



DAVID M. VILLARINO - GONZALEZ is President of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer of the Farmworker Institute of Education and Leadership Development (FIELD Institute), a 501(c) 3 charitable and educational non-profit organization, founded by Cesar E. Chavez in 1978.

As CEO, David directs a \$10 million annual budget that includes a high school charter school for 900 adults called “EPIC de Cesar Chavez”, a statewide English as a

Second Language (ESL) program located in 25 campuses around California and a youth environmental conservation corps, Cesar Chavez Environmental Corps, that employs approximately 100-150 youth for jobs. Together, the programs annually serve almost 10,000 farmworkers, immigrants, and others. Since 2002, FIELD has served an estimated 95,000 people in California’s agricultural regions of San Joaquin, Salinas, Sacramento, and Coachella Valleys.

David began his career working for the labor and civil rights leader Cesar Chavez in San Diego and Boston in 1972 and 1973. He returned to California to work on Chavez’s personal security detail from 1974 through 1977. In 1978 David organized farmworkers, negotiated contracts, and practiced administrative law as a regional manager for the UFW from 1979 to 1984. In 1984, David enrolled at California State University – Fresno graduating in 1987. He was hired by Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis to direct his presidential campaigns in Maine, Colorado, Arizona, and parts of California. From 1989 to 1997 David represented state and municipal employees for SEIU local 1000. In 1997 he returned to the UFW as National Membership Director and assumed the directorship of FIELD in 2000.

His most renowned accomplishment was organizing the agricultural sector around a mutually beneficial program call Strengthen Our Agribusiness Region (SOAR). SOAR stemmed from a worker, union, employer collaborative that led to higher productivity, quality, market share, and lower unit labor costs which allowed the company’s 1500 workers share in the gains through higher wages, benefits, and job security. SOAR is the model for FIELD’s newest program with higher education institutions and career technical education programs. It is intended to lead to worker owned businesses.

David is the son-in-law of Cesar Chavez and Helen Chavez and the grandson of Juan De Dios Gonzalez, a farmworker organizer in San Diego in 1930, who led the nation’s first successful desegregation lawsuit and school boycott efforts known as “The Lemon Grove Incident” (Alvarez v. School Board, San Diego Federal District Court, 1931).