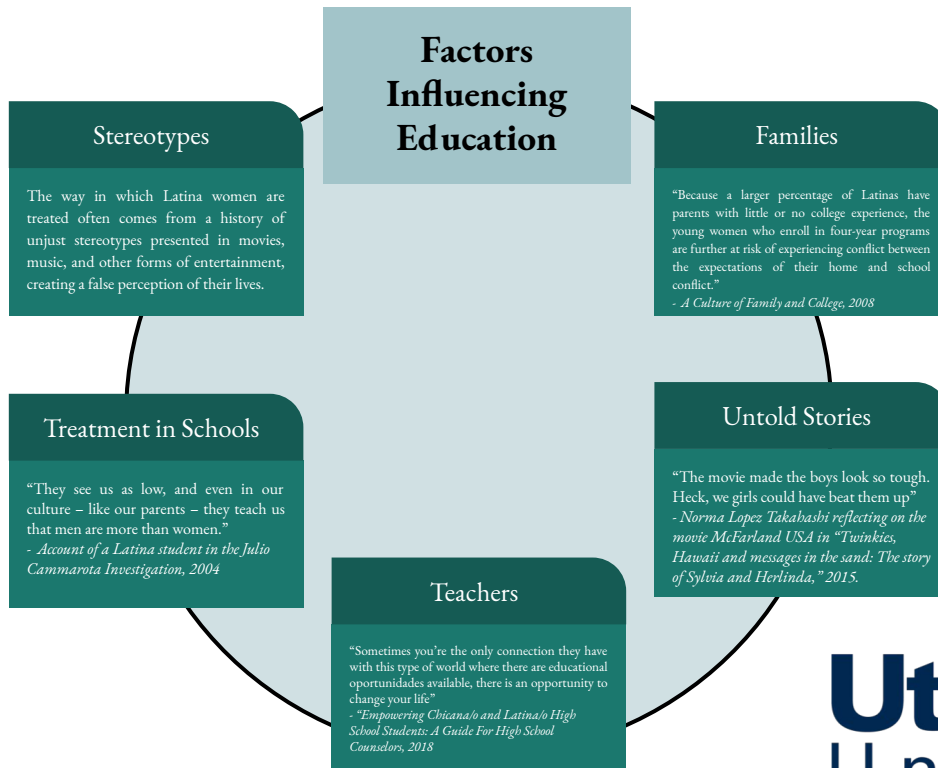


# Equality in Education for Latina Women

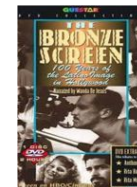
## Abstract

Latina women in the United States face various educational, social, and familial pressures while striving to obtain a valuable education and break boundaries created by stereotypes in the country. Stereotypes of Latinas in the media have created false beliefs regarding their characters and abilities, in turn causing negative repercussions in communities and social environments. They often face unfair and biased treatment in schools and don't receive adequate help from teachers or counselors to excel in high school and prepare for college. Much of this inequality inhibits their ability to feel confident in their future of education. Not only must Latina women navigate the demands of school achievement, but they must also make decisions regarding the traditions of their families. The conflicting petitions of family members, culture, and tradition, cause some women to feel unsure of how they should pursue educational goals. With few successful examples of Latina women of education present in media, literature, or news, the challenging decisions are even more difficult. This study analyzes the challenges Latina women must face in education and the social and educational pressures that arise. Through the examination of the several articles and the movies *Real Women Have Curves*, *The Bronze Screen*, *Walkout*, *McFarland USA*, and *Spare Parts*, the challenges, stereotypes, and pressures that Latina women face and overcome will be discussed. The future of women in education will also be discussed and various opportunities that can help perpetuate a positive change for women in school, college, and social environments.

"Now you are looking at a mass of Latinas — even though they are not coming through in herds — pursuing those opportunities. Now you are also seeing the sibling effect. My sister did it; I can do it too. There is something to be said about these Latinas creating a new culture and for what it means to be a modern Latina in contemporary society"  
- *"A Culture of Family and College," 2008*



## Films and Articles



Sylvia Méndez

