

## Pedro David Espinoza

Transformative Tech Entrepreneur, Investor, and Inclusion Expert

Called the “Robinhood of Technology” by Voice of America, Pedro David Espinoza is a serial tech entrepreneur, venture investor, CEO, university lecturer, and author who is highly regarded as one of the leaders of the next generation making a progressive impact on business and society through diversity, equity, and inclusion. As a young disruptor in the tech space, Espinoza has founded, supported, and served as a board member for several game-changing companies that are leading the way in innovation, reshaping entire industries, and empowering diverse groups. He currently serves as the vice president of business development at Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG), where he spearheads the 100 Startups Initiative and The Innovators Fund to support diverse founders through funding, resources, and corporate partnerships.

Espinoza shares highly sought-after DEI insights and reveals how embracing diversity and practicing cultural intelligence is the first step to building high-performing teams and sparking a culture of innovation. As a diversity and inclusion expert, Espinoza has provided many of the world’s leading organizations with tangible steps for building bridges between diverse members of their teams, including the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Oracle, Walmart, and Splunk. He delivers energetic talks on how to attract and retain top and diverse talent, while defining the reasons why businesses with deliberate inclusion strategies are often more stable and positioned for success, now and in the future.

Espinoza was born and raised in Peru, where his passion for purposeful entrepreneurship began after a challenge from his mother to volunteer and help those less fortunate opened his eyes to why it’s truly more fulfilling to give rather than receive. In addition to his role as SVLG’s first vice president of business development, Espinoza is a lecturer of entrepreneurship and engineering at Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico. He is also the founder of Pan Peru USA, a venture that empowers low-income women to become entrepreneurs. Prior to that, at age 19, he founded and became the CEO of SmileyGo, a service that uses data-driven insights to provide companies with smarter nonprofit investment opportunities. It attracted funding from Peter Thiel’s 1517 Venture Capital Fund, as well as the former Jefferies CEO, and was part of the Berkeley SkyDeck startup accelerator program. In addition to his own startups, Espinoza is an investor in companies such as Nadine West, Kiwi Campus, and Feed.FM.

Widely recognized for his business success, Espinoza is the recipient of the 2022 HITEC 100 award — which features the 100 most influential global Hispanic executives in technology — and was named a 2021 Latinx Business Leadership Honoree by *Silicon Valley Business Journal* for his commitment to sponsoring Black and Brown entrepreneurs. In 2017, former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano named him the University of California Entrepreneur of the Year Award winner, and prior to that, he was named an Under 30 Change-Maker and Young Entrepreneur to Watch by IdeaMensch. In addition to sitting on the boards of several top companies, Espinoza is the author of *Differences That Make a Difference* — which focuses on the power of diversity, innovation, and disruption in business through anecdotes and research from Fortune500 CEOs, public service leaders, and academics. He is also the author of *The Real ROI: Return on Inclusion*, which highlights the importance of uplifting underrepresented groups in organizations. Educated at Stanford, Harvard, and Berkeley, he has been profiled in Nasdaq, Univision, Telemundo, Fox, Forbes, and several other media outlets.