



Jaime P. Martinez

Planting the Seeds of Social Justice

Wednesday, October 19, 2011

**4:30 - 6:00PM - Reception following lecture
Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus**

Jaime P. Martinez was born in 1946 in San Antonio, Texas and was reared by his Mexican migrant worker grandparents in the Westside barrio, a Spanish speaking community. His involvement in activism began in 1966 as a member of his local union in San Antonio, Texas IUE-AFL-CIO Local 789, Friedrich workers. He marched and fasted for justice for the farm workers alongside Cesar Chavez, President of the United Farm Workers of America. Mr. Martinez has defended the rights of workers and marches for civil rights throughout America and has worked with community leadership such as Rev. Abernathy, right hand man of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Rosa Parks. Jaime P. Martinez will speak about his experience working for social justice and human rights in the United States.

Between 1994 and 1996, Jaime Martinez began meeting with activists, labor, and Hispanic grass roots organizations laying the groundwork in the United States as one of the original organizers for the first Latino Civil Rights march of October 12, 1996. This march was attended by over 200,000 people in Washington, D.C. In 1999 Jaime Martinez submitted a report and testimony in Los Angeles, California, on immigrant rights on the Labor Force to delegates of the AFL-CIO, representing 13.5 million workers who adopted resolution #17 "Defending the Rights of Immigrant Workers." In 2000, Mr. Martinez was appointed delegate to the International Metal Workers Federation World Council meeting in Washington D.C.— only 100 delegates from 25 countries were selected for this historic convention. In 2001, he was appointed National Chairperson of the Immigration Committee for the Labor Council for Latin America Advancement, representing 1.5 million Latino workers in the United States. In 2006, Mr. Martinez was the lead organizer and chairperson of the 10th Annual Cesar E. Chavez March for Justice in San Antonio, Texas which gathered 20,000 participants.



Events are free and open to the public. For information on parking or for individuals requiring special accommodations, please contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs at (616)331-2177. You may also email us at oma@gvsu.edu or visit our website at: www.gvsu.edu/oma