

## **RAUL MEDRANO | BIO**

Economic Development Professional | Educator | Entrepreneur

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RAUL MEDRANO, was born in Washington, DC, grew-up in Prince George's County and has raised a family in Montgomery County for 25+ years. His parents are from Honduras-Central America. He has lived in the greater Washington metropolitan area for 55 years and enjoys the diversity of culture in the metro area, especially in Montgomery County where he resides with his family.

As of 2018, President & Founder, Café Medrano, LLC., importer, roaster and distributor of organic produced coffee by the Medrano family of coffee producers from Copan, Honduras. Café Medrano is a vendor at various Farmers Markets in the DMV, and offers online sales of coffee products at, [www.CafeMedrano.com](http://www.CafeMedrano.com). Café Medrano operations and tasting room is located in Kensington, MD.

As of Fall 2016, he was tapped to establish and develop the small business and entrepreneurship program at Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School for adult immigrant English-language learners (ELLs) in the Fall of 2016, bringing his small business expertise and a passion for serving the community. By bringing to the role a background in traditional media, economic development, government contracting, commercial real estate and community activism, the foundation has been set in creating a top notch small business program at the Carlos Rosario School community that serves the adult immigrant population at-large. Raul enjoys serving as instructor, coach and mentor to the small business participants in pursuing their dreams and aspirations. For more information visit: [www.carlosrosario.org](http://www.carlosrosario.org)

Raul Medrano, also served for six years as a dedicated economic development professional with Montgomery County Government (formerly DED) from 2006 – 2011, serving with professionalism and dedication to the Montgomery County business community and in serving as the Germantown Task Force/Sector Plan Liaison during his tenure. He was instrumental in facilitating the attraction, retention, and expansion of many advanced technology and small businesses in the Germantown Up-County region. Also, he worked closely with Montgomery College-Germantown Campus, Johns Hopkins University-MoCo Campus, and USG-UMD, on various workforce development initiatives and business roundtables.

From 2011-2013, he served as the first Campus Director of the Ana G. Mendez University System, opening the Capital Area Campus in Wheaton, MD, and being part of the first dual-language accredited university of Higher Education in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

He also provided business development services for AQUAS, Inc., (Bethesda/Kensington, MD), a certified woman-owned minority business enterprise (WMBE), providing IT services to the Federal, State and Local Government, from 2012 – 2013. During this time, he also received his commercial real estate license and is affiliated with Scheer Partners (Rockville, MD)

### **Education Background**

Graduated from Johns Hopkins University-Carey Business School with an MBA and concentration in Organizational and Leadership Development.

Also, he is a graduate of the University of Maryland-College Park Campus, having earned a B.S. Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing.

### **Community Affiliations and Awards**

Graduate of Leadership Montgomery (Class of 2013)

Board Member, National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association (as of 2018)

Awarded Entrepreneurial Leader of the Year (2017) by Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Montgomery County (HCCMC), Member and Former Board Member

Maryland Hispanic Business Conference (MHBC/2018): Recent Volunteer, Workshop Moderator and Exhibitor

Annual Maryland Hispanic Gala (2018): Served as Co-Chair of the Volunteer Committee

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