



**Northern Illinois  
University**

*Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow*

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## **NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY RESOURCES FOR LATINO STUDENTS AND FAMILIES**

Northern Illinois University (NIU) is committed to helping every student have a successful educational experience. NIU offers an array of student resources and services that meets the diverse needs of students and their families. With Latino students representing our fastest-growing student demographic, NIU has many offices and programs on campus dedicated to helping students at every stage in their college experience adjust and thrive. A variety of student and professional organizations are available to enrich the educational experience at NIU and after graduation through the alumni association.

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### **ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS**

#### **HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITION**

##### *Financial Cents*

Using a peer educator group, course presentations, workshops, and additional resources, this program gives NIU students and local communities a better understanding of important financial decisions that will impact their lives before college, during college, and well beyond graduation.

##### **Office of Student Academic Success**

**(815) 753-5721**

**[www.niu.edu/financialcents](http://www.niu.edu/financialcents)**

##### *Upward Bound*

Since 1966, the Upward Bound (UB) Program at NIU has helped high school students in Aurora and Rockford prepare to enter and succeed in college. UB offers summer and school year programs in tutoring, academic and cultural enrichment, career exploration, financial aid advisement, and support services to motivate and prepare students for postsecondary education. Students must meet specific criteria to qualify.

##### **Office of Precollegiate Programs**

**(815) 753-1867**

**[www.upwardbound.niu.edu](http://www.upwardbound.niu.edu)**

##### *College Bridge Program*

College Bridge supports students as they make the transition from high school to NIU and provides information to middle school students and their parents about preparing for college early - regardless of the institution they plan to attend. Students must meet specific criteria to qualify.

##### **Office of Precollegiate Programs**

**(815) 753-1867**

**[www.niu.edu/precollegiate/CBP](http://www.niu.edu/precollegiate/CBP)**

## **FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE**

### ***Mentoring for Academic Success (M.A.S.)/Freshmen Receiving Experience and Study Habits (F.R.E.S.H)***

The mission of M.A.S. /F.R.E.S.H. is to provide a welcoming environment for incoming first-year Latino students and assist them in their transition to college life.

**Latino Resource Center**

**(815) 753-1986**

**[www.niu.edu/lrc/mp.html](http://www.niu.edu/lrc/mp.html)**

### ***MAP-Works***

A first year success program for new freshmen and transfer students, MAP-Works is a survey-based tool that helps students establish roots and develop positive habits to succeed at NIU and beyond.

**Office of Student Academic Success**

**(815) 753-5721**

**[www.niu.edu/osas/programs/MAPWorks/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/osas/programs/MAPWorks/index.shtml)**

## **ENRICHMENT**

### ***Minor in Latino and Latin American Studies***

An academic minor in Latino and Latin American Studies provides Latino students with a broader understanding of their own history and culture as well as detailed information about the Latino experience in the United States and other Latin American cultures.

**Center for Latino and Latin American Studies**

**815/753-1651**

**[www.niu.edu/latinostudies/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/latinostudies/index.shtml)**

### ***ACCESS (Access to Courses and Careers through Educational Support Services)***

ACCESS provides walk-in and one-on-one tutoring services, study groups, supplemental instruction for some specific courses, and other support services for students who require academic assistance to succeed in their chosen courses and majors.

**Division of Academic Affairs, Educational Services and Programs**

**(815) 753-1141**

**[www.niu.edu/access/](http://www.niu.edu/access/)**

### ***CHANCE (Counseling, Help, and Assistance Necessary for a College Education)***

The mission of the CHANCE Program is to identify, recruit, admit, and assist otherwise capable students whose pre-college education has not enabled them to take maximum advantage of their potential and the opportunities of higher education at NIU. Students must meet specific criteria to qualify.

**Division of Academic Affairs, Educational Services and Programs**

**(815) 753-0201**

**[www.chance.niu.edu](http://www.chance.niu.edu)**

***De Mujer a Mujer: Latina Assistance Program***

Promotes programs specific to the needs of Latinas including support, academic guidance, and leadership opportunities that enhance student retention and graduation.

**Latino Resource Center**

**(815) 753-1986**

**[www.niu.edu/lrc/programs.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/lrc/programs.shtml)**

***University Honors Program***

The University Honors Program at NIU provides an enriched educational experience for students of high intellectual potential who are committed to the pursuit of knowledge and understanding. Through specialized courses and academic advising, engaged learning opportunities, a customized living-learning community, and extracurricular programming, the University Honors Program helps develop creative and challenging educational encounters. Collaborative interaction with NIU's colleges and departments provides opportunities for students in all academic disciplines.

**(815) 753-0694**

**[www.honors.niu.edu](http://www.honors.niu.edu)**

***REACH (Retention Effort for All in Coming Huskies)***

REACH provides resources, information, and advice to support NIU first-year students as they adjust and transition to life on campus.

