



RICK CRUZ, Incoming CEO of DC Prep, will join the organization in September 2012. Prior to DC Prep, Rick served as the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship's (NFTE) first Chief Field Officer since 2010. NFTE works in underserved communities globally to implement entrepreneurship education programming that increases students' basic academic and life skills through experiential in-school curricula, teacher professional development, and a deep engagement of local volunteers from the business community. In this role, he served on the organization's Executive Committee, oversaw the national network of regional program sites, led the organization's strategy, volunteer, and government affairs efforts and was the key liaison to the program and strategy committee of the Board of Directors. Most recently, Rick led the development of the organization's five-year strategic transformation and growth plan.

Prior to joining NFTE, Rick served as Vice President of Regional Operations at Teach For America (TFA). In that capacity, he led a portfolio of offices in key markets across the country, working with Executive Directors in Washington, DC, Baltimore, Connecticut, Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, South Louisiana, New Orleans and South Dakota in seeking to end educational inequity by recruiting and training recent college graduates for the classroom and as future leaders in and outside of the education sector. Rick worked closely with these regions to scale their operations, growing the human capital and funding necessary to recruit and train more teachers and serve more students each year.

Before TFA, Rick worked for more than 12 years in various management roles at the Corporate Executive Board, a premier advisory services firm providing decision support tools, best practice research and executive education to more than 5,000 companies and their executives worldwide. Most recently he was a member of the company's Finance Practice management team, leading a fast-growing business division serving risk management, audit, and corporate compliance executives. In this capacity he specialized in coaching clients on critical strategic initiatives, including organizational and talent development, strategic planning, corporate governance, and Board of Directors education.

Rick joined the Corporate Executive Board in 1995. He began his career working with the company's Financial Services practice, supporting clients on a variety of topics in operations and technology. Rick then joined the company's business development team and supported the launch of a suite of new research practices, including business information services designed to support corporate IT executives and chief legal counsel. In 1998, Rick was appointed to the company's London office and European management team, and spent the next three years working across multiple research practice areas – finance, strategy, IT, marketing, research and development, human capital, and leadership development – managing the firms' growing membership networks across Europe and South Africa. He also supported the launch of executive education services in Europe before returning to Washington, DC in 2002.

Rick earned a BA in Philosophy from Yale University, having pursued multi-disciplinary coursework in political philosophy, political science, and international relations. He resides in Washington, DC with his wife, Leslie, and two children, Luca and Belén. Rick is an avid reader, book collector, and cook.