, vehículos eléctricos, híbridos, de lujo y de alto rendimiento de fabricantes de todo el mundo. Visite las secciones especiales dedicadas a autos personalizados y exóticos, exhibiciones de autos clásicos y deportivos, así como Electric Avenue (una muestra de innovación y tecnología en vehículos eléctricos).



1966 Chevy Truck owner Mike Modzeleski from Grand Rapids, MI won Best of Show Trophy



Francisco (Franco) Carcini & Steve Russo



One of the organizers for Fiesta Car Show, Francisco Carcini, is a member of Mexican Heritage Association of West Michigan



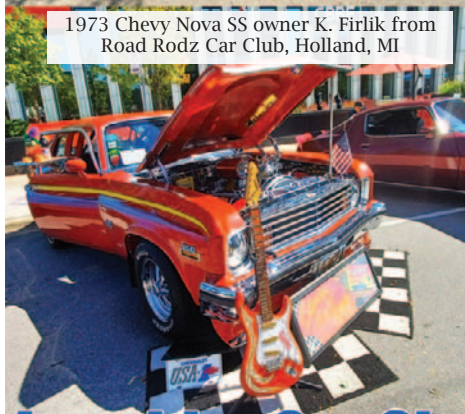
1938 Chevy Sedan 2 door owner Edward Delgado Exclusive Styles Car Club from Macomb, MI



11951 Chevy Bel Air Deluxe owner Ambrocio Ledesma from Byron Center, MI 929 Mercedes Gazelle



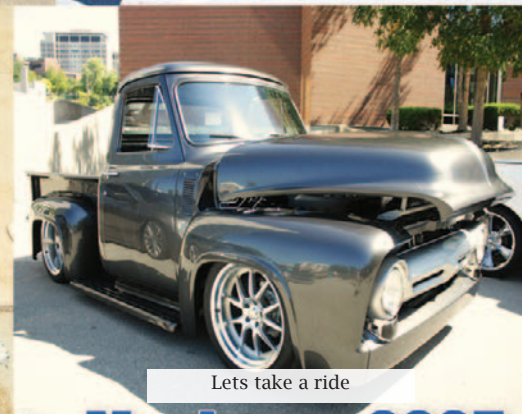
11960's Lincoln Continental Convertible with suicide doors



1973 Chevy Nova SS owner K. Firlik from Road Rodz Car Club, Holland, MI



Kid's Trike bicycle is just purplish purple!



Lets take a ride

Lowrider Car Show & Bike Show-Fiesta Mexicana 2025



Fiesta Car Show at Calder Plaza

The Mexican Heritage Association of West Michigan (MHAWM) celebrated their 56 th Annual Fiesta Mexicana September 12, 13, & 14th at the Calder Plaza, in downtown Grand Rapids, MI.

On Sunday, September 14, 2025, MHAWM members and Franco Carcini showcased the Lowrider Car & Bike Show on Monroe Ave. Special guest Victor Rivas Rivers, from California, actor from movie "Blood in Blood out" was there to Meet & Greet people!

Low-Low Customs, Classics, Trucks, Vintages, Motorcycles, Lowrider Bikes filled the street. DJ Alpha1 provided jamming music for everyone, live entertainers Lazy Loc & June Arness performed their music. There were plenty of food vendors present there to please your appetite. Sponsors of Fiesta Car Show Awards were given at the end of the day. It was a fun time at Fiesta Mexicana Lowrider Car & Bike Show!

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La Voz

A portrait of Jessica Reyez, a Colombian-Canadian singer and songwriter. She has long, dark, wavy hair and is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. She is resting her chin on her right hand. She is wearing a blue and white striped shirt and a colorful beaded bracelet. A white wristband with the text "ME FEM" is visible on her left wrist. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage and a building in the distance.

Jessica Reyez is a six-time Juno-winning and Grammy-nominated Colombian-Canadian singer and songwriter. Her contemporary R&B style is influenced by pop and hip-hop, and her vocals are both passionate and theatrical. Reyez is known for her raw vocals, fearless lyrics, and emotive performances. She's collaborated with artists like Eminem and Juan Magán, and released a documentary about a life-changing experience in the music industry.

