

Alphonso Rincon

Founder of Fathers Active in Communities and Education



Alphonso Cantú Rincón was born in Seguin, Texas in 1950. He grew up on a 450-acre dryland, row-crop and pasture farm operation in Guadalupe County which raised/produced corn, cotton, grain sorghum, wheat, hay, commercial calves, market hogs, farmyard chickens and eggs, farmer's cheese (queso blanco), and butter. Eventually, his parents, the late Crispin and Maria Rincón, became owners of the 212 acre farm where Alphonso and his brother, Jacinto, have their homes today.

Through high school and his undergraduate and graduate years of study, Alphonso remained active in the family farm. In 1975 he graduated from Southwest Texas State University cum laude with a bachelor's degree in German; he also completed the university's honor's program. He subsequently studied philosophy at the Baylor University Graduate School.

From 1977 through 1989, Alphonso was a full-time farmer; during those years his three children, Miguel, Cenaida and Alberto were born. He implemented conservation practices in collaboration with the U.S. Soil Conservation and Texas A&M Extension Services.

Alfonso has served in a volunteer and professional capacity to help kids and youth in school. In 1992, he was the president of the LULAC Council that won the Texas LULAC Council of the Year Award. In 2003, Alphonso founded Fathers Active in Communities and Education (FACE), whose mission is to build communities of fathers to transform education and civic life.

FACE has been a partner in two state GEAR UP* Partnership grants (2003-2012) which served 9 school districts in South Texas. GEAR UP programs provide support for low-income middle and high school students to graduate from high school prepared to succeed in higher education. Through these partnerships FACE has collaborated with 12 colleges and universities.

Alphonso's mission is to complement efforts that will transform current youth, social and community norms/visions to a more holistic, sustainable relationship with the universe and its resources.