



Gala Honoree Spotlight: Dr. Victor Pineda

Human rights expert, social impact entrepreneur,
and two-time presidential appointee

2026 I-House Alumnus of the Year



Years at I-House:
1999–2002
Country of Origin:
Venezuela



“At I-House, I had the chance to develop the most meaningful friendships that helped transform my own self-confidence.”



About Dr. Pineda:

Victor Santiago Pineda was born in Venezuela but moved to the United States when he was seven years old because he was denied an education due to his disability in his home country. While at Berkeley, he was elected senator for the ASUC student government, revived the Disabled Students' Union, and established the Pineda Foundation, which seeks to provide occupational skills to youth with disabilities.

Education:

- B.A. in Political Economy & B.S. in Business Administration, UC Berkeley
- Master's in City & Regional Planning, Regional Economic Development, UC Berkeley
- Ph.D. Urban Planning & Social Policy Development, UCLA

Current Roles:

- Executive Director of the Center for Independent Living
- President & Founder of The Victor Pineda Foundation / World ENABLED
- Director of UC Berkeley Inclusive Cities Lab
- Senior Fellow at the Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government in Dubai

“I-House instilled in me a deep understanding of humanity and inspired me to contribute my knowledge about disability and human rights with the rest of the world.”



Learn More:
pinedafoundation.org



Victor will be honored at the
I-House Gala

Saturday, March 7, 2026

ihouse.berkeley.edu/gala