Jessica Reyez es una cantante y compositora colombo-canadiense, ganadora de seis premios Juno y nominada al Grammy. Su estilo R&B contemporáneo está influenciado por el pop y el hip-hop, y su voz es a la vez apasionada y expresiva. Reyez es conocida por su voz potente y auténtica, sus letras audaces y sus interpretaciones emotivas. Ha colaborado con artistas como Eminem y Juan Magán, y ha lanzado un documental sobre una experiencia que le cambió la vida en la industria musical.

Jessie Reyez

GRUPO FIRME & LENIN RAMÍREZ'S 'CTRL + Z' & MORE BEST NEW MUSIC LATIN

New Music Latin is a compilation of the best new Latin songs and albums recommended by Billboard Latin and Billboard Español editors. **New Music Latin es una recopilación de las mejores canciones y álbumes latinos nuevos, recomendados por los editores de Billboard Latin y Billboard Español.**



Grupo Firme & Lenin Ramírez, "Ctrl + Z" (Music VIP Entertainment/DEL Records)
Accompanied by a traditional Sinaloan band, Grupo Firme and Lenin Ramírez make the tuba and trumpets sound even louder with their powerful vocals on this heartbreak song, which, as is customary when they collaborate, speaks of profound pain over someone who hasn't kept their promises in a relationship. "Go away because I'm completely fed up with you/ Go wherever you can fit your excuses/ I don't want you to ever look for me again, and I hope you keep that promise," they sing in this song written by César Robles. This is the third collaboration between Grupo Firme and Ramírez, who previously combined their styles and talent on "En Tu Perra Vida" and "Yo Ya No Vuelvo Contigo."
En su último tema nostálgico, "Bellos Momentos", el cantante de música regional mexicana Tapy Quintero fusiona el saxofón con instrumentos tradicionales del norte de México, como la guitarra, la batería, el bajo y el acordeón. La canción narra la historia de una mujer que le propone a su pareja separarse, mientras él busca desesperadamente una segunda oportunidad. Influenciado por su padre, líder de Los Tucanes de Tijuana, Quintero continúa ampliando su repertorio romántico como cantante y compositor, coronando así un año exitoso en su carrera.

mientras él busca desesperadamente una segunda oportunidad. Influenciado por su padre, líder de Los Tucanes de Tijuana, Quintero continúa ampliando su repertorio romántico como cantante y compositor, coronando así un año exitoso en su carrera.



Kali Uchis, "Muévelo"

In her "final act of self love" for the year, as she says, Kali Uchis has officially released "Muévelo," a sugary, high-energy dembow that was leaked in demo form months ago. Co-produced with Chilean beatmaker Red Fingers (Bad Bunny, Rauw Alejandro), the song brims with flirtation and liberation, channeling dance floor euphoria with electro-tinged rhythms and unapologetic swagger. "Mami, actualiza, ma, actualiza/ Ese cuerpo, uy, qué delicia," she teases, commanding listeners to move like no one's watching. Recorded during her Orquídeas era, this unexpected drop further cements Uchis as a deft purveyor of bops that exist purely to elevate your mood.

En su "último acto de amor propio" del año, como ella misma lo describe, Kali Uchis ha lanzado oficialmente "Muévelo", un dembow pegadizo y lleno de energía que se filtró en forma de demo hace meses. Coproducida con el productor chileno Red Fingers (Bad Bunny, Rauw Alejandro), la canción rebosa coquetería y libertad, transmitiendo la euforia de la pista de baile con ritmos con toques electrónicos y una actitud descarada. "Mami, actualiza, ma, actualiza/ Ese cuerpo, uy, qué delicia", canta, invitando a sus oyentes a bailar como si nadie los viera. Grabada durante la época de su álbum Orquídeas, este lanzamiento inesperado consolida aún más a Uchis como una experta creadora de éxitos que existen simplemente para alegrarte el día.



