

## **Latinas al Exito National Finalist**

Latinas al Exito (Latinas toward Success), a project with roots in Marshalltown and now serving 4 school districts, is one of 20 national finalists for an inaugural “Breaking Through Barriers” award by AAUW. The award recipients will be announced June 19. The project began from a 2007 AAUW grant awarded to AAUW Iowa with the idea of working within the cultural norms to motivate and help prepare 8th grade Latinas and their families for post-secondary education.

Two of the founding leaders of the Latinas al Exito project, Pam Swarts (of AAUW Marshalltown and former AAUW IA board member) and Anel Garza ( a Marshalltown educator and project volunteer Madrina), would like to attend the AAUW Convention to present their project display and be present for the recognition awards. Their expected costs are \$3,000 which includes flights, hotel and meals.

If members of your branch are interested in supporting their trip to the AAUW Convention in Washington, DC, **tax deductible contributions may be sent to** the 501(c)3 organization that was established under the guidance of AAUW Iowa to provide leadership for the program:

**Latinas/Latinos al Exito, Inc**  
**Jan Mitchell, Treasurer**  
**111 10th St, #312**  
**Des Moines IA 50309**

One of the most significant activities undertaken each year is a trip to a college campus. As one Madrina said, “How can you envision yourself in a setting you have never seen?” The AAUW Iowa application focuses on the college visit as a program other AAUW branches could replicate.

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