



PUERTO RICO CONFERENCE 2012 | Revitalizing Innovation



Mr. José Joaquín Villamil
Chairman of the Board
Estudios Técnicos, Inc.

Mr. Villamil is President and CEO of Estudios Técnicos, Inc., a private economics and planning consulting firm, and is currently Chairman of the Board of Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria (BBVA) in Puerto Rico. His undergraduate and graduate studies in Economics were at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

He served as a member of the New York Federal Reserve Bank's "Community Affairs Roundtable", is a former President of the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce, and Chair of its Economic Advisory Council. He presided both the Inter-American Planning Society and the Puerto Rico Economics Association. He is a member of the Board of Comunidad Agrícola Bianchi, Inc. and of Empresas Cordero Badillo, Inc.. He has served on the Boards of the Ponce School of Medicine, St. John's School and the Ana G. Méndez University System. Mr. Villamil was a founding Director of both the Puerto Rico Community Foundation and the Aspen Institute's Non-Profit Sector Research Fund. He served on the Board of the National Puerto Rican Coalition in Washington and the Board of Economists of Hispanic Business. In March of 2005, Mr. Villamil was appointed to the Council of Economic Advisers of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation in Washington, DC and is currently a member of the Board of Governors of United Way of Puerto Rico.

Mr. Villamil was Chair of the Puerto Rico-2025 Commission and of the Commission on the Economic Future of Puerto Rico, the former became the Alianza para el Desarrollo, a non-profit entity, and the latter an initiative of the PR Chamber of Commerce and the PR Manufacturers' Association. He served as Chair of the Finance Committee on the Governor's Commission that evaluated Puerto Rico's health system in 2006, and was appointed in 2009 by Governor Fortuño to the State Human Resources and Occupational Development Council, in which he chairs the Strategic Planning Committee, and to his Economic Advisory Council. He currently chairs the Economic and Business Advisory Committee of the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce.

He is a former professor of Planning at the University of Puerto Rico, and visiting professor at various universities including Harvard, the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex (UK), and universities in Latin America. He has lectured at universities in Europe, the United States and Latin America. Villamil has been a consultant to international organizations such as the UN Economic Commission for Latin America, the Organization of American States and the Latin American Institute of Economic and Social Planning. He has been appointed Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Universidad Metropolitana's School of Environmental Affairs.

In Puerto Rico he has been involved in policy initiatives related to economic development and the development of science and technology based strategies. He chaired the Working Group that was instrumental in drafting Puerto Rico's Public Policy on S & T, was part of the team with A.D. Little, Inc. that completed a major study on S & T based economic development. He was also part of the Pharmaceutical Industry Association's strategic planning committee.

His published work includes books as well as articles in academic and professional journals in Puerto Rico, the United States, Latin America and Great Britain.

In his career he has received numerous awards, including, in 1997, the Special Award of the President of the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce for his contributions to Puerto Rico's economic development. In June 2004 he was awarded the degree of Doctor, Honoris Causa, by the Universidad Metropolitana. He received the Special Award of the President from The Puerto Rico Realtors Association in 2005, and was awarded the prestigious John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship for his work on development of small economies.