

**FUN  
FEARLESS  
Latina  
AWARDS  
2015**

“  
I’m bringing  
funk to  
Banda,  
bringing  
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”



for speaking out  
and staying strong

● **CHIQUIS RIVERA, 30**  
**Singer**  
**@chiquis626**

**HER RAÍCES LATINAS** Growing up between Long Beach, Compton, and Riverside, Chiquis is the daughter of the late Jenni Rivera, the biggest *Banda* singer of all time. There was always music playing in her home. “I’m well rounded,” says Chiquis. “I grew up with traditional *Banda*, but also No Doubt, Brandy, the Backstreet Boys, and Los Tigres Del Norte.”

**TREND-SETTING TRACK RECORD** With more than 1.5 million social media followers, Chiquis has become a star in her own right, releasing her first album, *Ahora*, in June, when it debuted at #1 on Billboard’s Top Latin Albums chart (she’s the only female artist since her mom to hit that spot). Her sound has been described as bilingual *Banda* with a pop influence, and as she puts it: “I’m bringing funk to *Banda*, adding different instruments and twists to make it fun, bringing younger fans to the music.” Chiquis’ memoir, *Forgiveness*, hit the *New York Times* Bestseller list in April, selling over 70,000 copies in its first two weeks on the shelves.

**QUÉ LA INSPIRA** “The album is more *Ahora*, now,” says the Mexican-American. “The title track is about leaving the past in the past and moving forward to be happy. That’s the soundtrack to my life at this moment.”

**WHY SHE’LL CRUSH NEXT YEAR** In addition to filming a reality show with her brothers, Chiquis says we’ll see her on screen a lot more in 2016. “TV is where my heart is—I love the camera,” she says. “I may do a panel show, or I may act. I like to surprise people.” —MW

for restyling fashion

● **TAMARA MENA, 29**  
**Model, Activist**  
**@TamaraMena1**

**HER RAÍCES LATINAS** A *mexicana* who came to the U.S. in 1999 when she was 13, Tamara’s life was upended when a tragic car accident left her, then 19, paralyzed from the mid-chest down.

**TREND-SETTING TRACK RECORD** Working with the Vertical Foundation and the Limit-Less Campaign, which she co-founded, Tamara combats stereotypes. This year, she was the first Latina to model in a wheelchair at New York Fashion Week, for FTL Moda.

**QUÉ LA INSPIRA** “My motto is *creer y querer es poder*. It reminds me that I have to believe in my own possibilities before they’ll show up in my life.”

**WHY SHE’LL CRUSH NEXT YEAR** Tamara is the only Spanish-speaking U.S. ambassador for the Wings for Life World Run, a race that occurs simultaneously in 34 global locations. With the help of her outreach, it raised more than \$4.1 million for spinal cord injury research in 2014, its inaugural year. She plans to compete and promote it in 2016. —MW



(LEFT) JIAN WHITE/CORBIS OUTLINE. (RIGHT, FROM TOP) COURTESY MENA; JIED SULLIVAN.

for teaching our  
girls to code

● **CAROLINA HUARANCA MENDOZA, 40**  
**Entrepreneur-in-Residence**  
**@carohuaranca**

**HER RAÍCES LATINAS** When Carolina’s parents emigrated from Peru to New York, they focused on their children’s education. “My father took additional jobs so we could rent in a zip code with an excellent public school,” she says.

**TREND-SETTING TRACK RECORD** She worked in investment banking, then the tech sector, before becoming an advisor on the launch of Democracy Prep Charter School, one of the highest performing charter school networks in the country (with a college acceptance rate close to 100 percent). Wanting to bring her education and tech experience together, Carolina joined Girls Who Code as its first National Director, launching nearly 200 after-school clubs to bring girls into the

tech world. Now, as the Entrepreneur-in-Residence at the Kapor Center for Social Impact, she is working with tech startups to bake in diversity and create a culture of inclusion from day one.

**QUÉ LA INSPIRA** “I didn’t see anyone who looked like me starting a tech company. I wanted my younger cousins, nieces, and nephews to see tech and entrepreneurship as opportunities.”

**WHY SHE’LL CRUSH NEXT YEAR** “My goal is to change the face of technology by increasing the number of black and Latino students in this field,” she says. At the Kapor Center, Carolina is reaching this demo by creating curriculum that is culturally accessible, with high expectations, and training teachers. —MW