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For more information  
rod@ritchersoncompanies.com  
608-334-2220

**UMOS ANNOUNCES HISPANIC OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS***CELEBRATING 40<sup>th</sup> HISPANIC AWARDS BANQUET*

The first UMOs Hispanic Awards Banquet was held in 1981 at the War Memorial Building in Milwaukee. More than 250 guests attended.

UMOS recognized the Linda Maria Figueroa as the Youth of the Year, Dr. Milton Silva, Hispanic Man of the Year, and Hortencia Delgadillo as Woman of the Year. The Family of the Year category was added in 1990.

In 2019, before Covid-19, more than 850 guests attended the banquet in the Potawatomi Hotel Ballroom.

This year, the 40<sup>th</sup> annual celebration presentation can be viewed virtually starting December 17. Go to the UMOs website, [www.umos.org](http://www.umos.org) or the UMOs Facebook page for the link.

“The UMOs Hispanic Awards Banquet is an opportunity to recognize and honor those who have made significant contributions through their personal and professional lives to make life better for individuals, families and communities throughout the state,” says Lupe Martinez, President and Chief Executive Officer. “This year’s award recipients continue to uphold the high standards of excellence set by former recipients over the past 40 years.”

*UMOS is a non-profit, advocacy organization that provides programs and services which improves the employment, educational, health and housing opportunities for under-served populations.*



**MIRANDA AVILES**  
2021  
**UMOS HISPANIC YOUTH OF THE YEAR**

Miranda Aviles is smart, athletic, thoughtful, and caring.

**Smart**---Miranda has a 4.0 GPA at Ronald Wilson Reagan College Preparatory High School.

**Athletic**---Miranda broke barriers as the only female on her eight-grade football team. Miranda also participated in the Milwaukee Kickers Soccer Club, as well as the Co-Ed Indoor Soccer Team,

**Thoughtful**--Miranda has demonstrated a belief in giving back to her community and celebrating her culture.

**Caring**--Miranda was the top fundraiser for the “jump rope for heart campaigns” to help raise awareness and funds to combat heart disease.

In addition to her studies, Miranda participates in a wide range of extracurricular activities like Pep Band, Future Problem Solvers, the school newspaper, the Husky Howler, Debate Club, and International Club. Not only is Miranda fluent in both English and Spanish, but she is also becoming trilingual through her studies in French and membership in the French Honor Society.

Miranda Aviles is proving that it is not the number of years one has been alive that is important, but what one does to make the most of each and every year. At just sixteen, Miranda is leading a life that demonstrates consistently her leadership in academics, sports, governance, multiculturalism, linguistics, and volunteerism.



**FRANKLIN PIZARRO**  
2021  
**UMOS HISPANIC MAN OF THE YEAR**

Franklin Pizarro is a man on a mission.....and that mission is about family and community.

Franklin is a family man. His mission is to instill in his children the values he has learned and how to apply those values in their daily lives.

Franklin is about community and helping others. He collected groceries and donations for those impacted by the earthquake in Mexico and hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. He also collected and transported food and other necessities to victims of the recent Texas winter storm.

Franklin is a protector and a rescuer. He has participated in over forty rescues starting early in his career as a member of the civil defense rescue team in Puerto Rico and continuing as a firefighter in Wisconsin and Florida. He broke a record four times and received the highest certification as the most aggressive firefighter at the academy in Osceola County, Florida.

Franklin has learned a lot about the importance of being a humanitarian, and the value of volunteer time. He volunteered at the Puerto Rican Family Fest in charge of security and logistics and was awarded a plaque as the “Pearl of the Community.”



**THE HONORABLE KRISTELA CERVERA**  
2021  
**UMOS HISPANIC WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

Kristela Cervera was destined for success.

Her grandfather was the first Chicano to become sheriff in Zavala County, Texas.

Her grandmother was elected as the first Mexican American woman mayor of Crystal City, Texas.

While attending the University of Wisconsin Law School Kristela began to impress her fellow peers through her academic achievements and leadership skills

Kristela was elected vice president of the Latino law student's association in 1999, and a year later, elected as president.

In 2008, Attorney Cervera was elected president of the Wisconsin Hispanic Lawyers Association in 2008.

Kristela is even tempered and committed to family values and traditions, with an enduring concern for the best interest of our children.

Kristela served as Assistant Family Court Commissioner and Family Court Commissioner for more than a decade with Milwaukee County Municipal Court Child Support Services.

Today, Kristela serves as The Honorable Kristela Cervera as a judge in Milwaukee County's Municipal Court System.

Kristela is a member of the Wisconsin Child Support Association, the Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee, and the Wisconsin Lawyers Association



**HUGO & DEBBIE RIOS FAMILY**  
2021  
**UMOS HISPANIC FAMILY OF THE YEAR**

For the Rios family...family means everything.

Through the good times and the not so good times, the Rios family members remain beacons of light for each other, and for others throughout the community as well.

The Rios family sees community as their extended family, and they continue to freely give of themselves without expecting anything in return, even during the Covid-19 pandemic.

That's the Rios\_way.

The Rios family has invested over 3000 hours of service to the community. ST. Anthony's Church, The Salvation Army, Hunger Task Force, The Boys and Girls Club, Fallen Heroes, and UMOS are only a few of the organizations that have benefited from the Rios way.

Giving, and getting a smile from a child, is a worthy return on their investment of time especially during the holidays.

The Rios family truly embraces the "family is everything" concept and they show it every single day.