

La Prensa

Ohio and Michigan's Oldest & Largest Latino Weekly

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Spanglish Lazo Cultural Edition

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SO YOU'RE AGAINST IMMIGRATION? SPLENDID! WHEN DO YOU LEAVE?

Fearless – Listening, Learning and Overcoming Obstacles; *Mandy Gonzalez* is every abuela's granddaughter

By Larry Arreguin

EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN: Growing up in Santa Clarita, California, Mandy Gonzalez was bound for success. Born to a Mexican father and a Jewish mother, self-determination was embedded and

her Abuela made sure to not let her talent go wasted. Mandy honors her in the children's book she wrote - *Fearless*. A story about a young Latina thespian, that has to overcome obstacles to help save a theatre. "My Abuela, was

always working, making food for those in the fields and others," and telling me that "you can be who you are."

Listening to those that she admired, has become a way to Stardom that has propelled Mandy. While in High School, a vocal teacher encouraged her to apply to a Broadway Camp in Florida, to pursue her dreams. After auditioning and earning a scholarship, and hearing what Gregory Hines would share to the attendees, she was convinced that she too could make it on Broadway.

After a year at the California Institute of Arts, she made her way to New York and in 2001 received an Obie Award for her performance in *Eli's Comin'*. That year she also made her debut on Broadway and in *Aida*. Since, she has been in several plays including *In the Heights*, *Wicked* and *Hamilton*. "I absolutely love to play, sing and

write," shared the award-winning actress.

The actress has not only appeared on Broadway, but she is actively working in film, television and has recorded her first solo album *Fearless*. When asked where she sees herself in 5 years, she responded by saying "producing and playing a backstage roll." Perhaps a Grammy, Emmy or Oscar is on the horizon, for a humble lady who once was asked to change her "last name to Carr," to land better roles.

Mandy Gonzalez will be performing at the Wharton Center in East Lansing, on Sunday, September 20, 2023 at 7:30 pm.

For tickets and more information please visit www.whartoncenter.com/events/details/mandy-gonzalez-fearless



W H
A R T
O N

MANDY GONZALEZ: FEARLESS
WEDNESDAY, SEPT 20, 7:30PM

Broadway star (*Hamilton*, *In the Heights*, *WICKED*) & TV/movie star Mandy Gonzalez makes her Wharton Center debut in a night of stories and song favorites.

\$19 Student/Youth Tickets Available

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Gov. Whitmer joins Whirlpool Corporation for Tech Center ribbon cutting ceremony in St. Joseph

LANSING, Mich., August 18, 2023: Governor Gretchen Whitmer joined leaders from Whirlpool Corporation along with federal, state and local officials to celebrate the ribbon cutting of the company's new state-of-the-art technical center in St. Joseph. The facility will house 500 full-time technicians, engineers, designers and adjacent roles and creates opportunities for future talent recruitment to Michigan.

"This \$60 million investment by Whirlpool builds on the company's long-standing commitment to Southwest Michigan," said Governor Whitmer. "This transformative project will help Whirlpool attract top talent, put more people on paths to good-paying, high-skill jobs, and continue our mission to help anyone 'make it' in Michigan. Our unemployment rate is the lowest it has been in 23 years, we are moving forward on housing and community revitalization projects across the state, and we just delivered a bipartisan budget to lower costs, expand workforce programs, and power economic development. We look forward to continuing our work together to build a bright future."

Whirlpool Corporation announced plans to rehabilitate and reconstruct its technology center in June 2021 following Michigan Strategic Fund approval of support for the project. The three-phase project includes a new 153,000-square-foot facility for design and testing of washers, dryers, dishwashers, and small appliances. Future phases in-

clude demolition of the existing four-story building and overhauling an additional 20,000 square feet of existing space. The project will redesign the company's original R&D facility that was home to a century of appliance innovations.

"We wholeheartedly welcome Whirlpool's substantial investment in our community, reaffirming their enduring dedication to our communities," said State Representative Joey Andrews (D-St. Joseph). "The establishment of this cutting-edge tech center not only underscores the potential for our region but also sets a powerful precedent for the trajectory of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor. This collaboration stands as a prime example of the positive outcomes that economic development can achieve. We extend our gratitude to Whirlpool and look forward to further endeavors that drive progress and prosperity in House District 38 and across Michigan."

The new building is LEED Silver certified, a globally recognized ranking of sustainability achievement and leadership. Whirlpool Corporation has retained more than 500 full-time positions as part of the project.

"In 1911, the first electric washing machines were built here in St. Joseph, Michigan, and we continue to grow that legacy with the investment in this new, state-of-the-art technology center," said Marc Bitzer, Whirlpool chairman and CEO. "We are committed to this community, and to improving life at home for families around the world. This new technol-



ogy hub helps enable both of these promises by creating a new space where future innovation will come to life."

