



Raised on a farm just outside of Sugar Land, Russell Molina followed his older brother's footsteps to Sam Houston State in 1985 after graduating from Dulles High School. At SHSU, Molina was a member of the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity and also worked closely with the Interfraternity Council. Molina earned his BBA in marketing from Sam Houston State in December of 1989, becoming the second member of his family to earn a college education, and accepted a temporary job that led to an entry-level accounting position with Senterra Real Estate Group in Houston.

He quickly climbed the corporate ladder at Senterra and landed a role as a financial analyst with Woodco Fund Management. During the next decade, Molina became a trusted venture capitalist with Woodco, traveling to New York, Boston, California, Italy, France and so forth regularly to represent the company and to listen to pitches from businessmen seeking financial

backing from Woodco.

In the aftermath of the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, however, Molina decided traveling the globe no longer seemed so attractive. In November 2001, he began earnestly seeking a company he could purchase in the Houston area. His extensive research led him to a 41-year-old, family-owned company called Custom Rubber Products. Molina completely overhauled the operations of Custom Rubber Products, and in the course of 10 years of ownership, he grew the staff from 42 employees to more than 350, while growing annual revenues from \$3.3 million in 2002 to more than \$48 million a decade later.

Molina sold Custom Rubber Products in 2012, and is now involved with multiple endeavors, including PPI Security, a full-service private security and investigation firm based in Houston, as well as a restaurant in Colorado's Vail Valley. Superior Trophies and Buckles, a seller of specialized merchandise for trophies, banners, hats, shirts and buckles, along with The Hat Store, which has been selling quality straw and felt hats since 1915, both of which are based in Houston. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Allison, and their two children, son Seth and daughter Talia. Molina also enjoys working to help current and former Sam Houston State graduates, and he has consistently given both his time and financial contributions back to his alma mater. Molina is always looking for the next entrepreneurial opportunity and is seeking to help bright and energetic young people pursue their own entrepreneurial dreams. This entrepreneurial spirit comes naturally to him, as Molina's grandparents founded Molina's Restaurants in 1941, which is considered a Houston tradition.