



Richard Martinez, Jr.
President and CEO, Young Americans Center for Financial Education

Young Americans Center for Financial Education is home to Young Americans Bank, the world's only bank specifically designed for young people. Young Americans also conducts hands-on lessons in free enterprise, global economics, and entrepreneurship. To date over 500,000 youth have benefited from the programs Young Americans offers.

Martinez joined Young Americans in 1999 and has held several roles including VP/Audit, VP/Young Americans Bank, and Senior Vice President/Chief Financial Officer. He was named President and CEO in November 2007. Martinez is responsible for the oversight of Young Americans Bank and the nonprofit programs of Young Americans Center for Financial Education.

He began his banking career in Colorado in 1990 as an intern at the Norwest Bank of Fort Collins (now Wells Fargo bank) while pursuing a finance degree from Colorado State University. During his two-year internship, he worked in all aspects of commercial bank operations.

Upon graduation from college in 1992, Martinez accepted a position at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Denver Branch as a bank examiner. His responsibilities included conducting examinations of financial institutions and inspections of bank holding companies to determine financial safety and soundness. He earned the commissioned examiner distinction in 1998.

He holds a Masters degree in Business Administration from Regis University. His degree emphasis was in computer information systems. Martinez was appointed by Governor Ritter to serve on the State of Colorado Board of Community Colleges and Occupational Education in 2010. He was also appointed by Governor Hicklooper to serve on the Colorado State Banking Board in 2011. Martinez also serves on the University of Denver – Bridge Project scholarship committee. He was also appointed and served on the CollegeInvest board of directors and is a past member of the Colorado Nonprofit Association Board of Directors.