Tapy Quintero, "Bellos Momentos"

In the Northern Mexican style with saxophone, regional Mexican singer Tapy Quintero caps off a great year in his career with this nostalgic track. The guitar, drums, bass and the indispensable accordion in this genre provide the perfect touch for the interpretation of this story about a

woman who suggests to her partner that they separate, and he pleads for another chance, unable to understand the reason for her decision. Quintero has been forging his own path with the musical teachings and influences of his father, the leader of Los Tucanes de Tijuana, and this is evident in "Bellos Momentos," a song with which he continues to add romantic pieces to his repertoire as a singer and songwriter.

En su último tema nostálgico, "Bellos Momentos", el cantante de música regional mexicana Tapy Quintero fusiona el saxofón con instrumentos tradicionales del norte de México, como la guitarra, la batería, el bajo y el acordeón. La canción narra la historia de una mujer que le propone a su pareja separarse, mientras él busca desesperadamente una segunda oportunidad. Influenciado por su padre, líder de Los Tucanes de Tijuana, Quintero continúa ampliando su repertorio romántico como cantante y compositor, coronando así un año exitoso en su carrera.



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Hispanic Performers Who Have Shaken Up America Through Language and Culture

For more than half a century, Hispanic performers have stepped onto America's biggest stages and forced the country to confront its own anxieties—and possibilities—around language, identity, and belonging. Whether through Spanish-language lyrics, bilingual storytelling, or unapologetically Latin rhythms, these artists have done more than entertain. They've challenged the cultural boundaries of a nation that often claims diversity while resisting the sound of it.

One of the earliest flashpoints came in 1968, when Puerto Rican singer José Feliciano performed a soulful, stylized version of the national anthem at the World Series. His interpretation—in-fused with Latin phrasing and emotional improvisation—was met with outrage. Critics accused him of disrespecting the anthem, revealing how fragile American identity felt when filtered through a Latino voice. Today, that performance is celebrated as groundbreaking, but at the time it exposed a deep discomfort with Spanish-speaking and Latino artistry in national spaces.

Top-Streamed Latin Artists (2024-2025)

ARTIST	NOTES	SOURCES
Bad Bunny	Most-streamed Latin artist worldwide (2024); Top global artist of 2025	Billboard, Variety
Peso Pluma	Among top 10 global artists; leading Mexican music resurgence	Billboard, NBC
Karol G	Most-streamed female Latin artist for five consecutive years	Billboard
Shakira	Continues to rank among top-streamed Latin artists (2025)	LOS40 USA
Daddy Yankee	Still among most-streamed legacy reggaeton artists (2025)	LOS40 USA
Feld	Part of the new wave dominating 2025 streams	LOS40 USA
J Balvin	Remains one of the most globally streamed Latin artists	LOS40 USA
Rauw Alejandro	High streaming numbers in 2025 rankings	LOS40 USA
Anitta	Major global fanbase and streaming presence	LOS40 USA
Maluma	Continues to be a top-streamed Latin pop artist	LOS40 USA



translating himself for English-speaking audiences. His upcoming Super Bowl halftime show, expected to be performed entirely in Spanish, has already sparked criticism from political commentators who frame the language itself as un-American. Yet his popularity tells a different story—one where young Americans, regardless of background, embrace Spanish as part of the country's cultural soundtrack.

Other performers have faced similar storms. In 2025, singer Nezza ignited national debate when she performed the U.S. national anthem entirely in Spanish at Dodger Stadium. Despite pressure to avoid Spanish, she chose to honor her heritage and the millions of Spanish-speaking fans in the stands. The backlash was swift, echoing the Feliciano controversy from nearly sixty years earlier. But so was the support, especially from younger Latinos who saw her performance as a declaration that patriotism does not require linguistic assimilation.

These moments are not isolated—they form a lineage. Gloria Estefan's multiple Super Bowl appearances, Demi Lovato's bilingual presence, Bruno Mars' Puerto Rican roots, and the global success of Karol G, Peso Pluma, and Shakira all point to a cultural truth: Hispanic artists are not guests in American culture. They are architects of it.

