

# José Balcazar

## ***Veteran & Business Adviser at Central Oregon Community College's SBDC***

José Balcazar is currently the Veteran Business Adviser at Central Oregon Community College's Small Business Development Center. Born in Mexico City, José was raised by determined parents who encouraged José and his brother to 'work hard for what you want.' Even by the early age of 16, José knew he had a passion for computer programming and design, so he attended a technical school where he absorbed the 'first era of computers' while still attending high school.

José migrated to the United States at the age of 18. He attended and graduated from Hermiston High School in Hermiston Oregon. In 1998, José enlisted in the Army and was awarded the Distinguished Honor Graduate Award, several Certificates of Achievement, the Military Excellence Award and the Army Achievement Medal. After completing his Enduring Freedom deployment, he received an honorable discharge.

Post deployment, José went on to own several companies and raise his two children, Dylan & Kelsey, in Central Oregon. His most visible (and very popular!) business locally was a successful Mexican restaurant that he owned and operated in Bend for over 17 years. Last year, with his son and daughter solidly established in school, José reenlisted on the 4th of July. And now that son Dylan is grown, he is following in his father's footsteps, and recently graduated from US Air Force training.

José's colleagues at the SBDC enjoyed seeing the family photos upon the occasion of Dylan's graduation, and we asked for permission to share one – we can't think of a better example of a Veteran continuing to serve his community, and this submission is our way of thanking José for his service not only to the country, but to his fellow Central Oregonians. ¡Gracias José!

