Jesus Salas

Jesus is a third-generation migrant worker who travelled with his family from Crystal City TX to the Great Lakes region for 10 years to cultivate and harvest a wide variety of crops.

In 1966, Jesus began striving to improve the working and living conditions of migrant workers through Obreros Unidos(United Workers), a farmworkers union.

In 1968, Jesus joined Cesar Chavez and moved to Milwaukee to organize support for the national grape boycott. In March 1969, Jesus becomes the first Latino CEO of United Migrant Opportunity Services(UMOS).

Jesus participated in demands for access to UW-Milwaukee that led to establishing the Spanish Speaking Outreach Institute, now known as the Roberto Hernandez Center. Later, he would assist in the development of Chicano(a)/Latino(a) Studies at UW-Madison.
After receiving his master’s degree in political science, Jose began a 20-year teaching career at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

In 2003 Governor Jim Doyle appointed Jesus to the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents where he served for nearly five years. Jesus resigned as a regent when the Governor did not include in-state tuition for undocumented youth in the state’s budget.

Presently, Jesus is retired and volunteers for Voces de La Frontera. He has served as a board member in Voces’ C-4 board, co-chaired UWM's Roberto Hernandez Center’s 40th year celebration and has assisted in university fundraising for Latino students.

Please join UMOS in congratulating Jesus Salas as the 2020 UMOS Hispanic Man of the Year.