

## Salvador Ortega, MPA

Salvador Ortega was born in Zacatecas, Mexico and had a life on the “rancho” waiting for him until his mother made the decision to immigrate to “el Norte” when he was four. They settled in Long Beach, CA and as a child got a front row seat to poverty, gangs, drugs, and being a “wetback”.

At eleven he joined a gang and made other "cool choices", after a “mirror talk” with himself he wanted more but the lack of a social security number he didn’t see a path out. He was blessed to receive his "mica" after high school and enrolled at Cerritos College where he was one math class away from dropping out. Despite all the obstacles Salvador found his path through grit, resilience, and perseverance to be the first member of his family to graduate from a university. Salvador has a Bachelor's Degree in Recreational Management (2007) and a Master degree in Public Policy Administration (2013) both from Long Beach State.