Whirlpool's 2021 project also included the construction of a new multifamily housing development in Benton Harbor and relevant road improvements. The 80-unit waterfront development, now called the Emma Jean Hull Flats, opened in June and is expected to attract new residents and businesses to the city. Emma Jean Hull Flats will help enable Whirlpool Corporation to generate positive business impacts, including the ability to attract and retain needed talent while offering housing options.

The city of Benton Harbor is engaged with the MEDC's Redevelopment Ready Communities program, and the city of St. Joseph is an RRC Essentials community.

"We are grateful to support Whirlpool in its continued investment in Southwest Michigan as we work to position Michigan as a global leader in high-tech innovation and highly advanced manufacturing," said/ Quentin L. Messer, Jr., CEO of MEDC and President and Chair of the MSF Board, who attended today's event. "We are grateful to Governor Whitmer, legislators from both parties, and local officials for their continued support for our programs, and we appreciate the efforts of our local partners in Southwest Michigan in supporting this project. We will continue to earn investments like these, bring vibrancy to our communities, and support our people as we encourage businesses of all sizes to Make It In Michigan."

Whirlpool is just one of many companies to choose to expand and add tech jobs in the state of Michi-

gan. The project, which retains more than 500 high-paying jobs in the focus industries of engineering, design and development, and professional and corporate services, builds on economic prosperity efforts led by MEDC by supporting a business in the target industries of tech and professional and corporate services and fostering high-wage job growth.

Other recent investments by tech companies include:

- TiCKER, the world's first shareholder loyalty and engagement platform, expanding in Grand Rapids, investing \$4.8 million and creating 73 high-wage jobs over a three-year period.
- Automation supplier APEX Controls expanding in Hudsonville, investing \$3 million and creating well-paying 30 jobs.
- Medical isotope provider Niowave expanding in Lansing, investing \$20 million and creating 35 high-wage jobs.
- Norwegian robotics company wheel.me establishing new operations in Corktown neighborhood of Detroit, investing \$1 million and creating 40 high-wage jobs.
- Electronics provider MARA Technologies USA establishing first U.S. manufacturing operations in Grand Blanc Township, investing \$20.8 million and creating 298 jobs.
- EAVX, the technology hub of diversified manufacturer JB Poindexter & Co, expanding in Ypsilanti Township, investing \$3.79 million and creating 75 high-wage jobs.

Learn why Michigan is leading the way in tech and innovation at www.michiganbusiness.org/industries/tech/

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Women's World Cup at a glance

ROUND OF 16

Saturday, Aug. 5
Switzerland 1, Spain 5
Japan 3, Norway 1
Netherlands 2, South Africa 0
Sunday, Aug. 6
Sweden 0, United States 0, Sweden advances 5-4 on penalty kicks
Monday, Aug. 7
England 0, Nigeria 0, England advances 4-2 on penalty kicks
Australia 2, Denmark 0
Tuesday, Aug. 8
Colombia 1, Jamaica 0
France 4, Morocco 0

SEMIFINAL

Tuesday, Aug. 15
Spain 2, Sweden 1
Wednesday, Aug. 16
Australia 1, England 3

3RD PLACE PLAYOFF

Saturday, Aug. 19
Sweden 2, Australia 0

FINAL

Sunday, Aug. 20
Spain 1, England 0

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP CHAMPIONS

1991 United States
1995 Norway
1999 United States
2003 Germany
2007 Germany
2011 Japan
2015 United States
2019 United States
2023 Spain

QUARTERFINAL

Thursday, Aug. 10
Spain 2, Netherlands 1, OT
Friday, Aug. 11
Japan 1, Sweden 2
Saturday, Aug. 12
Australia 0, France 0, Australia advances 7-6 on penalty kicks
England 2, Colombia 1



Google's Code Next propels Latino Detroit native to STEM education at Columbia University

Adversity is difficult to overcome. *Detroit* Ismael Olivarez has done that by facing it head on.

Ismael's family immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico 20 years ago. Throughout his 18 years he has constantly feared that his father could be deported for being an undocumented citizen. Ismael is hoping that his dad's case will be delayed until he turns 21 and can advocate on his behalf.

Ismael also lost his 19-year-old sister suddenly when he was 11. When she passed, he poured himself into academics to achieve

what she didn't get a chance to, which is when his love for STEM and coding took shape.

Ismael graduated from Cass Technical High School as a valedictorian and was granted a full-ride scholarship to study Computer Science at Columbia University starting this August.

Ismael thanks *Google's Code Next*, an afterschool coding program for Black, Latinx and Indigenous high schoolers, for



the unique opportunity to foster his passion for STEM, and for connecting him to mentor Nando Felten, Code Next Detroit's community manager, and peers able to relate. "The Code Next lab is one of my favorite places, where my peers remind me of who I am and make me feel at home," said Ismael.

For more information visit www.codenext.withgoogle.com.

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