

## **MARTINEZ INDUCTED INTO FARMWORKER ADVOCATE HALL OF FAME**

Lupe Martinez, President and Chief Officer, UMOs, was recently inducted into the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP) Farmworker Advocate Hall of Fame. The award was presented in Las Vegas.

Other hall of fame inductees included Arturo Lopez, Luis Esparza, Ernie Flores, Velma Smith and Franklin Montgomery. “I am honored to receive this recognition from my peers and humbled to be among such distinguished honorees,” says Lupe Martinez.

Martinez has devoted his entire 48-year professional career to improving the living and working conditions of migrant and seasonal farm workers while advocating for under-served populations at the local, state and national level.

Martinez serves as chairman of the National Farmworker Alliance, Chair of MAFO, a national partnership of farmworker and rural organizations, President of the Wisconsin Farmworkers Coalition and interim chair of the Governor’s Council on Migrant Labor in Wisconsin. He also serves on the board of EMPLOY Milwaukee Workforce Investment Board.

“Mr. Martinez is more than deserving of this lifetime recognition. He has dedicated his entire professional career to helping those in need, in particular, those who toil to yield America’s harvest,” states Jeffery Lewis, President, AFOP Board of Directors.

AFOP has been an advocate for migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the United States since 1971. AFOP’s mission is to improve the quality of life for migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families by providing advocacy for the member organizations that serve them.

“As a former migrant farmworker myself, striving to improve the working and living conditions of migrant and seasonal farmworkers has been a lifelong mission. Yet, we still have a lot more work to do,” concludes Martinez.

**UMOS is a non-profit, advocacy organization that provides programs and services which improve the employment, educational, health and housing opportunities of under-served populations.**