

## **Candidate Statement:**

My name is Ada M. Alvarez and I'm running for office because I believe Spanish Media should be heard and we need to reinforce our alliances to serve our Hispanic community. I was born in Puerto Rico and I have a Masters in Science (Spanish and Investigative Reporting track) in Mass communications from Florida Int. University and I have a BA in Journalism and a minor in Gender studies from the University of Puerto Rico.

I've always being identified with our Spanish language. At 16 I wrote a novel, based on an investigative article I did, and became Puerto Rico youngest novelist. Based on that book I started a campaign (now a non-profit) and website targeting dating violence, Spanish first, English second; taking into consideration culture as a way to prevent violence and fight stereotypes. I came to Miami a year and a half ago and did my Master's in Spanish. I believe that with our language not only we enhance and show appreciation for our culture, we also open doors. We open doors of information to a community that may not know English, we open doors to understand issues that affect us more easily, we celebrate the differences from our origins, we remember that our language unites us, we open doors to quality journalism, Spanish or English and we recognize journalists that do a great job either in their language, or in both.

I have also seen people trying to close these doors. Companies that get great budgets and give as little as possible to their Spanish channels or media. Those who believe Spanish media does not represent journalism and even those who believe Spanish media should be eliminated so that Latinos "learn English once and for all". I will defend you in your fight for training, funding and personnel. I propose creating an alliance of Spanish media so we can exchange ideas and conversations regarding our community. I will create a freelance directory for bilingual or Spanish speaking journalists. I will encourage training in the convention and around the Regions of NAHJ in Spanish. I will encourage enhancing and celebrating our heritage. I promise I will hear you, I'll reply. If you want to know how I work- just ask around, who knows me will be my best reference to you.

I've been part of the NAHJ since I entered college. I opened the first Student Chapter in the Puerto Rico in the University of Puerto Rico and started in the UPR a bilingual newspaper. I was also chapter president in FIU and have served the Board as Student Representative for the past year. My background/experience work includes: Hispanic Office of Capitol Hill, Telemundo, AmericaTeve, Revista Latitudes among others. I have enthusiasm and drive, something we need to get our Spanish Media going actively.

Vamos a unirnos y a representar los medios en español, vamos a luchar por más recursos y vamos a celebrar que somos latinos, no solo latinos, periodistas latinos- en la única organización que nos representa: NAHJ.