GARY ACOSTA  
Co-Founder & CEO  
National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals (NAHREP)  

Gary Acosta is the Co-Founder & CEO of the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals, the nation’s largest Hispanic business organization, with a network of more than 40,000 professionals and 100 local chapters. Acosta is an entrepreneur, public policy advocate and investor. As CEO of NAHREP, Acosta created the Hispanic Wealth Project, a non-profit organization with a strategic plan to triple Hispanic household wealth by 2024. Acosta is also the co-founder of L’ATTITUDE Ventures, the nation’s largest Hispanic business organization with a strategic plan to triple Hispanic wealth by 2024. Acosta has founded several mortgage, real estate, and technology companies including New Vista Asset Management. Hispanic Business Magazine named him one of the 100 Most Influential Hispanics in America.

ALBERTO ALDRETE  
Director of Operations  
St. Paul’s PACE  

Alberto Aldrete is Director of Operations at St. Paul’s Senior Services. In that role, Aldrete has spearheaded the implementation of the new Mobile Medical Clinic for St. Paul’s participants during the COVID-19 pandemic, where accessibility to the centers was limited. As operations director, Aldrete leads all St. Paul’s PACE centers throughout San Diego County in providing needed care for 1,500 frail and low-income San Diego seniors.

Aldrete negotiated new, large contracts that bring additional services to St. Paul’s PACE and its participants. He directed and oversaw multiple process improvement campaigns to streamline processes to expedite the enrollment process and reduce wait times for participant enrollment by more than 50%. This has allowed more PACE-qualified San Diego elderly to obtain needed services, with the goal of safer and sustained independent home-living, and better quality of life. Aldrete devotes time to voluntary service to several organizations, including pediatric cancer support in Mexico.

RAFAEL D. ALVAREZ  
MESA Program Director  
San Diego City College  

Rafael D. Alvarez is Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Program Director at San Diego City College, an academic support program for students transferring to four-year universities in STEM majors. The program focuses on a “learning culture” revolution in higher education to transform student lives, especially the lives of underrepresented students of color.

Alvarez earned the 2021 Outstanding Engineering Educator Award by the San Diego County Engineering Council, a recognition that inspired him to capture the school’s learning culture praxis model in “Turning on the Lights: Using Learning Culture to Increase Student Success,” which has a website with learning culture resources for students and faculty and staff.

Alvarez founded the SDCC MESA Program in 2000 for the school, which is a Hispanic Serving Institution, and he began transforming the MESA model in 2009 by using learning culture to increase student success. He can be reached at ralvarez@sdccd.edu

CATHERINE M. ARAMBULA  
Financial Advisor/Community Leader  
Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management  

Catherine M. Arambula is a financial advisor and community leader at Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management. Arambula has been a member of the of San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association (SDLRLA) since 2008 and was instrumental in the creation of the SDLRLA Public Benefit Fund to support the program arm.

As the Founding Treasurer of SDLRLA Public Benefit Fund (established in 2021 and launched April 30, 2022), Arambula helped the organization secure a grant for its three programs focusing on elementary school, high school and the community. She was awarded “2021 Service to San Diego La Raza Lawyers” in recognition of years of commitment and outstanding service to the SDLRLA.

Arambula is a former MANA de San Diego President, and Western Region Board Member who was inducted into the MANA Ring of Honor. She can be reached at catherine.arambula@nm.com or 619-204-4048.

GISELE BONITZ  
Board of Governors Member  
San Diego Foundation  

Giselle Bonitz is a governing board member at San Diego Foundation. During her time on the San Diego Foundation Board of Governors, she helped define the organization’s new mission, vision, values and Strategic Plan, and supported the foundation’s COVID-19 Community Response Fund that granted $67 million for local nonprofit organizations.

Professionally, Bonitz is a Director at Intel Corporation where she enables the growth of Intel’s Data Center business while ensuring a strong culture of ethics and legal compliance as Senior Strategic Risk and Controls Program Manager.

Bonitz is a former Captain in the U.S. Navy and Commanding Officer of Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Pacific. She graduated from UC Berkeley, holds a master’s degree in science in space systems and operations from the Naval Postgraduate School and earned a master’s degree of arts in strategic studies from the Air War College.

