Carlos Contreras is the Intel senior government partnership and initiatives director for Americas Region. Carlos is responsible for driving strategic programs on emerging technology such as Artificial Intelligence program. Carlos collaborates with key government organizations, academia and industry groups to drive scalable and sustainable programs, emerging tech policy and regulatory alignment .

As a third-generation engineer, Carlos has built a career focused on technology, creation, and community. He began his career as a process engineer for Procter & Gamble paper products before attending the Thunderbird School of Global Management where he completed a Master’s Degree in International Management. Carlos joined Intel in 1996 in the Finance Division. He supported capital and materials purchasing, research and development, and served as Finance Controller for Intel’s Costa Rica manufacturing site. After 10 years in finance, Carlos took on a new role as a Regional Education Manager. This was followed by a four-year assignment in Washington, D.C. as the U.S. Education Director for Intel. In this role, Carlos developed and implemented programs that mobilized science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in classrooms nationwide, and drove education policy change at the national and local level. He additionally oversaw Intel’s education programs in the United States including grants advancing math, science, and engineering pipeline projects such as science fairs, maker education, pre-engineering and coding programs while also promoting greater accessibility to students. When Carlos returned to Arizona, he took on the role of Regional Public Affairs Director. Carlos oversaw a team responsible for community engagement, governmental affairs and communication strategy for sites in Arizona, California, Austin, Costa Rica, and Guadalajara. These Intel sites include Intel’s corporate headquarters, cutting edge manufacturing, research and development, engineering labs, shared service centers, and a broad spectrum of Intel business units. Carlos then transitioned to the Autonomous Driving Division at Intel Corp. As part of the strategic marketing team, Carlos oversaw Intel’s autonomous driving higher education programs including student contest, research as well as industry collaborative. In his role Carlos also developed government engagement strategies to accelerate the adoption of autonomous driving technology

Carlos has served on numerous boards including as founding member of the Maker Education Initiative. He worked directly with Sally Ride and Craig Barrett on President Obama’s STEM initiative - Change the Equation. He served as a STEM Education Industry Advisor for the National Governors Association (NGA), National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), University of Michigan MCity leadership council, CompTIA policy executive board and White House Science Fair. He currently serves on the Board for the Arizona School for the Arts (ASA) and University of Arizona College of Engineering Industry Advisory Board. He has often served as a resource to media on STEM initiatives and the importance of creating access to STEM opportunities for young people