



News from the Alumni Association

aluminaries

Ricardo DeLeon '86
President, Association of
Latino Princeton Alumni



c. 1986 (center)

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As a high school senior in Corpus Christi, Texas, Ricky DeLeon applied to five colleges. Princeton was the one he didn't visit, but it was the one he chose to attend.

"I had a romantic vision of what it would be like. I wanted a change." He remembers arriving with two suitcases and little idea of what to do next. He remembers his first A- in Calculus. He remembers his many interactions with friends in the Latino community on campus. But he also remembers times of great discomfort.

Fifteen years later, Ricky had his MBA, was living in Cincinnati while working at Procter & Gamble and was active with local Latino service groups. It was then that he felt he had begun to reconcile his Princeton experience. He had to "catch up with tradition." His volunteer work began with Alumni Schools Committee interviewing. Now, however, his deepest ties are through the Association of Latino Princeton Alumni (ALPA). Since 2015 he has been the president of ALPA and currently co-chairs the steering committee for the upcoming University conference for Latino alumni, on campus March 30 to April 1.

"Through Princeton I learned to bridge two different lives and to value both lives. We want this conference to serve that role: to present options for achieving a balance, a bridge. Some will want a forum to share and reconcile their discomfort with their Princeton experience, and some will be eager to explore how to position for future success," he says, noting a panel on how to get into "the C-suite."

Ricky's understanding of the importance of that bridge between two equally valuable lives informs his own choices beyond his Princeton experience and engagement. In November of 2016, he became the first Chief Operating Officer of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund in Gardena, California, which, through grants and support services, helps exceptional Latino students cross that bridge by ensuring that they successfully complete their college years.

Reflecting on his career move, Ricky's enthusiasm is palpable: "My new job, my role with ALPA and my work with the conference have come together to create an exciting synergy in my life."