ABOUT INVESTING

TONIGHT'S IN

SPEAKERS HUMAN CAPITAL

projectarriba.org
Justin Chapman is President of the Southwest Development Division of Hunt and has over 18 years of residential and commercial real estate experience. Mr. Chapman supervises a staff of real estate professionals, engineering consultants, land planners, landscape architects, and other development consultants on the acquisition, planning, entitlement, and construction of all Hunt’s residential communities in New Mexico and Texas. Justin has a Bachelor’s Degree, Political Science from The University of Texas at Austin and a Juris Doctorate from Baylor University School of Law, as is a member of State Bar of Texas, member of the Board of Governors – El Paso Chamber of Commerce; member Board of Directors of the Town of Horizon City Economic Development Corporation and serve as Chairman of the Board for the Rescue Mission of El Paso and Project ARRIBA.

Burt Blacksher is the Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Lending Officer for WestStar Bank and has been at the bank for over 26 years. WestStar Bank is El Paso’s largest independent community owed bank that was opened on May 1, 2000. Burt began his career with Bank of the West (now WestStar Bank) in May 1992 and has been active with numerous non-profit organizations, having served or currently serving in a leadership position with the Housing Authority of the City of El Paso as Chairman (2015 - 2018), YMCA of Greater El Paso, REDCO (El Paso’s Regional Economic Development Corporation), the Rotary Club of West El Paso and Past Chair with Project ARRIBA. For more than two decades WestStar Bank has been committed to the community of El Paso; not only supporting the community with a financially sound bank with a single focus of helping El Paso grow but also with a steadfast principle of giving back to our community.
Eloiso De Avila is a long-time leader with EPISO and currently serves as one of 4 Co-Chairs. He is retired from Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security where he was Southwest Field Unit Supervisor of Labor and Employee Relations for the southern border of the United States and Mexico for Field Operations and the Border Patrol.

Eloiso likes volunteering with EPISO because he "wants to make a difference." He is a proud graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School, a Vietnam Veteran and has undergraduate and post-graduate degrees from UTEP in Political Science. He has served in leadership positions in several non-profit organizations in community housing development, Santa Lucia Catholic Church, Toastmasters and the Boys’ and Girls Clubs Alumni.

Roman Ortiz is the Chief Executive Officer for Project ARRIBA, an economic and workforce development initiative in El Paso, TX and has over 19 years’ experience in the management of operations, information systems, finance, human resources, community relations and public speaking. In this position, he manages the day-to-day operations of the organization, which aims at improving the talent force within the unemployed and underemployed community of El Paso.

Roman has been with the program since its inception in 1999. Roman has a Master’s of Science Degree in Computer Information Systems and a Bachelor of Science in Business. Roman is a member of the Regional Economic Steering Committee and former member of the Borderplex Alliance (Paso del Norte Group) and a graduate of Leadership El Paso Class XXXIII.
After losing her financial aid due to the 90 credit hour rule, Elizabeth was referred to Project ARRIBA by an EPCC counselor. Following her enrollment into the program and beginning nursing school, Elizabeth’s son passed away. Her son was only 14 years old when he lost his battle with epilepsy, a battle he fought since the age of 10. Project ARRIBA was there for Elizabeth through the grieving and challenges she faced as a result of her loss.

Elizabeth Ramirez

Elizabeth’s case managers, Vikki Rey and Mimi Duran, attended the funeral and sat with her as she struggled to endure another minute. Vikki and Mimi comforted Elizabeth with kind words, showers of hugs, and unending encouragement to help Elizabeth continue with life and with her goal of completing the nursing program. They genuinely cared about Elizabeth and refused to let her fail.

Veronica knew the only way she could support her family with three small children was to gain a post-secondary education. On the verge of putting her education on hold, Project ARRIBA partnered with Veronica in 2003 to bring her dreams to fruition. In spring 2005, Veronica graduated from El Paso Community College with an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing Degree. Her success was realized due to Project ARRIBA’s commitment to provide students with the financial, educational, and social support system needed to complete a degree in a family sustaining, living wage job.

Shortly after graduation, Veronica was hired at Thomason Hospital, now known as University Medical Center (UMC) of El Paso, as a bed side nurse and she began working towards her bachelor’s degree on her own. She quickly moved up the hospital ranks while at UMC. She is currently a Nurse Manager and leads teams in the Telemetry and Cardiovascular Intensive Care Units and responsible for 90 employees and a $5.3 million budget.

Veronica Ortiz