

---

# ◀ HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH ▶

---

*At RNDC, we offer an inclusive and strong family culture that respects the diversity of our associates and business partners. From September 15 – October 15, we will highlight our Hispanic colleagues who have a story to tell about their Hispanic Heritage.*

Name: Jamie Castro

Title: Senior Manager — Supply Chain Planning

Location: Tustin, California

Date of Hire: January 2018



## **What traditions or elements of your heritage make you most proud?**

I was fortunate to grow up on a small farm and made contributions to the family business at a very young age during summer breaks. This was a great tradition that kept the whole family together while having fun outdoors and at the same time being able to be part of something bigger and sustainable for the family. We did everything from harvesting and gathering all the ripe crops, grains, rice, corn, beans, watermelons, squash, radishes, cucumbers to feeding and milking cows to making cheese.

This made me appreciate my parents' hard work and built a sense of community and responsibility. However, it was not all about hard work. A superfun tradition was to take the whole week off during the Easter Holiday to spend time by the beach, river or lake. It was a great way to decompress. Also, celebrating Christmas in the summertime and Independence Day for the whole week was fun while enjoying lots of food and festivals. El Día de los Muertos is a fun tradition as well, celebrating the life of loved ones that are no longer among us by gathering in the cemetery and bringing fresh flowers and lots of colorful decorations.

## **What does “Adelante” mean to you?**

This word to me means progress, change, improvement, evolution, having a clear vision and adapting to a new environment. It means to always, be proud of your past and where you come from, acknowledge your identity and be your authentic self to shape your future.

**What advice would you give someone who is attempting to move forward in the face of adversity or challenges?**

No matter where you come from, no matter your ethnicity, nationality or the language you speak, it's important is to have a vision of where you want to be going forward and what you are going to do to make that happen. Always look back at your bad and good experiences to help you shape your future and be kind to others in the process while moving forward and up.

**Tell us about a person who has helped you move forward in your life/career?**

This is a tough question because I have two people in my life who helped me move forward in my career, but if I have to pick one, I definitely have to say that my mother has been a great support in my life. She is such a strong, gentle, kind and intelligent woman. Always finding the good in me and pushing me to become a better person.

**Looking forward, what vision do you have for your future and how is your culture part of that vision?**

Having a clear vision and finding purpose in life can get tricky at times, but for me, having a united family and community that thrives by helping each other out is the ultimate reward. Helping the young ones around me by sharing my experiences and being their mentor. Sharing my achievements, but also my mistakes so they can learn from them. Making sure they understand being Hispanic in this country is not a constraint that will limit the amount of success in their future careers. In fact, it should be seen as a multicultural advantage that could be used to unlock their full potential and fulfill whatever dreams they have. Now more than ever, the Hispanic community in the United States is contributing to shape the multicultural and diverse experience in this great nation. The influence of our culture is being reflected in many important areas of our lives, such as politics, education, business, art, music and entertainment.

