

Eduardo Garcia

MAYOR
COACHELLA, CALIFORNIA

In 2006, at age 29, Eduardo Garcia became the youngest mayor ever elected by Coachella, California voters. According to Eduardo, the talent and skills that help him campaign and govern were learned more than 15 years ago during his first job in the travel industry.

Mayor Garcia worked as a guest services agent at a Desert Springs, California resort from 1997 to 2001 as he paid his way through the local community college. He credits the resort's "amazingly supportive supervisors and managers who all emphasized the importance of completing my education" for helping him effectively balance work and school demands. "Their flexibility, respectfulness and support for my goals and objectives helped get me through."



In fact, this early support fueled his ambitions to attain higher education. After completing his bachelor's degree at the University of California Riverside, Eduardo has gone on to do post-graduate work at Harvard's Kennedy School and received his master's degree from the University of Southern California in Public Policy, Planning and Development in May 2012.

Mayor Garcia believes his time in the travel industry was critical to both his educational and career success, helping to spark personal and professional growth and to provide him with the skills necessary to thrive in public service.

Whenever he gets the chance, Mayor Garcia tells people that there was no better place to prepare for a career in public service than in travel. "The skills I learned working in the travel industry — teamwork, communications skills, understanding people's needs and situations, and working hard to solve problems — are the essence of the public service work I do now."

And these skills are at the heart of his success as a public servant. In December 2012, Eduardo was sworn in once more as the mayor of Coachella after winning his fourth consecutive term.