ADRIANA BRUNNER  
Business Development Manager  
MyPoint Credit Union  

Adriana Brunner is a Business Development Manager at MyPoint Credit Union. She has worked in the financial services industry for 27 years – 15 at MyPoint.

Brunner was the 2022 National City Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year and a 2021 Women in Leadership finalist.

During the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Brunner created a series of webinars for Latinas in Business to help connect professionals, and the series has continued to grow. Brunner fostered a partnership with KSDK-50 television station and San Diego Equality Business Association to highlight Latino business owners in the LGBTQ+ community. She has brought together partners from different industries to create a group of resources for Latino small business owners, including Accessy, National Latina Business Women Association, Small Business Association, SCORE and San Diego Women’s Business Center.

She can be reached at abrunner@mypointcu.com or 858-243-7471

GIL CABRERA  
Founder  
The Cabrera Firm, APC  

Gil Cabrera has been an attorney in San Diego County for 25 years. Cabrera has successfully represented some of the largest companies in the country as well as small and emerging local businesses and individuals. He has represented clients before government agencies such as the Securities and Exchange Commission, the U.S. Department of Justice and the California Attorney General’s Office.

Cabrera has chaired organizations including the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, Sharp Healthcare, San Diego Convention Center and Make-a-Wish Foundation of San Diego. He also co-chaired the San Diego Chief of Police’s Use of Force Task Force.

From 2005 to 2010, Cabrera served on the San Diego Ethics Commission, which monitors and enforces the city’s governmental campaign finance and ethics laws, and proposes new governmental ethics law reforms. He can be reached at gcabrerafirm.com and 619-500-4880.

RAFAEL CASTELLANOS  
San Diego Port Commission & Business Attorney  
Port of San Diego & Solimar Monica Carden Doyle & Smith LLP  

Rafael Castellanos is a board member with the Port of San Diego and practices business law at Solomon Minton Cardinal Doyle & Smith LLP. Castellanos helped lead the port’s pre-development and approval of the $1.3 billion Gaylord Pacific Resort & Convention Center on the Chula Vista Bayfront, which broke ground this year. The project, the largest public-private partnership in the history of San Diego County, will create about 4,000 construction jobs, 4,000 permanent jobs and contribute $1.5 billion to the regional economy during construction plus $500 million annually once completed.

In 2021, Castellanos helped lead the Port’s adoption of its Maritime Clean Air Strategy, the most ambitious seaport clean air strategy in the nation. It has already helped deliver $25 million of maritime cargo handling and cruise vessel electrification improvements to the Port.

He can be reached at rcc@smcdlaw.com and 619-237-4914.
¡Felicidades!

Congratulations

Hugo O. Villar, Ph.D., MBA on being selected as a Top Latino Leader of Influence by San Diego Business Journal

As dean of UC San Diego Division of Extended Studies, Dr. Hugo Villar oversees educational programs in areas as diverse as Arts and Languages, Engineering, Healthcare, Applied Math, Life Sciences, and Business for non-matriculated students, encompassing more than 100,000 students annually. His office also supports Corporate and Custom Programs, Innovation and Institutional Research and Instructional and Student Services, International and Precollegiate programs, and UCTV. Villar has prioritized establishing stronger ties with universities and educational institutions in Latin America and increasing access to education for underserved communities to create opportunities for socioeconomic mobility. He played a pivotal role in the 2022 opening of UC San Diego Park & Market, located in downtown San Diego, intended to serve as a community hub and intersection of people, ideas, science, art, and innovation.

extendedstudies.ucsd.edu
Carlos O. Cortez, Ph.D., is Chancellor at San Diego Community College District and has taught consistently for the past 23 years. Under his leadership, the district has embraced new language and programs to advance inclusion, diversity, equity and access. Cortez proposed the development of a program with the San Diego Unified School District to build out concurrent enrollment programming with a focus on students who are at-risk of opting out of high school. The colleges have adjusted the requirements for concurrent enrollment to allow students in charter schools, private schools and independent schools to enroll.

Cortez championed the reimagining of policing across the district. To assist, the Police Advisory Committee was formed in January and the adoption of new reforms is underway.

Cortez is also behind plans to build low-income housing for students and employees.

