

Carlos Villacorta and Daniel Sandweiss

Proposal for the Rising Tide Professorships Fall 2018

Abstract (150 words)

The University of Maine undergraduate student body includes 3.5% of Latin American and Hispanic heritage (<https://umaine.edu/oir/common-data-sets/>), while Latinx students constitute 1.5% of the graduate students on campus (Debra Allen, personal communication 3-8-18) and the professoriate includes 5 Latinx faculty members (slightly under 1%). Our proposed "UMaine Unido" project seeks to support the well being of the undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty of the Latinx community of the University of Maine by creating events with, for, and about Latinxs and Latin American culture. As a way to promote visibility, participation and integration, this project will promote events for the UMaine community to increase awareness and respect for the contributions of Latinxs on our campus and in the United States, both immigrants and those born here. While working to better integrate Latinx and mainstream communities at the university, the project also intends to build a greater sense of identity and support among UMaine Latinxs, an underserved minority on our campus.

Timeline

The present project is intended for four semesters. This period of time will serve to provide a set of different events spreading over two years. We consider this is the minimum timeframe to engage the UMaine community in sharing and cooperating together successfully.