

Mario Hernandez
Director of Public Affairs
Western Union

Mario Hernandez is Director of Public Affairs of Western Union. In this position, he is responsible for the development and implementation of public affairs strategies directed primarily at Latin American communities in and outside the United States. Since his tenure at Western Union Mario has played an instrumental role in implementing the Western Union Empowerment Fund. In addition to fostering minority business development, this fund focuses on empowering immigrant communities in the U.S. and abroad. He has been instrumental in fostering the pioneering 4x1 Program that aims to support an array of social and economic empowerment projects in Mexico's most migration-affected states, and has been involved in several other corporate initiatives that focus on community-based economic development projects among immigrant communities.

Prior to joining Western Union, Mario Hernandez was the Spokesman for the Consulate General of Mexico in Denver. He studied Public Administration at El Colegio de México, and received a Masters Degree in Public Policy and Public Administration from the London School of Economics, where he participated in the first European Masters in Public Administration. Mr. Hernandez is a Ph.D. candidate in Public Affairs at the Graduate School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado at Denver, where he has served as a graduate instructor on U.S. Political Institutions. He has taught at the University of Colorado at Denver and has lectured at several venues across the state of Colorado. He has participated in several leadership and professional development programs where he has contributed his unique perspective.

Mr. Hernandez was recently appointed by the governor of Illinois to serve on the Illinois New Americans National Immigration Policy Advisory Council. He was recently selected to serve on the Advisory Board of the Institute for Mexicans Abroad, where he represents Mexicans living in the states of Colorado and Wyoming. In addition, Mario serves on the Board of Directors of Jobs for American Graduates – Colorado, an organization working towards bettering the educational outcomes for Colorado's youth. Mario has served on the Board of Directors of Focus Points Family Resource Center, and is currently honorary member of the Advisory Board of the Centro San Juan Diego. Both organizations provide educational services to low-income, immigrant families in the Five Points area in Denver, Colorado. Mr. Hernandez serves on the Board of Directors of the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition, the oldest Latino organization in Colorado that promotes parental involvement and educational achievement of Latino families.

Mario brings a diverse background to his work at Western Union. He is proud to belong to an organization that strengthens the world's economy through its global services, and makes the world a better place for all through the corporate initiatives he has been involved with.