

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—February 19, 2024

Contact / Melanie Jones

MelanieJones@QCCCommunityFoundation.org

(563) 326-2840

Latino leadership program graduates first cohort

QUAD CITIES, Iowa / Illinois—On Saturday, February 24, 2024, the first cohort of the Quad Cities Regional Lideramos Leadership Program will graduate. Coordinated by LULAC Council 10 and supported by the Quad Cities Community Foundation, the program has guided 23 local Latino leaders through six months of culturally specific leadership training.

“These are today’s leaders,” said program coordinator Alfred Ramirez. “Our program created a space and a network where these leaders could grow. We combined traditional leadership training with a culturally aware curriculum. The results have been powerful to see.”

The program began in September 2023, with cohort members meeting monthly for sessions on a variety of topics, including civic engagement, identity and leadership, public communication, and more. Lideramos is a national network that shares a curriculum that can be tailored to suit local needs. In the United States, Latinos constitute the youngest and largest minority—leadership programs like Lideramos exist to actualize the potential of this group.

“We’re proud to partner with LULAC Council 10 and support this program,” said Sue Hafkemeyer, the Community Foundation’s president and CEO. “Our mission begins with listening. LULAC identified a need and desire for this program, and they have made it a success. They’ve also created a model that can be repeated.”

The Community Foundation provided \$50,000 for LULAC Council 10 to plan and pilot the program and has recently committed additional funds to support a second cohort, which will begin meeting in spring. The program has also been supported by the Moline Regional Community Foundation and the Regional Development Authority.

“The graduation is going to be a celebration,” said Joe Moralez, LULAC Council 10 education chair. “Each cohort member will have an opportunity to speak about their experience. We are excited to see where they go next and how their leadership impacts the organizations and communities they represent.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: Media are invited and encouraged to attend the graduation ceremony. The event will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at LULAC Club Davenport, 4224 Ricker Hill Rd, Davenport, IA 52802. The ceremony will begin promptly at noon. The one-hour program will be followed by a Mexican lunch and socializing. To RSVP for the graduation event or to arrange interviews, please contact Melanie Jones at MelanieJones@QCCCommunityFoundation.org or (563) 326-2840.