

Press Contact:

Virginia Wright, Director of Development
831-688-8840 x285 | virginiaw@cbridges.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 14, 2018

Community Bridges CEO receives Alumni of the Year award from San Francisco State University

Watsonville, Calif. — Raymon Cancino, chief executive officer of human services nonprofit Community Bridges, has been named Alumni of the Year of San Francisco State University’s (SFSU) School of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE).

Cancino received both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from SFSU, with Bachelor of Arts degrees in political science and criminal justice studies (2005) and a master’s in public administration (2008). According to PACE program faculty, Cancino “embodies the passion, skill and leadership we hope defines the work and careers of all our students.” He was selected for the award because he “has established himself as a leader in social services, and demonstrated his deep commitment to public affairs...Raymon has also epitomized PACE’s core values, including equity, social justice, civic engagement and accountability.”

“Ray was a top student in the criminal justice department, not just in terms of his grades, but in his overall dedication and contributions to the program,” said Jeff Snipes, associate professor of criminal justice studies. “He is a very caring individual, who was active in the student association, was a mentor to many fellow students—especially those facing challenges—and was a tremendous asset to building a cohesive and inclusive student culture. Faculty and students knew that he would translate his skills and traits to his work in the larger community upon graduation, and he certainly proved us right!”

Cancino has held senior management positions in senior support services, family services, a family emergency shelter and a youth center. Since joining Community Bridges in 2014—overseeing ten programs across twenty locations—Cancino has led numerous advocacy efforts. These included a 37% increase in adult day health care reimbursement rates across Santa Cruz, Monterey and Merced counties, and a four percent stake in a multi-million dollar per year sales measure providing senior transportation, resulting in an estimated \$30 million dollars to ensure seniors’ independence. In 2017, he led the purchase and renovation of a commercial property to house four Community Bridges programs and administration, providing essential cost savings to prevent elimination of valuable community services.

“Community Bridges is so fortunate to have a leader like Ray, who not only has the vision of a brighter future for our community, but also has the foresight, drive and skills to execute that vision,” said Shannon Brady, chair of the Community Bridges board of directors.

With leadership spanning across sectors, Cancino's passion for social justice is what drives his work.

"I am so fortunate to have the opportunity to serve in a noble effort to improve the conditions of the world around me, and to have a platform to create social justice and equity in the community we call home," said Cancino. "These principles of justice, service and moral fortitude all began through self-discovery through my experiences at SFSU, and through the discussions and teachings of the professors that contributed to my learnings. Thanks to them, I have the privilege and responsibility to seek a higher sense of duty and leadership for myself and others to make the changes required to make a more just world for all."

Cancino will speak at the May 25 PACE graduate recognition ceremony, where he will also be presented with the Alumni of the Year award.

ABOUT COMMUNITY BRIDGES:

Community Bridges is a local nonprofit with ten human services programs across twenty locations throughout Santa Cruz County. Together, the programs empower seniors, increase access to medical care and good nutrition, and strengthen children's resilience. The Community Bridges family of programs includes: Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County; Elderday Adult Day Health Care; Lift Line; Child Development Division; Child & Adult Care Food Program; Women, Infants and Children (WIC); La Manzana Community Resources; Live Oak Community Resources; Nueva Vista Community Resources; and Mountain Community Resources. To learn more, please visit www.communitybridges.org