

# outstanding Granting Access

**D**avid Martinez is the policy and constituent relations manager for Multnomah County Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey. He sits on many committees and is helping organize June's Latino Pride. From his office on a wet Portland morning, Martinez discusses his life, which took him from a farm in Eastern Oregon to a career devoted to helping others gain equal access to information and opportunity.

**My name is David Martinez.**

**What I am known for** depends on who you speak to. I've done a lot of work with people of color in higher education, especially within issues of retention and recruitment. To that community I would be known as an advocate and a resource. Within the Portland metro area I'd be known as someone who is involved in the LGBTQ community. I served on the Q Center board for four years and was also on the Cascade AIDS Project board. I also play softball. This is my fifth year with the Bella Boys softball team. They'd know me as their manager and outfielder.

**My cause** would definitely be issues of access. It's really important to me that groups have access to information, support and opportunities, whether it's access to education or elected officials or career opportunities. It's really important to be looking at who's involved and who's not involved. That's the perspective that I try to make sure is brought up.

**I am 38 years old.** I am excited for my 39th birthday, which is in April. I feel [that it] makes sense that I'm 38. I am grateful for all my experiences and everything that's led me to this point. I feel I am constantly building and becoming more comfortable and confident and have the same energy that I've had. If anything, I have more of a focus.

I don't know what **my childhood ambition** was, but I knew what I didn't want to do. I didn't want to work in farm work. That's how we grew up, that's what our parents did, and that's what I saw immediately around me. And I knew I did not want to do that. I wanted to do something that would help me learn and better understand how folks get along or don't get along.

I don't remember who **my first same-sex crush** was on, but growing up there were athletes in school or people who I didn't realize why I was paying so much attention to, who were guys. They were the boys who were so confident and things seemed to have come so easy.

**In my down time** my outlet has been softball, because to me it is something that has nothing to do with "work."



**David Martinez seeks balance in a life that includes working for Multnomah County, volunteering with community groups and playing the outfield.**

I've had a few **proudest moments**, but when I graduated from college, having my family there. I was the first generation to go to college, and when I heard my name it was definitely one of the proudest.


**My biggest challenge** would be balance. I tend to get carried away with some of the things I get involved with—balancing what I'm doing for work, volunteering, people in my life and my family.

**My first job** was doing field work. That's how I grew up, on a farm. But my first job off the farm was at the Dairy Queen, and in a small town that was a step up. I was indoors.

For a **perfect day in Portland**, I would wake up at about 5:30 a.m., go to the gym, get breakfast—I love breakfast—shop around, maybe go to Powell's.

**My inspiration** is my parents. My dad didn't go beyond third grade and my mom sixth grade, and they've worked so hard, I can't even imagine.

**My last queer event** was a fund-raiser for Equity Foundation. They give grants to different groups, and it was really wonderful to see the recipients of the grants from all over the state and from such diverse backgrounds.

**My greatest hope** is that there can be better partnerships and collaborations between minority groups. For example, the LGBTQ community and the Latino community. I'm gay and Latino, and I could never choose between the two. My hope is that "the community" becomes all-inclusive and supportive and works together. 

—Alex Baldino

# just asking

*Just Out* asked volunteer lobbyists at Basic Rights Oregon's Day of Action in Salem, "What brought you here today?"



**JULIE STEGALL**  
*Working Girl*

"My wife, my three daughters, my friends and my own need to express my freedom. As an African American, it's vital to show people that we are here."



**STACEY MILLS**  
*Green Building Fan*

"I have a man in my life that I love 'til the end of the earth, and I want to make that as legally recognized as possible, so I'm here for him."



**MICHAEL ABRAM**  
*Clown Revolutionary*

"I'm learning. I've never been active before, so I'm getting a feel for the climate of the active community. If I'm going to be enjoying the rights that are afforded, I can play a part."



**JENNI PESKIN**  
*Human Dignity Coalition Executive Director*

"I want my daughter to grow up in a world where, whomever she grows up to be, she can be free from discrimination, hatred and oppression."

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