

# David Levine '91

## Outstanding Service Award



When West Coast native David Levine arrived at Skidmore, he found the diversity of backgrounds, ethnicities and ideas at Skidmore exhilarating. While pursuing a degree in economics broadened by the liberal arts, he flourished in a community where faculty and even President David Porter seemed so readily accessible. Today, David is president and CEO of Presidio Mortgage Holdings LLC in San Francisco, California. This “proud Skidmore alumnus” has given back to his alma mater in numerous roles, including in stints as a regional volunteer and member of the Alumni Nominating Committee. He celebrates his 30th as class Presidents Society chair and reunion volunteer. A longtime admissions contact, David also continues his service on the Tang National Advisory and President’s Advisory councils.

“Coming from a rather homogenous background in Southern California, I was eager to experience something different,” he recalls. Skidmore exceeded my expectations; I was able to learn and live within an open, diverse environment.” The freshman remembers being somewhat taken aback that President Porter would make conversation with him. “I was even more surprised when faculty like Joanna Zangrando, Mehmet Odekon and Beverly Becker invited me to dinner at their homes!”

Although David chose to major in economics, he considers the courses he took in the Education Department to have had perhaps the most enduring influence. “I acquired public speaking and conflict resolution skills that have been invaluable throughout my life and career.”

After graduation, he returned to the West Coast to help launch ARCS Commercial Mortgage, a company that grew into one of the nation’s largest multifamily lenders. As president and CEO of San Francisco-based Presidio Mortgage Holdings LLC, David currently oversees a multifamily real estate platform focused on building and renovating innovative and high-quality communities throughout the U.S.

All the while, his affinity for his alma mater continued to grow. Over the years, David has been both a stalwart alumni volunteer and a gracious Skidmore ambassador. In 2018, he hosted the San Francisco kickoff of the Creating Our Future campaign. In January 2020, he invited the College’s top regional supporters to a San Francisco Dialogue Dinner with President Philip Glotzbach and Marie Glotzbach. That fall, David reprised his role as host of a virtual CTM Dialogue event with President Marc Conner.

David says he takes particular satisfaction in interviewing prospective students as an alumni admissions contact. “These sessions are actually more like discussions — it’s so exciting to see that Skidmore continues to attract such talented, multifaceted young people.”

A firm believer in supporting the cultural and civic life of his community, David is former chair of The Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco. Today, he serves on multiple boards and is executive director of a private family foundation. When not volunteering, he enjoys spending time with his family playing tennis, running and “adventurous eating.”

“I am proud that I continue to give back to Skidmore, in a variety of ways, for all it has given me. It sends an important message to my children — that this isn’t about just writing a check. Receiving this award just solidifies my pride as an alumnus.”