

Diplomats Prepare for Power, A Former U.S. Ambassador Shows Latinas How to Do the Same to Reach the C-Suite

Former U.S. Ambassador Maria Brewer draws on 29 years of diplomatic service to hand Latina professionals the playbook corporate America never gave them.

ROCKVILLE, MD, UNITED STATES, September 1, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- U.S. Latinos now generate \$4.4 trillion a year, making their economy larger than Japan's and the fourth largest in the world, according to the 2026 U.S. Latino GDP Report from researchers at UCLA and California Lutheran University.

Yet Latinas hold just 1% of C-suite roles in corporate America, according to Lean In and McKinsey's "State of Latinas in Corporate America" report, the lowest share of any group of women and the steepest drop-off between entry-level and executive ranks of any demographic tracked. That gap between economic power and institutional power is the starting point for former U.S. Ambassador Maria Brewer's new book, *The Ambassador's Leadership Edge: For Latina Leaders Ready to Rise to the Top*, releasing on September 1, just in time for National Hispanic Heritage Month [September 15 through October 15].

"Latinas have never lacked talent, drive or commitment," Brewer said. "But excellence does not automatically create access. The data confirms what so many of us have lived: we are building the economy and still being left out of the room where decisions are made."

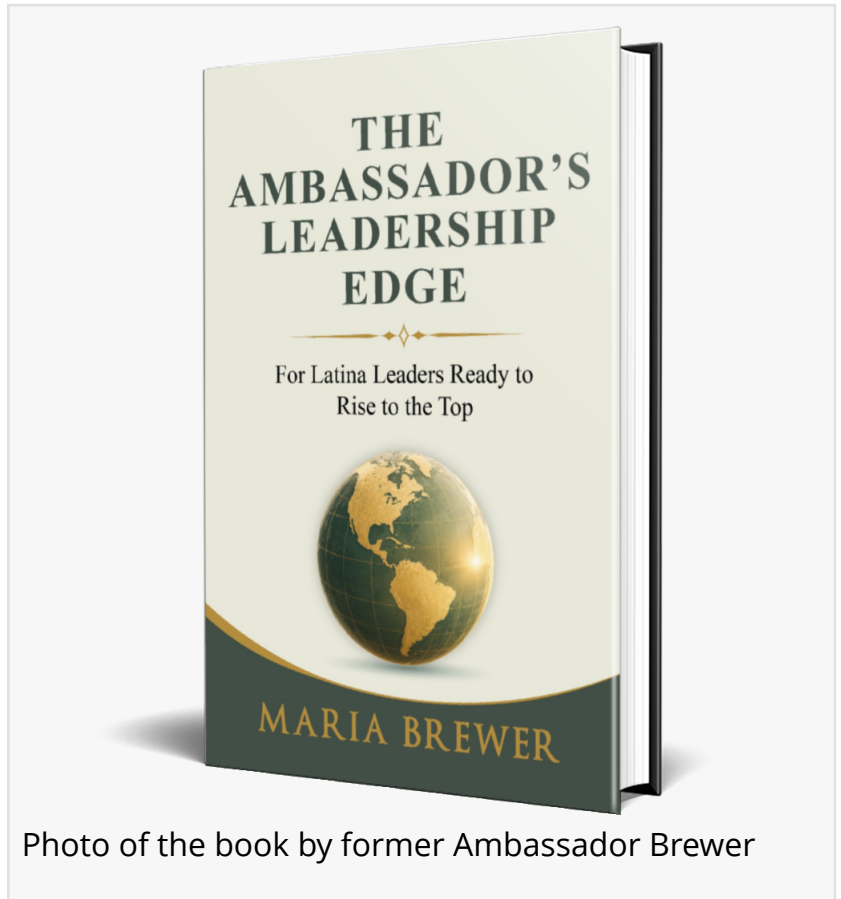


Photo of the book by former Ambassador Brewer

Brewer spent 29 years in the U.S. Foreign Service, including service as U.S. Ambassador to both Sierra Leone and Lesotho, before turning her attention to a different kind of advancement gap. The book opens with Brewer stepping out of an armored vehicle in Freetown to present her diplomatic credentials, a formal ceremony that left her more nervous than the war zones and security threats she had already survived, simply because this time, she was the one being called ambassador.

That tension between competence and confidence runs through the book. Brewer distills the tools diplomats use to navigate unfamiliar power structures, reading a room, decoding unwritten rules, building alliances, into a framework she calls Power, Presence and Purpose, teaching readers to map the hidden architecture of their own organizations the way a diplomat studies a country before a negotiation.



Photo of Maria Brewer

Numbers That Have Names Attached

What sets the book apart from a typical leadership title is that Brewer grounds her research in real people. She writes about Patricia, an accomplished Latina executive who privately confided that she still second-guessed her own decisions and felt pressure to code-switch in majority-white, male-led rooms, despite a strong record of success. Brewer is candid about having faced the same inner voice herself, including as a sitting ambassador, and offers concrete techniques for naming it and moving forward anyway.

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She also confronts a cultural undercurrent rarely addressed directly in leadership books: how the Spanish word "ambiciosa" carries a negative charge many Latinas were raised to avoid, and why she believes reclaiming ambition, openly and without apology, is a prerequisite for

closing the leadership gap the data describes.

[Available for Commentary On](#)

Brewer is available to speak to any of the following, each grounded in the book and in current

research:

- What 29 years inside U.S. embassies taught her about reading organizational power that no corporate training program teaches
- How imposter syndrome persists even at the ambassador level, and the techniques she uses to manage it in real time
- The cultural double bind of being told to stay humble while being expected to lead, and how Latina professionals can reclaim ambition without abandoning their identity
- Why the widening gap between Latino economic power and Latina leadership representation should concern any company thinking about its next decade of growth

About Ambassador Maria Brewer

Maria Brewer is a former U.S. Ambassador, executive coach and leadership mentor with 29 years of distinguished Foreign Service experience, including service as U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone and Lesotho. She is the author of *The Ambassador's Leadership Edge* and the creator of the leadership framework of the same name, built on Power, Presence and Purpose. Brewer [speaks and trains on leadership, influence and advancement for women](#) and underrepresented professionals in corporate and government settings, and is available for interviews and speaking engagements.

About the Book

The Ambassador's Leadership Edge: For Latina Leaders Ready to Rise to the Top is available in paperback and ebook on Amazon on September 1, 2026. Published by Brewer Coaching Services LLC, ISBN 979-8-9954448-0-0, and available for purchase on Amazon.

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