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In the Spotlight: Brenda Phongsavanh honored for her work in the Latino community

Diversity is celebrated at The Principal in many ways. There are various Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) that employees can participate in as well as volunteer opportunities that can inspire employees to live life as their true selves and share in the advancement of diversity issues throughout our communities.

Brenda Phongsavanh, a Learning & Development Specialist in the Individual Life group, is an example of an employee who has embraced the advancement of diversity issues in her community. She was recently honored by the [League of United Latin American Citizens of Iowa \(LLUAC\)](#) at their Oct. 31, 2015 awards ceremony for her tireless dedication and service to the Latino Forum in Iowa. LULAC is the largest Latino civil rights and advocacy group in the United States. They work with community organizations like the Latino Forum to improve opportunities for Hispanic Americans from every region looking for freedom and an honest way of life. The Latino Forum partners with LULAC and is a collective of individuals committed to the advancement of Latinos to achieve social justice for the community and further its full potential.

Brenda has embraced the ideals of these organizations throughout her career. Within The Principal she has been a member of the [Hispanic Latino ERG](#) for over eight years and is a former Chair and a current

Steering Committee member. Over the past three years she has been a member of the Latino Forum, a community organization that partners with LULAC, where she currently serves as the Secretary and is a member of the Communications Committee. In her role on the Communication Committee she has spearheaded the development and publication of a weekly newsletter that informs Forum members about job postings, community events and announcements for the Latino community.

“Brenda devotes much of her time outside of work to her girls, volunteering and supporting the community,” said fellow Hispanic Latino ERG member Candice Bundt. “She has made a significant impact on the Latino community in our area and can often be seen volunteering at events like the Latino Heritage Festival or participating with [Al Exito](#) to motivate and prepare middle school Latinas and Latinos for post-high school education and economic security.”

Through her work both internally and externally Brenda has embraced the vision/mission of The Principal’s ERGs by assisting and supporting the company’s efforts to service the financial needs of an increasingly diverse market.