As Spanish becomes increasingly visible on the nation's biggest stages, these performers remind the country that language is not a threat. It is a mirror. And America is finally being asked to look at itself in the mirror! Who among us will refuse to watch the Super Bowl because Bad Bunny will perform in Spanish?

Durante más de cincuenta años, los artistas hispanos han interactuado con la identidad cultural estadounidense a través del idioma, desafiando fronteras y percepciones. Ejemplos tempranos, como la interpretación del himno nacional por José Feliciano en 1968, pusieron de manifiesto la incomodidad que rodeaba al arte latino, un tema que resurgió durante el espectáculo de medio tiempo del Super Bowl de 2020, protagonizado por Jennifer Lopez, Shakira y otros artistas, que celebró la latinidad pero generó controversia por el uso del español. Bad Bunny, ahora un ícono global, ejemplifica este cambio al alcanzar el éxito sin necesidad de traducir sus canciones al inglés, aunque también ha recibido críticas por cantar en español. La interpretación del himno nacional en español por Nezza en el Dodger Stadium en 2025 reavivó debates similares, reforzando la idea de que los artistas hispanos son parte integral de la cultura estadounidense, y no meros participantes. En general, estos momentos reflejan una creciente aceptación del español como parte vital del panorama cultural de Estados Unidos.



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Passion & the Fearless Pursuit of Dreams! Fashion is my
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others to find their own style & *Shine Bright* on their own terms.



2026 JANUARY MODEL SEARCH

More screen time in early childhood is associated with lower test scores, according to a new large-scale study tracking screen use of elementary school students in Canada. The research – published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) in October – highlights the importance of early interventions to promote healthy screen habits among kids.

In the new study, parents reported the daily screen time of their third- and sixth-grade children. They learned that kids who spent more time on screens – especially watching television or using social media – scored lower on standardized reading and math tests compared to kids who used screens less or not at all. The study found that each additional hour of daily screen time was linked to about a 10% lower chance of achieving higher academic levels on reading and math tests.

Children in the United States average nearly eight hours a day of screen time, according to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. This includes phones, tablets, TVs, computers and gaming consoles.

How does excessive screen time impact childhood development?

The JAMA study is one of the latest in a long line of studies to link excessive screen time to poor academic outcomes among children. A 2023 study found that too much screen time – especially when multitasking – is associated with worse executive functioning and lower academic performance.

The same study found multitasking with social media to be particularly problematic, as children who made a habit of rapidly switching between apps and screens were more strongly associated with negative cognitive outcomes.

Further illustrating the link between increased social media use and poor academic outcomes, a separate new 2025 study published by JAMA found that preteens using increasing amounts of social media registered lower reading, vocabulary and memory test scores compared to kids who use little to no social media. Even low but increasing social media use was linked to worse cognitive performance later, according to this study.

There is also a link between ample screen time and limited physical activity among kids. In children age 5 and younger, too much screen time and not enough active playtime can limit their motor skill development and curiosity, according to the Cleveland Clinic.

What are other negative effects of too much screen time?

