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Jerome Gonzales

Title: President, CEO and founder

Company: **JG Management Systems Inc.**

Industry: Technical management consulting

Location: Grand Junction

Phone: 970-254-1354

Website: **www.jgmsinc.com**

In 2001, Jerome Gonzales started a technical management consulting company in Grand Junction, the same city where his grandfather had labored in the orchards picking peaches.

Growing up in Santa Fe, N.M., Gonzales was urged by his grandfather and mother to get an education, and never be afraid of hard work.

Taking the advice to heart, Gonzales earned a mechanical engineering degree and a master's in engineering management. He's had a successful career in program and project management, including a position as deputy manager for the Department of Energy's Grand Junction office.

Opting not to move to Washington, D.C., to further his government career, he instead launched JG Management Systems Inc., which helps clients, such as the Army Corps of Engineers, with long-range project planning for maintenance facilities, offices, army hospitals and other projects.

With nearly 50 employees in 12 states, the young company had \$6.1 million revenue last year and expects to reach \$10.5 million in 2008. Gonzales credits the success to the stick-to-it attitude he learned as a youth, along with creativity and being focused on results.

Last year, JG Management Systems gave about 5 percent of its annual net income to charity. A main recipient was Riverside Educational Center in Grand Junction, founded by Gonzales's wife, which provides tutoring and educational resources to disadvantaged children.

"It was pretty much ingrained in me growing up that the Hispanic community looks out for each other," said Gonzales, who plans to help students even more in the future.