



## Carlos Garcia '80

### Board president, Higher Achievement Program

A graduate of Boston College Law School, Carlos Garcia is an attorney, real estate professional, entrepreneur and community leader. He lives in Washington, DC, with his wife, Lucinda, and their three children, who are enrolled in public schools.

Carlos practiced law for nearly 15 years at the law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, as a dotcom general counsel and as Senior Corporate Counsel for Group 1 Software (a Pitney Bowes subsidiary). Currently, he and Lucinda head the Eng-Garcia Group at Keller Williams Capitol Properties, an “investment-minded, design-conscious” real estate team serving clients with residential and commercial properties in DC, Maryland and Virginia. He also owns and manages Mintwood Properties, through which he acquires, improves and then rents residential real estate. Carlos works with investors and small-business owners to acquire commercial real estate buildings; he assists clients in networking, facilitating partnerships capable of larger projects.

A former member of the District of Columbia’s Commission on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs, Carlos has dedicated his energy and resources to serving in the field of education and social justice. Elected president of the board of the Higher Achievement Program in 1998, he transformed a small, floundering group into a highly acclaimed model, recognized nationally for delivering services to inner-city youth to improve grades, attendance, and overall academic achievement and prom-

ise. Selected in 2005 by *The Washington Post* as the best-managed nonprofit in Washington, Garcia says that “it is encouraging to hear from, and collaborate with, leaders in the field who appear equally committed to achieving social justice by providing meaningful educational opportunities for disadvantaged and underserved communities.”

In 2003 Carlos received the Linowes Leadership Award for his exceptional work in fostering organizational change and sustainability within nonprofits, and he currently serves on the Selection Committee for future recipients of this award from the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region. Carlos also serves on the Selection Committee for *The Washington Post* award for management excellence among local nonprofits. He serves on the board of directors of the Frederick B. Abramson Foundation, which provides scholarships to college-bound high school students, and as an elected member of Oyster Bilingual School’s Local School Restructuring Team. Carlos also serves on the board of the E.L. Haynes Public Charter School.

Carlos incorporates what he sees as the main point of MCS into his daily life—understanding the importance of community and the imperative that humans must give back. He remembers MCS as his church, MLK as an idol, and fondly recalls Jim Plummer’s songs at the Farm, his field trips with Walter Meade, and lessons learned from Helen Russell, Clint Ingram and Gus Trowbridge. Carlos values MCS more than any other organization, using it as the benchmark for everything to which he devotes his time and energy: “Essentially, the first question...is whether [an organization] reflects the values and passion that MCS instills in us.”

*Demand ambiguity and complexity in curriculum and in relationships with one another. That is the best preparation students can get for the big challenges that await them after they leave here.*

Eve Ensler (2006)

Playwright, author, actress,  
speaking at MCS