Maritza Diaz is Chief Executive Officer at ITJ, Inc., a binational technology services company and startup that enables other companies to create software centers of excellence. In just three years, Diaz established a successful company, creating 800 new jobs for digital professionals in the California-Baja region. Diaz is also a member of the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco where she represents San Diego. She is member of the Forbes Technology Council and is the BioMedTech commission leader at Tijuana EDC.

Diaz previously served as senior director at Thermo Fisher Scientific where she was responsible for growing the company’s digital capabilities in North America, India, China and Mexico. Over the past seven years, Diaz has established herself as a thought leader in cross-border collaboration in the software industry between San Diego and Baja.
SHAWNDA DORANTES APRN, MSN, FNP-C
Founder
Beauty Lounge Medical Spa
Shawnda Dorantes is founder of Beauty Lounge Medical Spa. A powerful force in the beauty industry for the past 15 years and a registered nurse for more than a decade, Dorantes’s tailored expertise and innovative service offerings have paved the way for Beauty Lounge’s success. As a supporter of continued education, Dorantes stepped up in 2022 to help Del Norte High School make its Biomedical Pathway Program graduation ceremony extra special by donating the funds needed for each graduating student to receive an embroidered white lab coat — with the hope of inspiring those students to use the skills they learned throughout their program. Before becoming a beauty nurse practitioner, Dorantes worked in the acute care setting, where patients require constant care and where her dedication and compassion positively influenced all. She can be reached at businessoperations@beautyloungesm.com and 760-621-6132.

JOSIE FLORES-CLARK
President
National Latina Business Women Association, San Diego (NLBWASD)
Josie Flores-Clark is President of the National Latina Business Women Association, San Diego, where she increased the membership by 68 businesses within one year. Flores-Clark assisted struggling Latina businesses to obtain much needed grant money during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also cleared up many legal and filing requirements that were hindering the effectiveness and opportunities of the NLBWASD. Flores-Clark volunteers as a liaison for Olongapo, Philippines and Baja California, mentors minority youth and businesses, and organizes assistance for thousands of families in need during the holidays. She is employed as the Executive Assistant to the National City Director of Housing Authority, providing housing opportunities for low-income families. Flores-Clark previously served as the Chief Operating Officer for JC Towing, where she increased accountability, 40% growth in revenue and diversity to include more Latinos. She can be reached at josief Clark@gmail.com and 619-813-3540.

REGINA FRASCA
Director, Office of Safety, Health & Sustainability
Cal State San Marcos
Regina Frasca is Director of Office of Safety, Health & Sustainability at Cal State San Marcos. Frasca has embraced campuswide safety, health and sustainability initiatives, supporting a culture of safety across the CSUSM campus. Frasca responded with care and expertise during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the campus was operating primarily virtually, she worked with faculty and staff to create safe in-person access to labs and offices. She developed the Covered Cougars Center, providing access to safety materials and personal protective equipment otherwise in short supply. Frasca has a degree in Biochemistry from UC San Diego, is a certified Chemical Hygiene Officer and has a professional certificate in Hazardous Materials Management. Over more than three decades, Frasca has worked as a biomedical researcher, holding positions in her field at UCSD, The Scripps Research Institute, UCLA and the San Diego Zoo.

JOHN GOMEZ
Founder / CEO
Gomez Trial Attorneys
John Gomez is Lead Trial Attorney and President of Gomez Trial Attorneys. He founded the law firm in 2005 and since that time, has established himself as one of California’s most recognized and accomplished trial lawyers. Gomez has twice been named San Diego’s Trial Lawyer of the Year. The Consumer Attorneys of San Diego have awarded him an unprecedented 11 separate Outstanding Trial Lawyer Awards. He has been voted by peers a top 10 San Diego Super Lawyer every year since 2012. Since 2000, Gomez has recovered over $500 million in settlements and verdicts for his clients. Gomez is known for his work in the community as he is for his work in the courtroom. He commits enormous time and resources to a variety of charitable causes involving kids at risk foster children and Latino causes. He can be reached at john@thegomezfirm.com or 619-237-3490.
Thank you Alberto for your dedication to the seniors of San Diego. Congratulations One of San Diego’s 2022 Top Latino Business Leaders of Influence!

Director of Operations
Alberto Aldrete

October 10, 2022

In Association With
San Diego County Imperial Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
The San Diego Community College District Congratulates

FOR BEING RECOGNIZED AS LATINO LEADERS OF INFLUENCE.

