

Gerardo G. Rodriguez

With more than a decade of experience leading entrepreneurs and community stakeholders in supplier diversity and inclusion markets, Gerardo championed tasks to build strategic business alliances between corporate and nonprofit organizations, served on numerous nonprofit boards and ensured diverse communities and businesses benefit from diversity, equity and inclusion programs within major corporations, nonprofits and government agencies.



Gerardo currently leads the development of companywide strategies to increase U.S. Cellular's economic impact on the communities it serves and represents through spend and use of diverse suppliers. Gerardo's job functions include developing the infrastructure for the supplier diversity program through collaboration and partnership with key stakeholders and executive leadership. He is also tasked with creating and managing policies that ensure effective implementation, setting targets to track progress, creating systems for outreach and developing new sourcing avenues.

Gerardo was recognized as one of Chicago Scholars' [Top 35 Under 35](#) young leaders, he was also acknowledged as a [Top 40 Under 40](#) awardee for *Negocios Now* Newspaper and has been named one of the [Top Ten Lideres](#) in the nation by *Hispanic Executive Magazine*. He was also a fellow with the U.S. Department of State's [Professional Fellows Program](#) which allowed him to travel the world working with young entrepreneurs from all backgrounds.

When he's not empowering diverse communities through economic development and entrepreneurship, you can find him channeling his inner qi, one acupuncture needle at a time, challenging his twelve-year old daughter to a dance battle or teaching her the importance of what "real" music is.

He completed his M.S. degree in Oriental Medicine with a focus in Nutrition and holds degrees in English – Creative Writing and Philosophy from Southern Illinois University. He currently resides in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood with his daughter Mia Selene.