# northwest center

#### September 2023

#### Newsletter



### Join our Upcoming Adelante Program

Adelante graduate Milton Landaverde participated in the cohort in 2021 after receiving encouragement from his wife to join the program. Adelante, a free program for Latinos, aims to teach resume building, portfolio development, people skills, and

interview preparation while gaining access to a network of employers and supportive services.

"My wife was a Women Forward graduate and also began the Adelante program at Northwest Center," Landaverde said. "When she mentioned it to me, I thought it sounded interesting. I knew a bit about working on a computer, but after I joined, I learned many things, some of which I apply in my current job."

"As a business manager, Landaverde applies the skills he learned from the cohort, such as utilizing Google Documents, creating presentations, and navigating Microsoft.

"It's the greatest thing you can do," Landaverde said. " It was a wonderful opportunity that I took advantage of, and now I put it into practice. Even if you don't use the knowledge now, the more you know, the more prepared you are."

Landaverde has even encouraged his friends and family members to join the Adelante cohort.

"I've been encouraging some people I know to participate," Landaverde said. "At first I thought it was just for women, but then I learned anyone can participate. It's a great opportunity for anyone willing to take the time to do it. They explain everything clearly and answer any questions you may have."

Adelante focuses on setting Latinos up for success and helping them gain the skills to obtain a long and fulfilling career.

"I'm thankful I took advantage of it," Landaverde said. "I'm pleased to have had more training, and I feel more comfortable going after better opportunities, better positions, and it has opened the door to help me make more money. These trainings would make anybody ready for their next big move."

To learn more about our upcoming October cohort, email Financial Coach/HUD-Certified Counselor Roxana Pereira at RPereira@northwestcenterchicago.org or fill out <u>this form</u>.

\*Pictured are recent Adelante graduates

## **Employee Spotlight**

"I'm enjoying being on a team so supportive and professional."

Irina Golovitskaya Data & Evaluation Manager

After arriving in the United States two years ago from Siberia, Russia, Data and Evaluation Manager Irina Golovitskaya knew she was interested in working in non-profit to bridge the gap between processes and community.

Before transitioning into her current position, Golovitskaya joined Northwest Center as an intern, working on the organization's strategic plan and offering support to the Health Equity and Housing Teams. Her internship began as an academic international exchange with the Fulbright Foreign Student Program. This program invites students to study and receive their degrees in the United States.

"In Russia, you have to send a bunch of documents, a statement of purpose, why you want to study your masters and in what subject, previous degrees, recommendation letters," Golovitskaya said. "Then a small committee has an interview with you and matches you with a U.S. university."

During her master's program, Golovitskaya studied Anthropology, focusing on qualitative research, critical thinking, social science, and how to connect with communities.

"After graduating from the University of Kentucky with a Master of Arts in Applied Anthropology, I wanted to explore what other people were doing," Golovitskaya said. "I collaborated with non-profits back in Russia while working in architecture, wanting to fill the gaps between what the designer thought the audience wanted and what the audience actually wanted. Non-profit work and working to bridge that gap feels fulfilling for me."

After three months of working as an NWC intern, Golovitskaya transitioned into the Data and Evaluation Manager position as part of the Development Team.

"I was both excited and anxious at first," Golovitskaya said. "I knew the organization was big, but I'm learning how diverse we are in terms of programs, activities, and all the people involved."

The Data and Evaluation Manager is critical in leading NWC's internal data management and overseeing program evaluations. Using information gathered from data and program evaluations, they assist in strategic decision-making throughout the organization and ensure efficient operations.

"I'm enjoying being on a team so supportive and professional," Golovitskaya said. "I'm looking forward to working with all the teams and creating simplified data approaches they can incorporate into their daily work routines."



## NWC Speaks at Annual UnidosUS Conference

Northwest Center recently attended the UnidosUS Annual Conference, the largest Latino civil rights and advocacy organization. NWC Health Equity Data Manager Brian Moro was in attendance among affiliates, funders, and other partner organizations, sharing their work from the past year. This event connects folks nationwide and brings them together around community-based work and success.

"I was a panelist for the session: Cultivating Health Equity through Homeownership," Moro said. "This was the first time as a panelist, let alone a spokesperson, at an event this big. It was a nerve-racking experience. The other panelists made it such a comfortable environment that the conversation became very organic."

Spaces like these allow smaller, local, and even national organizations to connect; they enable smaller organizations to amplify their work throughout the nation through other organizations and through panels and conversations like the ones Brian was a part of throughout the conference.

"This experience meant so much to a person like me," Moro said. "As a 22-year-old Latino, it was an honor to speak amongst other Latinx leaders from around the country with years of experience."

Attending these kinds of conferences is essential to the growth of our organization that practices and encourages the widespread usage of equitable practices in our nation's urban spaces.

### **Upcoming Events**

For more information on events, visit our website at www.northwestcenterchicago.org/events



First-Time Homebuyer Virtual Classes English Session 1 October 21 + 10am - 1pm English Session 2 October 28 + 9am - 2pm Spanish Session October 4 + 9am - 2pm



Know Your Rights Parent University\* En Español 11am - 12pm 23 de septiembre



Youth Roundtable Riis Park Field House 6100 W. Fullerton September 23 11 am - 1 pm



Property Tax Assistance 2934 N. Milwaukee Ave Unit C September 27 5 pm - 8 pm

\*Parent University is located at 3030 N. Mobile Ave. Chicago, IL 60639