The SDCCD and its colleges — San Diego City, Mesa, Miramar and Continuing Education — welcome and support all Latino and Hispanic students.
Congratulations!

Promises2Kids congratulates Carlos O. Cortez, Ph.D., Chancellor of the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD), for being selected as one of the first ever Top 50 Latino Leaders of Influence!

It is an honor to partner with Dr. Cortez and SDCCD to impact the lives of current and former foster youth. He is a true changemaker and leader, and we are proud of all he does for the San Diego community!
MOISES MOREIDA
Public Health Project and Planning Manager
TrueCare

Moises Moreida is Public Health Project and Planning Manager for TrueCare. He joined TrueCare in 2015 and previously served as Community Outreach Manager, Outreach Supervisor and Health Education and Outreach Coordinator.

Moreida is responsible for developing public health projects and programs by stimulating activity and providing direction. He also develops budgets, staffing level projections, and action plans to secure grants and meet contract deliverables.

Moreida is passionate about building and strengthening strategic relationships within North San Diego and South Riverside counties, overseeing community outreach activities, especially with Hispanics and other minority groups. His commitment to under-resourced Hispanics began in college when he conducted public health surveys. He is a member of the Community Alliance For Escondido, a nonprofit group that educates and advocates for the improvement of minorities living in the city.

He can be reached at Moises.Moreida@truecare.org and 760-736-8720.

ALEJANDRO NUÑEZ
Chief Growth Officer
Neighborhood Healthcare

Alejandro Nuñez is Chief Growth Officer for Neighborhood Healthcare. He has more than 13 years of experience working with federally qualified health centers.

Nuñez joined Neighborhood as Director of Operations and transitioned to a Revenue Cycle Director position before advancing to his current role as CGO. His ability to quickly build strong and trusting relationships with stakeholders throughout the organization has been integral to his success in the complex, ever-changing healthcare industry.

Nuñez secured the development of new facilities and services that serviced a record 78,000 patients through 391,214 medical, dental, and behavioral health in-person, tele-health, and mobile clinic visits in 2021. He oversaw the raising of more than $1 million over the past five years to support unfunded patient care and helped secure the financial resources to expand Neighborhood Healthcare Services to San Marcos, Temecula, Riverside and Valley Center.

CARLOS M. NUÑEZ, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer
ResMed

Carlos M. Nuñez, M.D., is Chief Medical Officer for ResMed, a global leader in digital health and cloud-connected medical devices that transforms care for people with sleep apnea, COPD and other chronic diseases.

He leads the company’s medical affairs, market access, healthcare economics, government affairs, clinical safety and compliance, clinical science, and innovation functions. During the pandemic, Nuñez played a critical leadership role in industry-wide efforts, partnerships, and discussions to help maintain a sustainable supply chain, with the goal of getting lifesaving devices to every patient who needs one, wherever they are globally.

Under Dr. Nuñez’ leadership, ResMed included the creation of five new Current Procedural Terminology codes for the American Medical Association to ensure healthcare providers are reimbursed for things such as patient education, device supply, and treatment management in the areas of respiratory and musculoskeletal care.

DR. JORGE OTAÑEZ
Associate Chief Medical Officer
TrueCare

Dr. Jorge Otañez is Associate Chief Medical Officer for TrueCare. He brings more than a decade of experience to the healthcare center, and in this high-profile position provides clinical oversight on the delivery of healthcare, ensuring that patients receive the highest quality of wellness services and programs.

Dr. Otañez chose a career in healthcare after growing up in Tijuana and witnessing firsthand the devastation that medical disparities can have on Latinx individuals and families. For this reason, he is passionate about improving the overall health and wellness of the communities that TrueCare serves.

When COVID hit, he found a very small percentage of Hispanic patients were utilizing telehealth. He promoted the use of telehealth to help Hispanics get better access to health care. He also spearheaded a program for the general Hispanic population to control diabetes.

