

Celeste Flores is being honored by
League of Women Voters of Lake County

Celeste Flores has been educating and empowering Lake County residents of all ages, faiths, and backgrounds through her environmental work with nonprofit organizations. She is a mentor and role model for young women.

As co-chair of Clean Power Lake County, Celeste has advocated for a transition plan for the Waukegan coal-fired power plant and for a sustainable future. Women in the community learned, became inspired, and followed her lead in speaking to the Waukegan City Council and in Springfield, and in organizing other actions. Last year, Celeste was a recipient of a 2020 Energy News Network 40 Under 40 award. The award highlights emerging leaders and their work for transitioning to a clean energy economy.

As the Lake County Outreach Director for Faith in Place, Celeste was able to reach people of all faiths and empower them to care for the Earth. Being bilingual, she bridged many cultural and language barriers. She enjoyed developing leadership skills in members of underrepresented communities and challenging them to greater civic engagement.

Celeste has illuminated the need for environmental justice in Lake County. She testified at a Congressional hearing, was interviewed by WTTW's Chicago Tonight, and received a Drum Major Award from Waukegan Township. She was Senator Tammy Duckworth's guest at the 2020 State of the Union Address to draw attention to environmental justice. Because of her leadership, resolutions and legislation requiring stronger enforcement of rules regarding air pollution and other environmental issues have passed at every level of government.