

Hi, I'm Ray Gamba. I was born and raised in San Francisco. One of my best childhood memories was my Dad taking me, at age 5 or 6, to Candlestick Park to watch a Giants game. He bought me an ice cream and a plastic helmet, and I promptly slept through the game.

I was into sports before, especially baseball and basketball, but alas I was too short in high school. I enjoyed the performing arts, especially plays and musicals throughout high school. For college, I went to Fordham University in the Bronx, NY. I only lasted one semester there—I missed my Mommy too much and transferred to the University of San Francisco. The move worked out great. I studied psychology, created the USF chapter of the Psi-Chi Honor's Society, and met my future wife, Aida. I also served as a Resident Advisor for a year-and-a-half, fielding all kinds of weird problems for my fellow residents. It was good practice for being a college administrator.



After college, I took a year off to work as a research assistant. I participated in a Surgeon General's report on tobacco use in minorities. I'm really proud of my contributions to that report.

Tobacco Use Among U.S. Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups

African Americans
American Indians and Alaska Natives
Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
Hispanics

A Report of the
Surgeon General
1998

I went to the Claremont Graduate School for my Master's and Doctorate in Applied Social Psychology. My graduate work took ten years because Aida and I got married and immediately started having kids. Our four kids are Bobby, Danny, Jack, and our little one, Flora.



After a year of part-time teaching, I landed a full-time position at Fullerton College. When a job opened at City College of San Francisco, I jumped at the chance to be closer to family. I spent 20 years at CCSF, moving up the ranks from instructor to department chair, to dean. I recently served as Dean of Social Science and Distance Education at West Valley CC before landing my latest role as of June 27, 2022: VP of Academic Affairs at Lake Tahoe CC.

I have benefited so much from ACCCA (ADMIN 101, Great Deans, Mentee Program) that when the opportunity came to "pay it forward", I jumped at the opportunity to help lead the Great Deans Program!