

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, November 30, 2016



All applications must be electronically submitted by close of business (**5:00pm**) to:
info@almachicago.org

Overview

The Association of Latino/as Motivating Action (ALMA) Chicago is proud to continue the **ALMA Young Latino Leaders for Creating Change Scholarship**. This scholarship was developed in order to provide financial assistance to outstanding Illinois **Latino Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning youth leaders and youth allies** to attend the annual Creating Change Conference*. Sponsored by ALMA, Comcast and other generous donors, two young leaders will be awarded scholarships to attend Creating Change 2017 hosted in Philadelphia PA January 18-22, including the Unión Equals Fuerza: Latino Institute.

*Scholarship includes: conference registration fees, lodging & meals.

About ALMA

The Association of Latino/as Motivating Action (ALMA) works to fight for the rights of the Latino Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) community by advocating for fairness and equality and by affirming Latino LGBTQ culture. For nearly twenty-five years, ALMA has been committed to working to transform communities to accept and celebrate the LGBTQ Latino experience. A member of Chicago's Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, ALMA continues at the forefront of the movement, focusing on advocacy, leadership and pride in the community.

The original ALMA Scholarship was founded in 2003 by members Emmanuel Garcia and Tony Alvarado. The scholarship program continues today, focused on the development of leadership through participation in Creating Change.

Application Process

There are four components to the initial application for the ALMA scholarship. Upon receipt of all applications as of the application deadline, ALMA will select finalists, and reserves the right to conduct an interview with all finalists prior to final selection of the scholarship recipients. All application items should be submitted together, with the exception of the letter of recommendation (letters of recommendation must be emailed directly to ALMA by the reference; failure to do so may result in disqualification. Any questions about the application process can be directed to ALMA **by contacting us at info@almachicago.org**.

The four components of the ALMA scholarship application are:

1. Completed Application
2. Letter of Commitment, for service term on ALMA's Youth Advisory Board
3. Letter of Recommendation
4. Resume

1. Completed Application:

The application begins on page 4 of this application packet. In addition to basic information, the application includes essay questions. The application can be downloaded from the ALMA website in either .PDF or Microsoft Word and completed electronically. Applications must be submitted electronically.

2. Letter of Commitment, (Service on ALMA's Youth Advisory Board)

A signed letter of commitment form must be returned with the completed application. Scholarship recipients must be willing and able to commit to one year of service on ALMA's Youth Advisory Board, from January 2017 – December 2017. This is a monthly time commitment of 5 – 10 hours. Members of the Youth Advisory Board will work directly with ALMA's Leadership Team to develop strategies to engage young LGBTQ Latinos and allies in ALMA's mission and initiatives. Scholarship recipients will also plan and implement a youth-focused project during their year of service, based on principles learned through Creating Change.

As the letter of commitment requires a signature, applicants should sign and scan the document. An electronic copy of the signed letter should be included in the same email as the application.

3. Recommendation Form:

A recommendation form must be provided by the application deadline. Please select someone to write a recommendation for you using the form in this packet. This person should be someone not related to you, who is familiar with both your strengths and growth opportunities. The recommender must complete the form on page 6.

Please note the form must be emailed directly to info@almachicago.org from the recommender. The form must be signed, and therefore should be scanned and emailed as an electronic document. Please be sure to give your selected recommender sufficient time to complete and submit the form by the application deadline of November 30th, 2016.

4. Resume

All applicants must submit an updated resume. The resume should be included in the same email as the application materials.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the ALMA Scholarship, applicants must be:

- Latino LGBTQ Youth or Latino Youth Ally
- Age 18-25
- Resident of Illinois
- Demonstrate previous experience (volunteering and/or participation in a group or club) in advocacy and/or activism for the LGBTQ community
- Must be willing and able to commit to one year service on ALMA's Youth Advisory Board (January 2017 - December 2017), approximately 5-10 hours/month
- Must ensure that participation in Creating Change January 2017 will not interfere and/or will be cleared by employers and/or educational institution

***Latina lesbian, queer, and bi women; transgender Latin@s, and first generation LGBTQ immigrants strongly encouraged to apply.*

Evaluation Criteria

Scholarship awards are based on participation in school or community activities, demonstrated dedication and commitment to service, and demonstrated leadership ability. Scholars are eligible for a one-time scholarship to attend Creating Change and develop leadership capacity.

