



Ricardo Cornejo was born in San Salvador, El Salvador and moved to Las Vegas, NV at the age of eleven. He attended junior high school without knowing much English, and eventually graduated with honors from Ed W. Clark High School in 2007. Ricardo enrolled at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) that fall and is currently scheduled to graduate with a degree in Economics and Political Science in 2012.

Ricardo first received a scholarship from RMHC as a high school graduate and has continued to receive support through the RMHC Alumni Scholarship program, which provides continuing scholarships to previous RMHC recipients who continue to be exemplary role models in their communities and express initiative to fulfill their educational goals.

Ricardo exemplifies the mission of the RMHC Scholarship Program to invest in our community's future leaders. In his four years at UNLV, Ricardo has been active in several major professional and leadership organizations. He has served as Vice-President of Civic Engagement for the Rebel Pride Council; Student Ambassador for both the Presidential Student Ambassadors and the College of Business Student Ambassador programs; and Assistant Director for Nevada Student Affairs with the UNLV student government program. Recently, Ricardo became involved with the Southern Nevada Diversity Roundtable, a group of UNLV faculty, community members and students advocating for inclusiveness and support for minorities and underrepresented groups in higher education in Southern Nevada. Through these positions, Ricardo has planned countless community service projects, developed programs that promote learning and positive experiences for students at UNLV, advocated for fellow students, and lobbied elected officials and University Personnel on the importance of higher education in the State of Nevada.

Upon graduating, Ricardo plans on attending graduate school to obtain a Masters Degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in Environmental Policy. Ricardo's ultimate vision is to attend Law School and eventually obtain a career in government where he can shape public policy and positively impact our society.

"I was filled with uncertainty before my high school graduation in 2007 because I didn't know how I was going to find the support I needed to accomplish the next step in my life - obtaining a college degree. As I approach the 10 year anniversary of arriving to the United States and my college graduation, I can proudly say that RMHC has played a key role in the success I have had. They believed in me and invested in my future, which has motivated me to continue to work hard and achieve my academic and professional goals. This scholarship has taken me from uncertainty to seized opportunities, and I am no longer afraid of the future because I know success is inevitable. I consider myself to be in an extremely fortunate position and none of this would have been possible without the continued support of the RMHC Scholarship Program. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to succeed and obtain the career I have always dreamed of."