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MADISON—The Latino Academy of Workforce Development in collaboration with the Mexican Consulate in Milwaukee are pleased to announce the official opening of the first *Plaza Comunitaria* in Wisconsin.

According to the Mexican Department of Public Instruction, “*Plazas Comunitarias* are community educational spaces where Spanish speaking people can attend to improve their educational skills such as reading and writing through technology in order to obtain their Elementary and Middle School Diplomas. People who participate at the *Plazas Comunitarias* also have access to development courses for work and life.” Spanish speaking migrant communities of 15 years and older are eligible to participate in *Plazas Comunitarias*. Once learners complete assigned modules, they can take the required tests, and if passed, they could be accredited their Elementary or Middle School Diploma.

Latino Academy’s first *Plaza Comunitaria* will offer both services, Elementary and Middle School classes. Additionally, Latino Academy will extend their wrap around services such as case management, soft skills, career and job exploration, childcare and access to needed resources which help build a strong foundation for learners’ educational success.

Latino Academy strives to meet learners’ needs and pursues ways in which its programming can be transcendental for a long-lasting community impact. This collaboration with the Mexican Consulate in Milwaukee strengthens our GED program building a ladder of opportunities for those who have been left behind. *Plazas Comunitarias* and our GED program will provide the necessary technical and non-technical tools that our adult learners need to succeed. This new initiative reaffirms the commitment from both the Latino Academy and the Mexican Consulate to make education accessible and possible for all.

Latino Academy will continue to work tirelessly to set a strong educational foundation for all of our students and the broader community in Dane County. A foundation that will allow them to build a pathway towards their GED and ultimately a college and professional career. It is through meaningful collaborations that together we can vitalize the economy and enrich our educational and workforce systems in Dane County.

Latino Academy and the Mexican Consulate cordially invite you to the official opening on **Monday, November 19, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.** Honorary Consul, Julian Adem will join us for the special occasion and we hope you can be part of this great accomplishment.