

ALEX SIMONS

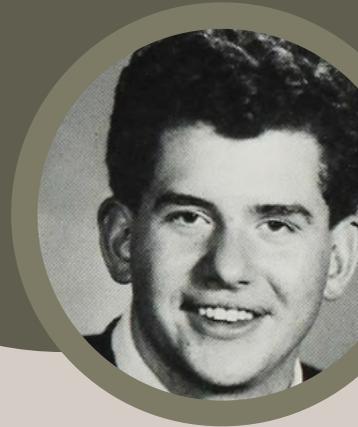
LAHS CLASS OF 1989

Tell us a little about yourself, where you live and what you do.

My family originally moved to Los Alamos in 1975 when I was four years old. I attended Pinon Elementary, Los Alamos Middle School & Los Alamos High School, graduating in 1989. After graduating from high school, I attended the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and received a Bachelor of Economics degree in the spring of 1993. While at Wharton I met a recruiter from Microsoft in a pickup basketball game and ended up getting a job as an intern in the summer of 1992. I loved the company and returned full time right after graduating. I've been at Microsoft ever since working on everything from educational software to Windows to cloud services.

I live in Redmond, WA, just outside of Seattle with my wife Chris. We've been married for 25 years and have twin daughters Logan and McKaela who both graduated from college last spring. Logan lives in New York City and is a professional photographer. McKaela lives in Boston and is a software developer. Chris is an interior designer and has run her own business, Calm Designs, for the last 15 years.

At work, I'm a Corporate Vice President in Microsoft's new Security, Compliance and Identity Division. For the last 10 years I've been responsible for all of Microsoft's identity cloud services and products. I love my job because of the amazing people I get the privilege to work with, the close relationships we have with our enterprise customers and the incredibly cool cloud technologies we get to build.



What are your favorite memories of growing up in Los Alamos?

I have so many great memories of growing up in Los Alamos. I loved playing varsity sports in high school, especially basketball. I fondly remember the big game my sophomore year when we beat Farmington at home. It was the first time we'd beaten them in five years! I also have fond memories of Youth Working for Youth dances at the LA Community Center and of walking with friends to see the luminarias/farolitos out on Barranca Mesa at Christmas time. And of course, I remember some amazing teachers who I learned so much from!

How do you think attending public schools in Los Alamos impacted your life path?

It's hard to over state how big a positive impact attending the Los Alamos Public Schools had on me. It wasn't until I got to college and could watch my new classmates that I understood just how amazing my high school teachers and the curriculum were and how well they had prepared me for life. I have never ever worked as hard at anything in my life as I did in Ms. Shankland's AP English class our junior year in high school! And the huge selection of AP classes (math, physics and history) I was able to take prepared me up incredibly well for college. All four years of classes at the University of Pennsylvania, which is a top rated Ivy League University, was actually kind of easy in comparison to my junior year in Los Alamos!

Even more importantly, my teachers helped me develop an incredible understanding of and love for math and science that I still use every day at Microsoft. I wouldn't enjoy the success I have today without the incredible blessing of a Los Alamos Public Schools education!

Talk about your volunteer involvement where you live and why you give back to Los Alamos Public Schools.

Outside of work I volunteer about 500 hours a year as a girls competitive volleyball coach. I've been coaching for 13 years and have coached teams all the way from U12 to U18. Coaching is one of my greatest passions. I had SO many amazing, devoted, caring coaches growing up in Los Alamos. They really had an outsized impact on me. Volleyball gives me an opportunity to "pay it forward" and make a positive impact on the lives of the 12 young women who I have the privilege to coach every year.

I also love giving back to the Los Alamos Public Schools. I feel so blessed to have had such an amazing educational experience as a kid growing up, so making a big donation to LAPS every year is another great opportunity to pay it forward!