Statistically, Josh Shipp should be dead, in jail, or homeless. But his success as a preeminent author, speaker, and global youth empowerment expert is living proof of the power of one caring adult. A former at-risk foster kid turned youth advocate, Josh is renowned for the documentary TV series on A&E that followed his groundbreaking work with youth and families.


Thanks to the support of teachers, counselors, and a wonderful set of foster parents, Josh went on to be listed on Inc. Magazine’s 30 under 30 list, and is now a postgraduate student at Harvard himself, further honing his skills in persuasive communication.

Josh is regularly called on by OPRAH, CNN, FOX, The New York Times, 20/20, Good Morning America, and others to provide commentary on common challenges faced by parents and teachers. Over the years, Josh has keynoted events for countless groups of parents, educators, and social workers – with audiences as large as 55,000 – and to date has spoken live in front of more than two million people. Viral clips of his acclaimed presentations have been viewed an estimated 50 million times online through platforms such as UpWorthy, Goalcast, and BuzzFeed.

To serve his ultimate goal of reaching as many youth as possible, Josh trains other speakers through Youth Speaker University, helping them use their own stories to make an impact. His social and emotional learning curriculum, Year of Awesomeness, is in use in hundreds of classrooms all around the world, while his free newsletter offers practical strategies to 200K+ parents, educators, and social workers.
Dr. Jose Enriquez is living his dream as the CEO of Latinos in Action (LIA), a non-profit he founded in 2001. LIA is now a national organization currently implemented in 210 schools in Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, and Utah, where the program was founded. LIA’s mission is to empower Latino youth to lead and strengthen their communities through college and career readiness. The vision of LIA is to be the model for Latino youth engagement through the development of personal assets, excellence in education, community service, and leadership. In 2014 LIA was honored as a Bright Spot by the White House Center for Excellence in Hispanic Education.

Dr. Enriquez is an immigrant that was born in El Salvador and grew up in East LA. He attributes much of his success to his hard working mother who sacrificed everything to give him and his siblings a better life. He graduated from John Glenn H.S. in L.A. with a full ride scholarship to wrestle at Brigham Young University where he obtained 3 degrees: BA in Secondary Education Spanish, ESL, Masters in Educational Leadership, and a PhD in Educational Leadership. His previous positions include; Director of Title III and Special Programs at the Utah State Office of Education, Director of Diversity for Alpine School District, Assistant Principal for 11 years in both Alpine and Provo school districts, Spanish for 3 years prior to that. Dr. Enriquez was appointed a commissioner on volunteerism by Lieutenant Governor Bell’s Utah Commission on Volunteers in 2010, and as a commissioner to the office of Multicultural Affairs by Governor Herbert in 2012.

Dr. Enriquez is married to Jaymilyn Bonnett Enriquez and is the father of 6 children; 4 girls and 2 boys.