

MAFO

A National Partnership
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NETWORKING

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Rafael Guerra,
Chief Executive Officer,
East Coast Migrant Head Start Project

On October 29, 2008, the **MAFO Board of Directors selected Mr. Rafael Guerra for the 2009 MAFO Lifetime Achievement Award.** Many of you might know Mr. Guerra as a builder of strong minds. Rafael Guerra has dedicated his entire forty-five (45) professional years to developing and providing quality service to migrant farmworkers children and families.

He began his career in 1964, as a junior high school teacher for migrant students in the Rio Grande City School District in South Texas. Six years later he became the Principal of that school. Rafael spent most of the summer months of his school tenure, either working in the fields of California or serving as Texas Education Agency Consultant to other states, regarding migrant children who travel along with their parents.

In 1972, Rafael left the school district to become the Interstate Director of a Special Project serving migrant children between Washington, Oregon and Idaho. He has worked with the Texas Migrant Council holding various positions within that agency. From 2000 to the present, Rafael has been the East Coast Migrant Head Start Project Chief Executive Officer. This is the largest migrant Head Start in the nation, serving more than 9,000 children in thirteen states along the east coast of the United States.

He is a firm believer of investing in staff development and organizational capacity to its highest potential because as he puts it “Our children and families deserve nothing but the best, and there is no finish line when you strive for excellence.”

Rafael holds a Bachelors and Masters Degree in Political Science and Education from Texas A & I University. He and his wife, Romie, have been married for 37 years and have a son, daughter and three grandchildren.

Please join us in congratulating Mr. Rafael Guerra on his achievement during the 20th MAFO National Farmworker Conference, MAFO Awards Banquet/GALA on March 31, 2009 in San Antonio, Texas.

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