He can be reached at Jorge.otanez@truecare.org or 760-215-2816.
TrueCare Congratulates

Jorge Otañez, MD
Associate Chief Medical Officer
Moises Moreida, MPH
Community Outreach Manager

2022 Top 50 Latino Business Leaders of Influence

Thank you for your dedication to a healthier and more resilient community.
We are inspired by your commitment to the San Diego region and to helping our communities thrive. Congratulations to you and all of the 2022 Latino Leaders of Influence.
Neighborhood Healthcare is proud to congratulate Alex Nuñez, Chief Growth Officer, for being recognized as one of 2022 Top 50 Latino Leaders of Influence by San Diego Business Journal!

nhcare.org  better together
RICARDO F. VILLA
President
San Diego County Imperial Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Ricardo F. Villa is President of the San Diego County Imperial Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (SDCIVHCC). He assumed the position this year and has implemented changes to the organization, including merging of Imperial Valley into the San Diego Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and rebranding as the SDCIVHCC.

Through strategic bi-national partnerships with entities like Volaris, U.S. Mexico Chamber of Commerce, COTUCO and CANACINTRA, Villa’s SDCIVHCC opened untapped markets that have had a dramatic impact on the region. He also restructured outreach programs which has increased membership, resources and support for businesses in the region. These programs contributed to SDCIVHCC successes like the $1.6 million award from the 2021 City of San Diego Small Business Relief Fund.

He can be reached at president@sdcivhcc.com or 619-985-4863.

DANIZTA VILLANUEVA
Co-Publisher
Giving Back Magazine

Danitza Villanueva is Co-Publisher of Giving Back Magazine. Villanueva grew up on both sides of the border and uses her insight of cross-border culture to inform her business and community interests.

In addition to publishing successful magazines, including Giving Back Magazine, Villanueva has served on the the San Diego Opera’s board of directors; participated in the HOPE Leadership Institute; and initiated the Día de Alegria – an annual Ronald McDonald House Charities event for the Hispanic philanthropist community. Currently, Villanueva is serving as the first Latina chair of the Charity Ball in its 114-year history. The Charity Ball is the preeminent philanthropic event in the life sciences at the interface between information technology, chemistry, and biology and believes that technology can be part of the solution to problems in higher education without neglecting the human interactions that enhance the individual experience.

She can be reached at danitza@gsbanc.com or 619-778-2397.

HUGO VILLAR
Dean Division of Extended Studies
UC San Diego

Hugo Villar is Dean Division of Extended Studies at UC San Diego.

Villar has worked at the university in various leadership roles since 2008 and over his career much of his work has lased in on developing new programs that provide the necessary skills to maintain a vibrant workforce.

In collaboration with the San Diego Workforce Partnership, Villar was instrumental in the development of Income Share Agreement – a new model for education financing. He also worked collaboratively in developing alternative modalities for course delivery with universities around the country and in Mexico.

Villar has published extensively on technical solutions to diverse problems in the life sciences for the national marketplace.

He can be reached at rvillarreal@cdcloans.com or 619-243-8652.

MARGARITA WILKINSON
SVP, General Manager
Entravision Communications

Margarita Wilkinson is the Senior Vice President and General Manager at Entravision, a media company that includes four broadcast channels in San Diego and Tijuana and oversees Univision, Unimas, Azteca America, Milenio and EVC Digital.

Wilkinson’s dedication to the community extends beyond her work and has served on the boards of Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Red Cross, San Diego Symphony, ONE San Diego and currently the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and The Old Globe.

Throughout her career, Wilokinson has developed multiple programs advocating for the Hispanic community, including a global initiative to bring awareness to the Hispanic community about food insecurity, and a partnership with UC San Diego to educate Hispanic families about access to education and resources needed to thrive in the bi-national marketplace.

She can be reached at mwilder@entravision.com and 858-503-6535.

KENIA ZAMARRIPA
Executive Director, International Business Affairs
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

Kenia Zamarripa is Executive Director of International Business Affairs at the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce where she facilitates business, political and cultural relationships across the California-Baja business community and advocates for business-friendly legislation that encourages cross-border trade and an improved business climate.

In addition to coordinating an annual binational delegation trip to Mexico City to promote cross-border advocacy, Zamarripa also facilitates quarterly International Business Forums on current issues and emerging topics providing business leaders in the California-Baja region knowledge and resources needed to thrive in the bi-national marketplace.

Zamarripa is a featured speaker for business groups across our binational region, and the nation, discussing the dynamics of the San Diego-Tijuana border region and its economy.

She also serves on the Executive Committee of the Border Trade Alliance and as vice chair of the City of San Diego’s International Affairs Board.