



DEVELOPING THE NEXT
GENERATION OF DIVERSE LEADERS

CLASS OF 2014 ACADEMY FELLOWS



Left to Right: Roman Partida, Alberto Avalos, Carmelita Miller, Jordan Medina



Alberto Avalos – *Claiming Our Democracy Fellow*

Alberto grew up in the Boyle Heights and South Gate neighborhoods of Los Angeles, California. He recently received his B.A. in Political Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara. While at UCSB, he began organizing around multiple issues impacting low-income communities and communities of color in Santa Barbara. As the Chair of Carnales in Aztlan, he focused on empowering the Latino community. Alberto then began his political career as an intern for Congresswoman Lois Capps and later served as the field director of the Emanuel Pleitez for Los Angeles Mayor Campaign, and subsequently as a lead organizer in the Eric Garcetti for Los Angeles Mayor Campaign. Recently, Alberto has begun consulting on a Student Engagement project at his high school alma mater and developed a multipronged strategy to increase college attendance. In his spare time, Alberto enjoys reading, playing and watching sports, exercising, and expanding his list of reasons of why Los Angeles is the greatest city in the world.



Jordan Medina – *Health Policy Fellow*

Jordan Medina is from Saginaw, Michigan and received a B.A in Sociology with a minor in Afroamerican and African Studies from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. As a student, Jordan became very interested in the study of race and socioeconomic status, and devoted most of his undergraduate career to learning more about the intersectionality of those two identities. As a program coordinator and dialogue facilitator for the Program on Intergroup Relations, Jordan engaged students to think critically about both identities by facilitating semester-long dialogues. As an undergrad, Jordan also became involved with NPR-affiliate Michigan Radio, and served as a production assistant for *State of Opportunity*, an award-winning series that looks at childhood poverty throughout the state of Michigan. Jordan became interested in health policy after spending a summer in New York City with the Drum Major Institute for Public Policy, where he analyzed the effectiveness of current policies designed to lower obesity rates in low-income communities of color and created his own policy alternatives. Jordan is very excited about his move to the Bay Area and cannot wait to experience the culture, the music, and, most importantly... the food!



Carmelita Miller – *Energy and Telecommunications Fellow*

Carmelita Miller was born in the Philippines and grew up in South San Francisco, California. She graduated from Sacramento State University where she became a Ronald E. McNair Scholar and earned a B.A. in History with a minor in Greek studies. Recently, she graduated from UC Hastings College of the Law. While at UC Hastings, she served as the President of the Pilipino American Law Society and Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Hastings Race and Poverty Law Journal. Inspired by her personal experiences living in low-income, immigrant, and working class communities, she dedicated her free time in law school to providing legal assistance to the low-income population by interning and volunteering at various pro bono organizations such as Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, UC Hastings Civil Justice Clinic, Legal Aid of San Francisco's Workers Rights Clinic, the Veterans Equity Center, and the Filipino Community Center. In her fellowship, she hopes to be exposed to resources necessary to advance the rights of communities of color and to gain leadership skills to effectively advocate for these rights. When she is not studying or fighting for justice, Carmelita enjoys lounging, hiking, and playing with her two black labrador retrievers named Maximus and Athena.



Roman Partida – *Environmental Equity Fellow*

Roman Partida grew up in the San Diego border region. Born in Chula Vista, CA, he split his time between Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico and Chula Vista. He attended the University of San Diego where he obtained a B.A. in Urban Studies and a minor in International Relations. He recently graduated from Thomas Jefferson School of Law, where he was part of the Pro Bono Society. Roman is passionate about giving back to his community. During his time in Law School, Roman interned at San Diego Coastkeeper, the Employee Rights Center and the Legal Aid Society of San Diego, where he was recognized with an Outstanding Service Award and also received the Wiley W. Manuel Certificate Award for Pro Bono Legal Services. In his fellowship, he hopes to better understand the way to bridge the current gaps between environmental programs and those offered to underprivileged communities. Roman is new to the Bay area and is excited to explore Northern California with his wife and two children, a two and a half year old toddler and a newborn.