**Orientation and First Year Experience**

**(815) 753-0028**

**[www.niu.edu/orientation/fyc/reach/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/orientation/fyc/reach/index.shtml)**

***Soup & Success***

Soup & Success is a series of informational workshops that are student centered and encourage student success.

**Office of Student Academic Success**

**(815) 753-5721**

**[www.niu.edu/osas/programs/SoupSuccess.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/osas/programs/SoupSuccess.shtml)**

***Student Support Services***

Student Support Services serves first-generation college students by supporting and empowering them in developing a successful collegiate experience that leads to graduation. Eligible students are admitted to the program upon completion of an application, a personal interview, and an academic and career assessment. Students need to meet specific criteria to qualify.

**Division of Academic Affairs, Educational Services & Programs**

**(815) 753-1142**

**[www.niu.edu/studentsupport/](http://www.niu.edu/studentsupport/)**

***Supporting Opportunities for Latinos (S.O.L.)***

S.O.L. is a student group focused on the needs of Latino males. The Latino Resource Center collaborates closely with S.O.L. to provide academic, social, cultural, and leadership opportunities that enhance student retention and

graduation.

**Latino Resource Center**

(815) 753-1986

[www.niu.edu/lrc/programs.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/lrc/programs.shtml)

## **MENTORING**

### *CHANCE Peer Mentoring Program*

The P.R.O.G.R.E.S.S. Peer Mentoring Program (PMP) helps incoming freshmen adjust to the academic and social environment of the NIU campus. Each year the CHANCE Program selects 100 newly admitted students who are matched with successful student mentors who are sophomores, juniors, or seniors. This provides incoming freshmen with a successful role model, academic and social support, and guidance as they make their transition to college life. This program is only for NIU students admitted through the CHANCE program.

**Division of Academic Affairs, Educational Services and Programs**

(815) 753-0201

[www.chance.niu.edu/chance/peerprogram/index.shtml](http://www.chance.niu.edu/chance/peerprogram/index.shtml)

### *Together Exploring Las Oportunidades para Sobresalir (T.E.L.O.S.)*

NIU students participate as mentors for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Clinton-Rosette Middle School.

**Latino Resource Center**

(815) 753-1986

[www.niu.edu/lrc/programs.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/lrc/programs.shtml)

### *Vanguardia Afirmativa de Latinos Unidos (V.A.L.U.)*

NIU students participate as mentors for students at DeKalb High School and on the main NIU campus in DeKalb.

**Latino Resource Center**

(815) 753-1986

[www.niu.edu/lrc/programs.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/lrc/programs.shtml)

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## **STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Student success increases tremendously when students network with their peers. More than 200 Student Association (SA) recognized organizations meet the social, cultural, professional and Greek life interests of NIU students. All SA recognized organizations are open to *all* students. Following are some of the NIU student organizations that focus on leadership development, growth, and support for Latino students.

### *Adela de la Torre Honor Society*

Adela de la Torre Honor Society was formed to recognize and promote excellence among Latino students. This is achieved by providing students with opportunities for leadership growth, scholarship, and community service; establishing a presence of Latino cultures on campus; and strengthening students' understanding of their Latino

heritage and culture.

[www.niu.edu/lrc/adala\\_de\\_la\\_torre/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/lrc/adala_de_la_torre/index.shtml)

#### ***Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting***

ALPFA is the leading professional association dedicated to enhancing opportunities for Latinos in the accounting, finance, and related professions.

[www.alpfa.org/](http://www.alpfa.org/)

#### ***DREAM Action NIU***

DREAM Action NIU is a student -driven organization that works closely with the Latino Resource Center to increase awareness and resources in the NIU community for undocumented students. DREAM Action NIU understands the obstacles and challenges some youth face in attaining higher education. It motivates young people to pursue higher education in the belief that everyone can receive a college degree.

[www.niu.edu/lrc/dreamactionatniu.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/lrc/dreamactionatniu.shtml)

#### ***Latino Student Alliance***

The Latino Student Alliance (LSA) was established to promote degree completion through community involvement that unites the university and surrounding communities while building better communication within the Latino student community at NIU. LSA members focus on a common goal of success and progress *por nuestra comunidad y gente* (for our community and people).

#### ***Latino Students Christian Community (La Fe)***

La Fe is committed to helping Latino students at NIU “experience the love of Christ as we explore God’s word, faith, and experiences of our people”.

[http://www.niuiv.org/La\\_Fe.html](http://www.niuiv.org/La_Fe.html)

#### ***Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)***

This society of scientists is dedicated to fostering the success of Hispanic/Chicano and Native American scientists—from college students to professionals—to attain advanced degrees, careers, and positions of leadership in science.

[sacnas.org](http://sacnas.org)

#### ***Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers***

An organization to increase recruitment and retention of Hispanic engineering students at NIU, promote the advancement of Hispanic engineers and scientists in employment and education, develop and participate in programs for technical degrees, provide a forum for students to exchange information, promote engineering programs for minorities, and represent Hispanic professional students on campus.

