

VT Migrant Farmworker Solidarity Project Core Member Bios

Gustavo Teran is a former migrant farm worker from south Texas and was active in the Chicano Movement of the 1970s. He has held various leadership positions in the non-profit sector, including Executive director of the Abenaki Self-help Association and director of the *Latino Policy Initiatives Program* with the North Carolina Center for International Understanding. Teran has also worked in higher education as administrator, faculty and researcher. He has taught courses on the effects of globalization on rural indigenous communities in Mexico and was faculty and director of the *Indigenous Perspectives on Governance and Stewardship Project* of the International Honors Program. More recently, Teran has worked as an independent researcher and activist with the migrant farm worker population in Vermont and is co-founder of the VT Migrant Farmworker Solidarity Project.

Brendan O'Neill was a Campaign Coordinator for Action for Community and Ecology in the Regions of Central America (ACERCA), from 2001-2004, where he organized dynamic international campaigns and coalitions to raise awareness about and challenge free trade agreements and industrial development projects' social, economic and ecological impacts on indigenous communities throughout Mexico and Central America. As ACERCA's Program Coordinator he was an invited to speak at national and international global justice conferences conducting community organizing, popular education, media and non-violent direct action trainings. He also taught in the Latin American Studies program at Plattsburgh State and Inter-American Studies program at Burlington College (2004-2007) as an adjunct focusing on the social and environmental impacts of economic development. Brendan is also a current member of the VT Workers' Center Popular Education Committee and has collaborated with various local, state-wide, national and international organizations to strengthen workers' rights and immigrant rights struggles. Since 2007 Brendan has immersed himself in Vermont's migrant farmworker communities working closely with migrant farmworkers in VT helping to improve the services of the VT Workers' Centers workers rights hotline; designing a popular education curriculum for migrant farmworkers as an English as a Second Language Teacher; and more recently co-founding the VT Migrant Farmworker Solidarity Project.

Alison Cannon is a masters level nurse with eleven years of community based primary care and public health experience. She began her work in health care before becoming a nurse working as an EMT, as a health educator and clinic manager at The Door Adolescent Health Center in NYC where she helped to develop the county's first HIV/AIDS testing program for adolescents, and as Coordinator of the Columbia Barnard Rape Crisis Center. In addition Alison worked with the Brooklyn based Safe Homes Project, a domestic violence program, and was active in WHAM, Women's Health Action Mobilization, an activist group fighting for health care rights for women. Before heading off to nursing school in Baltimore, MD, Alison spent a month in Mexico working on her Spanish and then lived in Puerto Rico for three months where she volunteered for a local AIDS education group doing AIDS prevention education for teens. While in nursing school at Johns Hopkins University Alison was active in organizing student initiatives toward universal health care and with a student/neighborhood coalition working to hold the university accountable to the community. As a nursing student and then in the summer and fall following graduation Alison worked with migrant farm workers on the Eastern Shore of Maryland providing health care to workers both onsite at the workplace and at the clinic. Alison then worked for the Baltimore City Department of Health providing primary care and women's health services to the city's poorest residents including migrant laborers. Since relocating to Vermont Alison has worked in prison health, women's health, migrant health, and school health.

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Monica Collins has worked in experiential and popular education in El Salvador, Ecuador, and with BorderLinks on the US/Mexico Border where her work focused on issues of migration and globalization. She is a current board member of BorderLinks and maintains her ties to the Tucson, AZ area. As a native Spanish-speaker and daughter of Peruvian immigrants, working on the issues related to migrant farmworkers, immigration and social and economic justice is work that is very close to her heart. She has worked in many different areas including education, publishing, small business and farming. A graduate of Vermont Law School's Master of Environmental Laws program, Monica works as a paralegal at Langrock Sperry & Wool in Middlebury, Vermont where she specializes in complex case litigation.

Natalia Fajardo is a social and environmental justice activist. Originally from Columbia, Natalia is active as a volunteer for the Fellowship of Reconciliation in Colombia, exploring militarization of government civilian agencies. She holds an Environmental Science degree from UVM, where, as a student she worked with the Environmental Council to pass a policy leading the use of 100% recycled office paper at the school. After graduation Natalia worked for Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG) for almost 3 years as grassroots organizer on local economic and environmental issues. She became involved in migrant farm worker issues when a good friend was arrested in Addison County and kept in prison for 3 months, then deported for being undocumented.