

Rafael Alvarez

Founder and CEO, Genesys Works



Named by Forbes Magazine as one of the world's top 30 social entrepreneurs, Rafael Alvarez is founder and CEO of Genesys Works. Established in 2002, Genesys Works is a non-profit corporation that changes the trajectory of life for underprivileged high school students, from one destined to a lifetime of low wage, dead-end jobs, to one in which they will fully participate in the economic mainstream. It accomplishes this by training and employing students to work in meaningful internships at major corporations during their senior year in high school so they can discover that they can indeed enter and succeed in the corporate world.

Under Rafael's guidance and vision, Genesys Works has grown at a compounded annual rate of over 50 percent, from serving just 10 students in Houston in 2002, to serving over 1,000 students a year in Houston, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Chicago, and San Francisco.

For his work in starting and leading Genesys Works, in 2012 Rafael earned the Entrepreneurial Leadership Award from Texas A&M University's Mays College of Business. In 2009 Genesys Works was recognized as a model social enterprise by President Obama at the launch of the White House Office of Social Innovation. In 2006 Rafael was inducted into the prestigious international Ashoka Fellowship.

Prior to starting Genesys Works, Rafael worked for eleven years at Compaq Computer Corporation (now HP) as a corporate strategist and in other engineering management positions. Rafael decided to leave his corporate career to start Genesys Works exactly one week after the terrorist attacks of September 11.

Rafael holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Texas A&M University and a M.S. in Engineering Management from The University of Houston. He resides in Houston with his wife and their three daughters.