



Samuel M. Duran

BIO

Sam Duran has devoted more than 35 years of his life to empowering, advocating and improving the lives of inner city youth. As the founding Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Urban Corps of San Diego County, Mr. Duran grew the organization from its original budget of \$120,000 to more than \$8 million. Under his direction, the organization was been responsible for training, employing and providing educational opportunities to over 10,000 at-risk youth since its 1989 inception.

Mr. Duran's passion is empowering youth. He inspires leadership by helping youth provide for themselves through a solid education and green job training within a structured environment. Through Mr. Duran's continuous personal belief and commitment to underprivileged youth from all walks of life, the Urban Corps of San Diego County has grown in to a dynamic organization that provides a second chance to young people while preserving San Diego's natural resources.

Under his leadership, the Urban Corps had the honor of being the only conservation corps to ever receive a grant from the Smithsonian Museum to conduct a survey of all outdoor sculptures in the County of San Diego. The youth of the Urban Corps catalogued and assessed the condition of San Diego's outdoor sculptures in order for the Smithsonian to begin the important and much-needed work of repairing and preserving them for future generations to cherish and enjoy. This is one of many notable community projects completed by Urban Corps. Sam's vision has led to Corpsmember exchange programs with the USSR and Quebec, Canada and enduring contract work from the Port of San Diego, the City of San Diego, and a county-wide recycling program that includes major contracts Qualcomm Stadium and Petco Park.

Sam has been a committed community leader, environmentalist, and activist his entire life. During his tenure as Academy Superintendent for the California Conservation Corps, Mr. Duran oversaw the life skills' training of 740 youth per month. Mr. Duran also served as the Deputy Director of Eureka Communities, a nonprofit organization created by San Diego philanthropist Deborah Szekely, to increase the capacity of executive directors of community-based organizations. In that role, he encouraged other nonprofit leaders to raise environmental awareness in their organizations and communities, better the lives of disadvantaged children and youth, and create forums for learning exchanges that would expose leaders to best practices found throughout San Diego and the nation. In 1993, Sam served on the national task force created to advise President Bill Clinton on the creation of AmeriCorps.

Sam retired from the Urban Corps in 2012. Through his current role as board member of the California Conservation Corps State Museum, and the Cesar Chavez Service Clubs, he remains actively involved in youth advocacy and conservation efforts. In total, Sam's collective service amounts to a life's work of dedication to youth, environment, and community.

Past Affiliations and Service:

Boy Scouts of America, Commissioner
Toastmaster International Club 4202
American GI Forum
Holy Rosary Cathedral Parish Council
San Diego County Juvenile Prevention Commission
Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino
March Air Force Base – Hispanic Week Chairperson
Board Member, San Diego Maritime Museum
Board Member, National Association of Service and Conservation Corps
Board Member, GenAmerica
School Board Member, Guajome Park Academy
Board Member, Citizens for Clean Air Policy
Mayor's Renaissance Commission
Fieldstone Foundation CEO Learning Group
National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni, Chapter 55 & I10
Eureka Fellow
Mayor's Latino Advisory Board
Board Member, Eureka Communities Advisory Board
Citizen's Advisory Board on Police/Community Relations
Commissioner, Salary Setting
Board Member, EarthShare of California
Board Member, Farmworkers Institute of Education & Leadership (FIELD)
Member, North Bay PAC

Awards Won:

1971 — Boys Scouts Commissioner of the Year
1991—National Assoc. of CCC Alumni Hall of Fame Award
1992 — NAACP Chapter Involvement Award
1994 — Cesar Chavez Social Justice Award from Barrio Station
2001— Cesar Chavez Humanitarian Award from Barrio Station
2003 — Channel 10 Leadership's Individual of the Year Award
Sept. 24, 2005— Named Sam Duran Day in City of San Diego
2005— Chicano Federation's Willie Velasquez Community Service Award
2006 — Volvo for Life Award
2007—Named "Hispanic Hero" by San Diego's CW5
2008 — Finalist for San Diego Business Journal's Most Admired CEOs
2008 — EarthShare California Service Award
2009— Spirit of Work and Education Award from Escuela Primaria Urbana Nueva Creacion
2010 — San Diego Business Journal's Most Admired CEO
2010 — Finalist for San Diego County Veteran of the Year
2012 — Corps Network's Legacy Achievement Award
2012 — San Diego Earthworks E.A.R.T.H Award Honoree
May 8, 2012— Named Sam Duran Day in the County of San Diego

Current Affiliations:

Board Member, Cesar Chavez Service Clubs
Board Member, Conservation Corps State Museum

Military Services:

Decorated Vietnam Veteran, Bronze Star, and Air Force Commendation with two oak leaf clusters.