[oneshpe.shpe.org/wps/portal/national](http://oneshpe.shpe.org/wps/portal/national)

### *Latino Alumni Council*

The Council brings Latino alumni together to support Latino students and provides networking opportunities to alumni. The Council's mission is to maximize the academic and social experience of Latinos at NIU, to serve as a representative voice for Latino alumni, and to assist in the unification of alumni efforts to further the interests of NIU.

[www.facebook.com/pages/Northern-Illinois-University-Latino-Alumni-Council/181361568570924](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Northern-Illinois-University-Latino-Alumni-Council/181361568570924)

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## **SCHOLARSHIP & FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES**

### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

#### *NIU Scholarship Office*

The Scholarship Office works with the Office of Student Financial Aid to connect NIU students with various scholarship resources and assist NIU offices and departments with the administration of scholarship funds. The Scholarship Finder is an NIU scholarship tool that assists students in creating a profile to search for NIU scholarships.

[www.niu.edu/scholarships/](http://www.niu.edu/scholarships/)

[www.scholarships.niu.edu/ScholarshipFinder](http://www.scholarships.niu.edu/ScholarshipFinder)

### **FINANCIAL AID**

#### *NIU Student Financial Aid Office*

This office helps students pursue their college education by assisting them and their families in meeting educational expenses. There are many types of financial aid available to help manage the cost of a college education such as grants, loans, work-study opportunities, and scholarships. NIU financial aid advisors and counselors are available to assist students with completing the FAFSA. [www.niu.edu/fa/](http://www.niu.edu/fa/)

#### *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*

The office of Federal Student Aid in the U.S. Department of Education provides grants, loans, and work-study funds for college or career school. It uses the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine eligibility for federal, state, and other aid programs. Undocumented students are not eligible to complete the FAFSA.

[www.fafsa.ed.gov/](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/)

## **ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

*Illinois Student Assistance Commission*

[www.isac.org](http://www.isac.org)

*FinAid*

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

*National Scholarship Finder*

[www.collegescholarships.com/index.php](http://www.collegescholarships.com/index.php)

*National Scholarship Registry*

[www.chci.org/doclib/20112141737204152-CHCIDirectory6thEdition.pdf?trail=2012827150](http://www.chci.org/doclib/20112141737204152-CHCIDirectory6thEdition.pdf?trail=2012827150)

*2011-2012 Comprehensive Scholarship Guide*

[www.niu.edu/lrc/CONSOLIDATED%20LISTING%20OF%20SCHOLARSHIPS%202012.pdf](http://www.niu.edu/lrc/CONSOLIDATED%20LISTING%20OF%20SCHOLARSHIPS%202012.pdf)

*NIU Center for Latino and Latin American Studies Scholarships*

[www.niu.edu/latinostudies/scholarships/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/latinostudies/scholarships/index.shtml)

*FastWeb*

National Scholarship Finder.  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

*College Board*

[Collegeboard.org](http://Collegeboard.org)

*Illinois Latino Council in Higher Education*  
[ILACHE.com](http://ILACHE.com)

*United States Hispanic Leadership Institute*  
[USHLI.org](http://USHLI.org)

*Hispanic Scholarship Fund*

[www.hsf.net](http://www.hsf.net)

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## **LATINO STUDENT SERVICE CENTERS**

The Latino Resource Center and the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies offer students a number of programs and resources that reflect Latino culture and history and address the needs of first generation Latino students. Mentors, academic tutors, scholarships and awards, conferences, and leadership opportunities are some of the resources NIU makes available to Latino students through these centers. Both centers are located in the same building and are a welcoming place to study, hold meetings, or socialize - "a home away from home".

*Latino Resource Center*

The Latino Resource Center was created to increase the enrollment and retention rate of Latino/a students and NIU and to provide cultural, social, and academic programs that enhance the quality of Latino/a student life.  
[www.niu.edu/lrc/](http://www.niu.edu/lrc/)

*Center for Latino and Latin American Studies*

The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies serves NIU's faculty and students through a variety of academic, research, and cultural programs. It also houses the Latino Studies academic minor that educates students about the Latino experience in the United States and the history of Latin American civilization.  
[www.niu.edu/latinostudies/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/latinostudies/index.shtml)

## **UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS**

In Illinois, students who are not U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, or who do not possess a green card, visa, or other legal documentation, may apply for admission to NIU or any other state university in Illinois and pay in-state tuition if they meet certain conditions (Public Act 093-07/HB 60). These include residing with a parent or guardian while attending a public or private Illinois high school, graduating from an Illinois high school or receiving the equivalent of a high school diploma in Illinois, attending an Illinois high school for at least three years or receiving the equivalent of a high school diploma in Illinois, and providing the university with an affidavit stating her/his intent to file an application to become a permanent resident of the U.S.

NIU counselors are available to help undocumented students understand and meet these requirements. Guides to admissions for undocumented students may be found at the following web addresses:

**<http://www.niu.edu/latinostudies/resources/undocumentedresources.shtml>**