



Alba Perez

Executive Officer – Office of Latino Affairs & Status of African Americans,
Iowa Department of Human Rights

Originally from Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Alba moved to Des Moines more than twenty eight years ago, now calling Iowa home for her children and grandchildren. While in Honduras, Alba studied Foreign Languages (English-French), Pedagogy at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras - UNAH. In 2012 Alba became the Executive Office of Latino Affairs where some of her primary duties include serving as the central permanent agency to advocate for Latino persons, coordinate and cooperate with the efforts of the state departments and agencies to serve the needs of Latino persons in participating fully in the economic, social, and cultural life of the state, and to provide direct assistance to those who request it. Other duties are listed in the Iowa Code.

During her tenure at the Greater Des Moines Partnership (2000-2012) Ms. Perez was charged with programming educational, networking and recognition opportunities on issues of diversity and inclusion for member companies and community. In addition Alba provided assistance to the Partnership's International Relations group in the Latin American trade programs, including coordinating several trade missions to Cuba (2000-2004). Alba was also a promoter of cultural events in Des Moines (2000-2005). Alba Perez has received the following recognitions:

Forty Under 40 Honoree 2004 – Business Record Publications

Latina Business Leader Award 2004 – State of Iowa

2007 Passport to Prosperity Honoree – Iowa Council for International Understanding

Civic Involvement

Capital City Pride, Board vice president in 2004 and committee member 2004-2006.

Latino Resources/Latino Heritage Festival, Board and committee member 1999-2005

Iowa Career Consortium, Multicultural and Advisory Committee member 2000 to Present

21st Century Forum, 2003 Member.

Latino Political Agenda, 2003 Participant.

Latino Community Orientation, Workshop Instructor 2003.

Precinct 23 Delegate for John Kerry, 2004. Precinct 3 Capitan, county and state delegate for Senator Barack Obama for the 2008 elections.

BRAVO Greater Des Moines, Board member, 2004 to 2010.

YPC Young Professionals Connection, member in 2005

Neighborhood Finance Corporation, Board member in 2007.

Iowa Pride Network, Board member in 2007

Iowa Initiative to Prevent Unintended Pregnancies, 2007 to present.

Governor's Diversity Council member, 2008 to 2010.

Des Moines Area Community College, Interpreters and Translator's Program (ITP) Advisory Committee, 2006 – Present.

Volunteer Experience

Des Moines Art Center, “Day of the Dead”, Mistress of Ceremonies

Nosotros en America, Co host and host for Spanish Radio Program. 2000-2001

The Big Event, Organizing Committee Member (Entertainment-2002).

American Friends Service Committee, 245i Project.

Shelter for Battered Women, volunteer bilingual speaker.

Asian Festival, volunteer in 2004 & 2005

Mariposas, leadership and culture program for young Latinas - Harding Middle School, 2004-2006.