

Mr. Vazquez's presentation will focus on educating organizations and individuals on the current needs and struggles of the Latinx community, as well as some resources and tips to better assist them. He will discuss how the current administration's decisions have affected the Latinx community served by El Concilio and how his organization makes up-to-date information available. Meant to be an engaging exchange, attendees will have an opportunity to interact with him as he reflects on his experience in working with the Latinx community on the life experiences, challenges, and accomplishments.

Understanding the Latinx Community in Kalamazoo

Adrian Vazquez

Executive Director of el Concilio Kalamazoo

Adrian Vazquez is the Executive Director of El Concilio formally known as the Hispanic American Council in Kalamazoo, which he joined as a Spanish and English Interpreter in 2010. With long history of representing and advocating on the need of Latinx members throughout Kalamazoo County, El Concilio has recently expanded its collaborations with more than 50 organizations, served more than 2,300 individuals in 2017-2018, and created new programs that focus on education, family development, and cultural preservation and enrichment. This past fall, El Concilio opened a pre-school (Escuelita Nuevo Horizonte) for year-olds with a major focus on bilingual and multicultural education.

Mr. Vazquez is deeply involved in the community. A continuing soccer coach at Azteca Academy, he volunteers on the boards of Vibrant Kalamazoo, Family Health Center, ISAAC Leadership Committee, Kalamazoo County ID Committee, and Metro Kalamazoo Branch NAACP. He is proud of his Mexican culture and is committed to serving and advocating on behalf of the Latinx community in Kalamazoo.

A proud Giant from Kalamazoo Central High School, Mr. Vazquez holds an Associate Degree in International Studies from Kalamazoo Valley Community College.



Date: January 8, 2020

Place: 1910 Sangren Hall

Refreshments at 5 p.m.

Talk from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m.

Students: Please note that attending this event counts toward WMU Signature Program (with the chosen focus areas listed on your transcript and diploma) where you attend a total of 18 events and reflect on your experience (www.wmich.edu/signature)

Upcoming talks: **February 12**—Jeff Patton, Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services