



News Flash

CHISPA and Central Coast Residential Builders Employee Honored as Affordable Housing Finance Magazine 2009 Young Leader



Gabriel Torres, CCRB Vice President of Operations

Affordable Housing Finance Magazine has announced that Gabriel B. Torres, Project Manager for CHISPA and Vice President of Operations for Central Coast Residential Builders has been selected as one of 12 recipients nationally of the 2009 Young Leaders Award.

Annually, Affordable Housing Finance honors hardworking and dedicated individuals who represent the next generation of affordable housing and community development leaders. These individuals, all under the age of 40, represent nonprofit and for-profit developers, financial providers, and policymakers in the affordable housing community.

Beginning his employment with CHISPA as an Associate Project Manager nearly ten years ago, Gabriel has become an integral part of the development and construction team and now serves as Project Manager for CHISPA and Vice President of Operations for Central Coast Residential Builders, Inc. (CCRB), CHISPA's construction subsidiary.

Gabriel holds the general contractor's license for all projects for which CHISPA serves as general contractor. In addition to his duties overseeing construction of single-family homes and apartments, preparing budgets and loan and grant applications, and coordinating the work of consulting architects, engineers and subcontractors, Gabe has also been instrumental in developing collaborative partnerships with local organizations serving youth and moving CHISPA into Green construction.

He coordinates a partnership between CHISPA, the City of Salinas, and the Hartnell Community College Construction Technology Program to build homes on vacant city lots. Hartnell College students get valuable hands-on construction experience in building homes that are later sold to low-income families. Additionally, Gabriel has worked with the YouthBuild Program, another program exposing at-risk youth to the construction trades, and the Rancho Cielo Youth Program.

Gabriel serves on the Planning Commission in the City of Hollister, the Hartnell College Construction Technology Task Force, and this summer will assume the presidency of the Salinas Valley Builder's Exchange, becoming the youngest president anyone in the organization can remember.

According to Dana Cleary, Director of Real Estate Development, "Gabriel is not just a construction guy or just a finance guy – he can take on the whole range of development responsibilities."

Nominated by their colleagues and chosen by the editors of Affordable Housing Finance, all of the recipients will be featured in the September issue of Affordable Housing Finance (<http://www.housingfinance.com>).



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