As a community organizer, educator, and public servant, Miguel Santiago prides himself on empowering Los Angeles working families. Born to immigrant parents, Miguel attended local public schools and community college before graduating magna cum laude as a History major from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Santiago was appointed in 2008 to the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District. He was elected in 2009 and reelected in 2011 with overwhelming voter support. Along with his colleagues, he led the effort to pass Measure J, a $3.5 billion bond aimed at building and renovating the District’s nine colleges.

Miguel played a key role in auditing the bond expenditures and forming the Inspector General’s Office and the whistle-blower programs. His work to overhaul the employee healthcare coverage resulted in a savings for the District’s operating budget and a reduced retirement healthcare obligation. As a direct result, the District avoided furloughs and layoffs during unprecedented funding cuts to public education.

Miguel was unanimously chosen as President of the Board in July 2011. He immediately started reforming the ten-year-old bond program, tackled the District’s finances and reestablished student success as a top priority for the District. He swiftly called for an unprecedented special Board meeting to kick-start bond reform measures and established the first ever adhoc committee on bond reform.

Miguel is an active and dedicated member of his community. He served as Corresponding Secretary for the Los Angeles County Democratic Party and is now the Chair of Campaign Services. He is also the District Director for Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez.