



## Meet Emilio



We are thrilled to welcome our newest board member, Emilio Ulloa, who brings a wealth of experience and passion to our mission. As the Associate Chief Diversity Officer for Minority Serving Institutions Affairs (MSI) at San Diego State University and a professor of Psychology, his expertise will be invaluable in helping BLCI excel. We are excited about the impact he will make in advancing our mission of breaking the cycle of poverty through education. Read below to learn more about Emilio and why he is passionate about BLCI's mission and has joined us on our board!

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### **What motivated you to join the BLCI Board?**

*I've known about the good work of BLCI for more than 20 years, since I started working at SDSU and in higher education. It's the type of organization that inspires you to be a part of their journey and the trajectories of their students. Being a board member is an opportunity to contribute to the continued success of BLCI in a meaningful and direct way.*

### **How did you first hear of BLCI?**

*As a faculty member at SDSU, I would often meet BLCI alumni. Many of our most impactful student leaders were BLCI alumni, and it became clear that the skills that they demonstrated for perseverance, leadership and academic success were rooted in their BLCI experiences.*

### **What is your goal as a BLCI Board Member? What kind of impact do you hope to make?**

*I hope I can use my experience and connections in higher education to help BLCI grow, secure resources, and identify innovative ways for continual improvement.*

### **What college(s) did you attend and what did you major in?**

*I went to SDSU and majored in Psychology (class of 1997) and earned my PhD in Social Psychology from Arizona State University in 2003.*

**What advice would you give to BLCI students about education and why they should pursue it?**

*Education has been and will continue to be one of the greatest and most direct mechanisms for upward social mobility. A college degree is one of the best ways to not only pull yourself into a comfortable and secure social economic life, but it is also impacts your extended family and social network and is the key to creating generational wealth. Not just financial wealth, but cultural, social, and civic. You will learn that you have immense power to inspire others- just by virtue of your success and example.*

**Is there anything else you would like to share?**

*I'm from the Imperial Valley originally, but as a Chicano who has lived in San Diego for 30 years, I have a strong connection to this area, and I identify as a member of the community.*

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Thank you, Emilio, for joining us in accomplishing our mission—we cannot wait to see the impact you will have on our board!

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Emilio

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