

Meet the Board 17-18

Alumni Association: Chicano Latino Alumni Chapter



Laura Araujo

Position: Chair
Industry: Education
Graduating Class: 1996

Laura Araujo is a Mexican-born Chicana educator and writer living in the Inland Empire. Her love for literature and writing has been a life-long passion. She is an advocate for education and the arts. Her works explore the connections that present themselves through the act of writing, body politics, borders, memory, and identity. She collaborates on various performance and arts projects throughout the Inland Empire.

Laura enjoys camping and the outdoors. When she is not at a workshop fixing something, creating something with her hands, or learning a new skill, then she's with familia. Orale.

Richard Rangel

Position: Vice Chair



Emilio Ramirez

Position: Treasurer/Fund Development Chair
Industry: Economic Development
Graduating Class: 1995

Emilio Ramirez is the Development Director and Deputy Director for Community & Economic Development for the City of Riverside. Emilio is responsible for oversight of the Successor Agency, Housing Authority, Neighborhoods and Historic Preservation, Real Property Services and Economic Development with the City of Riverside. Emilio started with the City in June 2011. Prior to working for the City, he spent twelve years at the County of Riverside working his way from Development Specialist II to Assistant Director, a position he held for the last four years.

Emilio graduated from the University of California, Riverside, with a B.A. in Sociology and Economics. He received his Masters of Science in Economics from California State University, Pomona. He holds a Doctor of Jurist Prudence from Whittier Law School and is an active member of the State Bar of California.



Richard Alvarado

Position: Secretary
Industry: Retired, Public Sector
Graduating Class: 1983

Richard Alvarado received his undergraduate Bachelor's degree with a joint major in History and Chicano Studies at the University of California, Riverside in 1983 and holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of La Verne. He is a current board member on the UCR Chicano Latino Alumni, and member of the UCR Robert Presley Center for Crime and Justice Studies, Advisory Board. He retired in 2011 after 32 years in the public sector.

Richard is a 20 year Board Director for the *NOVO Federal Credit Union*. He is also Co-Founder and Managing CoOwner of the *Mountain Vista Winery and Vineyards* in Rancho Cucamonga.

Richard is a writer and published author of a non-fiction book: **10-33 On The West Yard; A True Crime Story About Politics, Policies and Prison Gangs**. He is currently completing a fictional book for young adults called "**Chile Town**." He lives in the Inland Empire and remains active in community affairs. He and his wife have 6 adult children and 6 grandchildren.



Estella Acuña

Position: Director of Chicano Student Programs/Homecoming Committee Chair
Industry: Education
Graduating Class: 1999

Born in Florence, Arizona and raised in Indio, California, Estella Acuña is the first in her family to attend college. After earning her Associate of Arts degree from Riverside City College, she transferred to the University of California at Riverside where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Chicano Studies.

Currently, Estella serves as Director of Chicano Student Programs at UC Riverside. In that role, Estella works to help expand access to higher education, protect the rights of students, provide supportive services, and promote cultural programming. She has been active in encouraging student involvement in the surrounding communities. She states, "Over the decades, we have witnessed their commitment, contributions and personal sacrifice. *Con orgullo* we applaud those continued efforts that have produced important and measurable results."

Estella credits growing up in a single family household and her mom's values and love for her children as a major reason for her commitment to the service of others. Her community involvement spans decades and various organizations which now include serving on the Board of Directors for the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association and the UCR Chicano Latino Alumni Association. Estella has been honored as Outstanding Mujer by Latino Network, acknowledged by Hispanic Magazine for her work on Radio Aztlan, and recognized with the 61st Assembly District Women of Distinction Award. Tune in to KUCR 88.3 FM on Friday nights and you might hear a familiar voice. Adelante!



Kenia Reyes

Position: Board Director/Regional Events Chair
Industry: Education
Graduating Class: 2011 & 2017

Kenia Reyes was born and raised in El Salvador until the age of 12 when she migrated to the United States. Kenia lived in Claremont and graduated from Claremont High School in 2007. She was accepted at and attended the University of California Riverside. While a second year college student, she founded an organization that emphasized in bringing Salvadorian students together and promoting higher education among the Latino community. The organization helped her get involved on campus and she also found her passion for Ethnic Studies. Kenia graduated from UCR in 2011 and in 2012 she began working at UCR Multimedia Technologies; where she continues to work.

In 2015 Kenia decided to pursue a Master's degree in Higher Education Administration and Policy at UCR and graduated in June 2017. Kenia joined the Chicano Latino Alumni Board of Directors in 2016 with the goal of continuing to learn from and contribute to the Latino community and future students.

Roxana Coreas

Position: Director of Communications, Graduate Rep

Michael Duenas

Position: Scholarship Committee Chair

Bryanna Parra

Position: Board Member

Alejandro Romero

Position: Board Member

Jose Venegas

Position: Undergraduate Rep

CLA Mission Statement

To build a community that advocates and creates opportunities for the academic excellence, professional growth, and advancement of Chicano Latino students, alumni, staff, faculty, and community at large.

