

# Serving *the* Underserved



**Ricardo Valenica**

*Awarded '04, '05*

*I am a Chicano with a Master's degree. Though this might not sound like a big deal, to my community it is; less than 7 percent of Mexican Americans in this country have access to a college, graduate or doctorate degree. This injustice strengthens my desire to help more underrepresented students navigate their way through an educational system that in many ways is designed to fail people like me before we are given a chance.*

Through mentorship and economic support, *I graduated from UC Berkeley with scholastic and community honors* including a Student Life Achievement Award, the Raza Recruitment and Retention Center Community Service Award, and the Cal Alumni Scholar Award. I am a McNair Scholar and former ASUC Senator.

After UCB, *I worked at the Greenlining Institute as a Banking Fellow.* I worked with successful multi-ethnic coalitions, meeting with top banking institutions to confront discrimination and encourage responsible corporate citizenship via long-term economic development investments in low income communities of color.

*I went on to earn a Master of Arts in Teaching* from Tufts University and am *now a proud public high school teacher* in Boston.

I teach US History/Ethnic Studies, and *serve on my unique pilot school's governing board*, where I collaborate with students, teachers, parents, community members, and administrators *to promote school policies that meet the needs of the underserved.*