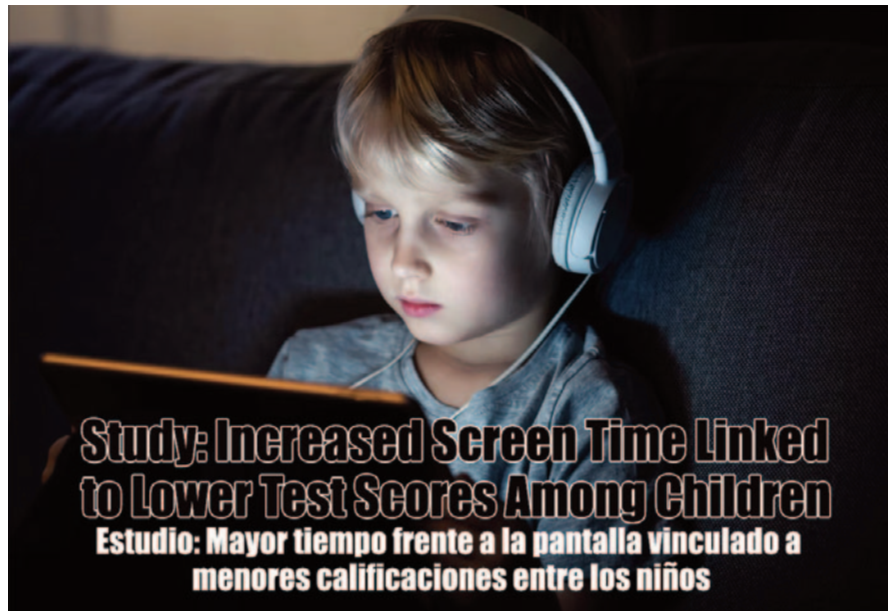
In addition to impaired learning and poor academic performance, too much screen time can lead to health problems for anyone – not just kids – including weight gain, irregular sleep and poor mental health. It can cause eye issues related to digital eye strain, also known as computer vision syndrome. Symptoms of digital eye strain include:

- Blurred vision
- Dry eyes
- Headache

Increased screen time can also increase a child's risk of developing myopia, which is nearsightedness, and can create difficulty seeing objects far away. Myopia usually becomes an issue for children between the ages of 6 and 14.

It is important to remind children to take a break from their screens. The American Optometric Association recommends the 20/20/20 rule: look away from the screen every 20 minutes and focus on an object at least 20 feet away, for at least 20 seconds.

Parents should consider weighing the productivity of doing schoolwork with the hours of screen time necessary to do so. Implementing offline activities into your child's schedule to prioritize their eye health is important.



Study: Increased Screen Time Linked to Lower Test Scores Among Children
Estudio: Mayor tiempo frente a la pantalla vinculado a menores calificaciones entre los niños

Tips for parents to help children reduce screen time

The American Academy of Pediatrics offers these recommendations for screen time, by age:

- 18 months and younger: minimal or no screen time
- Age 2 to 5: less than an hour a day
- Age 5 and older: screen time should not displace sleep, exercise, schoolwork or family time

Limiting screen time early is easier than trying to get kids to stay off screens later; it is a progressive hobby and habit, as indicated by a recent Pew Research Center study that found social media use to increase the later a teen got into adolescence.

More time on devices typically means less time spent on other activities that might be more beneficial to a child's development. Offering physically and mentally enriching activities to infants, toddlers and children can aid their development in a healthy way while helping them practice moderation with screens. Here are a few tips for parents:

- Stop the use of screens an hour before bed
- Offer physical toys that encourage curiosity
- Read books with kids
- Turn off background TV
- Avoid screens during mealtimes
- Co-view movies and TV shows with kids
- Have media-free time with family and friends
- Encourage screen-free activities such as sports and active play
- Set a good example with phone and screen use
- Talk to their kids about media and screens
- Make a family media plan
- Be consistent with screen time and family rules

Según un estudio publicado en JAMA, un mayor tiempo frente a las pantallas en la primera infancia se correlaciona con un menor rendimiento académico. Los padres registraron el uso de pantallas de sus hijos, revelando que el aumento del tiempo frente a las pantallas, particularmente a través de la televisión y las redes sociales, se asoció con una disminución de aproximadamente el 10 % en la probabilidad de obtener mejores calificaciones en lectura y matemáticas por cada hora adicional dedicada a las pantallas. El tiempo excesivo frente a las pantallas se relaciona con problemas cognitivos, como un funcionamiento ejecutivo deficiente y una menor actividad física. Entre los problemas de salud que puede causar se incluyen el aumento de peso, las alteraciones del sueño y la fatiga visual digital. Las recomendaciones para los padres incluyen limitar el tiempo frente a las pantallas, especialmente en los niños más pequeños, fomentar la actividad física e implementar planes familiares para el uso de medios digitales que promuevan hábitos más saludables.

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