



MISSION DRIVEN

## National Hispanic Heritage Month

*September 15th - October 15th, 2022*

Academy Securities celebrates September 15th through October 15th as National Hispanic Heritage Month – a celebration of Hispanics in the United States. Academy is a Minority Business Enterprise (Hispanic) and 43% of the firm's leadership hails from Hispanic origin. This month and throughout the year, we recognize our valued Hispanic team members.

National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Central and South America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Spain. The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was later expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period. The reason that September 15<sup>th</sup> was chosen as the starting date is because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua (Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> respectively).

Academy is proud to highlight the stories of two Hispanic teammates. The first is Michael Rodriguez, an enlisted veteran of the United States Marine Corps from New Hampshire who joined the firm as part of our social mission to mentor, hire, and train veterans. During his service, Mr. Rodriguez was wounded during combat operations in the Battle of Falluja during the Iraq war. Upon joining Academy Securities, Michael became part of the firm's Debt Capital Markets team and then became Academy's first Head of ESG & Sustainability. ESG (Environmental, Social, & Governance) is an ever-growing area of focus for Academy and its clients, and the firm is proud of Mr. Rodriguez's leadership in this space.



Another Hispanic teammate at Academy that joined the firm through its veteran social mission is Emilio Fernandez, an enlisted veteran of the United States Army from New Jersey. During his service, Mr. Fernandez was an IT Specialist and deployed to Kosovo during Operation Joint Guardian. Upon joining Academy Securities, Emilio became part of the firm's Municipal Finance team and is currently an Associate.

**We celebrate the contributions of Hispanic Americans on the Academy Securities team and throughout the history of this nation.**