

February 2020 Professional Member of the Month: Maritza Contreras

1. What is your current role at American Family Insurance? What do you enjoy about your work?

I recently joined American Family Insurance as a Strategic Partnerships Advisor in Milwaukee, managing our university/college and professional networks portfolio. To have an opportunity to watch a city that you love transform over the years is one thing – but to be a part of a company that is equitably investing in its economic growth and overall prosperity is something I consider a true blessing.

2. How is it that you came to be connected with HPGM?

It was the first organization that I came across that helped me feel close to home. HPGM authentically creates spaces for long-lasting relationships while continuing to celebrate the rich culture that makes this place a special place to live, work and play.

3. Why do you think it is worthwhile to collaborate with HPGM?

As a part of our commitment to develop a diverse talent pipeline to further support an inclusive professional ecosystem, we are eager to work closely with HPGM to bring innovative programming and unique opportunities to Milwaukee. Our mission at AmFam is to inspire, protect and restore dreams – no dream is too big!

4. What are you passionate about?

Equitable and culturally appropriate access to health, education and employment. As Chair of the Milwaukee Latino Health Coalition, I am fortunate to collaborate with community leaders dedicated to promoting health and wellness, reducing disparities and stigma, while striving for social justice through advocacy. There is no shortage of challenges, we need change. Now.

5. What is your favorite book and why?

I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika L. Sánchez. Similar to Julia, the protagonist of the story, I am the proud daughter of two amazing immigrant parents who have poured all that they have into their children. There is a fire and inexplicable level of resilience in the very fabric of what sparks passion in my life. I highly recommend this book, add it to the list – trust me.

6. What do you love most about Milwaukee?

I chose to stay and live in Milwaukee after having graduated from Marquette because of the people. I love the Milwaukee culture – from local beer and cheese curds to Summerfest and Jazz in the Park, not to mention the Bucks and the Brewers – what is there not to love about this incredible city?