



2025 *Distinguished* GRADUATE

MICHELE LYNN TINOCO | Radio-Television-Film

Michele Lynn Tinoco was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and named after a beloved 1965 song cherished by her father, Marco Tinoco. Her mother, Deann Jozwiak, chose to spell her name with one “L” to reflect a sense of uniqueness — something that Michele has carried with her throughout life.

A proud Mexican American, first-generation, nontraditional, and queer woman, Michele is passionate about creating media that reflects the voices and stories of people like herself. Though her interest in communications had long simmered in the background, she spent years in the workforce before taking the leap to pursue her dream.

In 2020, Michele experienced the life-altering loss of her father to stage four cancer. He had always been her biggest supporter and motivator, consistently encouraging her to return to school and fulfill her potential. After his passing, she realized that life waits for no one — and it was time to honor both her father’s wishes and her own.

Since then, Michele has immersed herself in the world of radio, television, and broadcasting, developing a deep love for video editing and storytelling. Her natural leadership and vibrant presence have led her to take on roles such as historian for multiple student organizations, interim president of a campus faith-based group, and vice president of public relations for an honors society. She has also served as a student ambassador, community events promoter, and technical director for major music productions.

Michele has gained hands-on experience in both media production and leadership, contributing to special projects and event coverage. Her storytelling blends creativity with purpose, often centered on community, culture, and underrepresented voices.

Looking ahead, Michele plans to transfer to The University of Texas at Austin to pursue a bachelor’s degree in radio, television, and film. Her goal is to become a producer and editor of films and documentaries that spotlight Mexican American stories — offering authentic representation through media

“It is **never too late** to be what you might have been.”

— **George Eliot**