Expectations of Scholarship Recipients

The ALMA Board of Directors envisioned a scholarship for Latino Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Questioning, and Transgender (LGBTQ) youth and allies - seeing the importance of not only providing young people with the unique Creating Change experience, but also of fostering a greater connection for these young people's to the Latino LGBTQ community. ALMA's scholarship offers financial opportunity to support young adults who want to be leaders in their chosen career/vocation. **Recipients of the ALMA Scholarship are expected to serve on the ALMA Youth Advisory board for one year, from January 2017 December 2017**

Applicant Information
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Name:	
Address:	
City:	
State:	
Zip Code:	
Phone/Day:	
Phone/Evening:	
E-mail:	
Date of Birth	
<i>Education Background</i>	
High School (Include city and state):	
Date of HS Graduation (if applicable):	
University, College, Vocational program (if applicable):	
Date of Graduation (if applicable):	
<i>Volunteer, Advocacy & Activism Background</i>	<i>List all experiences - with focus on Latino or LGBTQ groups Add an additional page if necessary</i>
Name of group or club	
Description of group/club	
Leadership position held (President, secretary, etc.)	
Name of group or club	
Description of group/club	
Leadership Position Held (President, secretary, etc.)	
Name of group or club	
Description of group/club	
Position Held (President, secretary, etc.)	

Essay Questions

Please respond to each question in no more than 300 words.

1. What involvement in community, religious/spiritual organization, or extra-curricular activities have you had over the past two-years? How has your involvement in these activities contributed to the development of your leadership skills or style?
2. What interests you about the Creating Change Conference? What do you anticipate to gain from attending and how will you utilize what you learned as a young leader?
3. As a scholarship recipient, you will have the unique opportunity not only to serve on ALMA's Youth Advisory Board, but to be one of its inaugural members. What are some initial ideas that you have about engaging your youth peers through the Advisory Board?

RECOMMENDATION FORM

Thank you for agreeing to complete this recommendation form in support of the applicant. This aspect of the application is very important to the selection committee. Please feel free to include any additional remarks beyond the areas required below. Please sign, scan and email this document to ALMA at info@almachicago.org no later than November 30, 2016.

If you have any questions about this form or the scholarship, do not hesitate to email us at info@almachicago.org

<i>An individual designated by the applicant to serve as a reference should complete this form. The reference shall not be related to the applicant.</i>	
Name of applicant	
Name of reference:	
Address:	
City:	
State:	
Zip Code:	
Phone/Day:	
Phone/Evening:	
E-mail:	
How long have you known the applicant?	
Describe the context in which you know the applicant:	
Please describe the applicant's strongest character trait:	
Please describe the applicant's greatest opportunity for development:	

Signature: _____

Date: _____

LETTER OF COMMITMENT FORM

A signed letter of commitment form must be returned with the completed application. Scholarship recipients must be willing and able to commit to one year of service on ALMA's Youth Advisory Board, from January 2017 – December 2017, this is a monthly time commitment of 5 – 10 hours. Members of the Youth Advisory Board will work directly with ALMA's Leadership Team to develop strategies to engage young LGBTQ Latinos and allies in ALMA's mission and initiatives. Scholarship recipients will also plan and implement a youth-focused project during their year of service, based on principles learned through Creating Change.

As the letter of commitment requires a signature, applicants should sign and scan the document. An electronic copy of the signed letter should be included in the same email as the application.

I, _____, am committed to fully support and participate in the Association of Latino/as Motivating Action's (ALMA's) Youth Advisory Board. To that end, I will contribute my time (5 – 10 hours monthly) for a one-year term (January 2017 – December 2017).

I understand that I will serve as a member of the ALMA Youth Advisory Board, and that I will be expected to utilize the knowledge gained through Creating Change to help shape the Advisory Board's purpose and activities. I understand that I will serve as an ambassador to other young LGBTQ Latinos and allies.

In light of the above, I pledge that, should I be awarded a scholarship, I will begin my service on the ALMA Youth Advisory Board in January 2017.

Signature	Date