

SIF congratulates 2010 iLEAP Fellows



iLEAP's 2010 International Fellows (from left to right): Era España, Agueda Ordeñana, Mabilia Joj, Madeline Mendoza, Rocio Gonzalez, Raphael Okumu.

families from various organizations and communities in Seattle that have worked with and have been impacted by the Fellows' during their stay in Seattle. The ceremony highlighted not only the Fellows' achievements, but also the relationships they have formed and their individual traits that characterize each one as a strong leader and catalyst for social change.

A poignant part of the ceremony included the sharing of written descriptions of each Fellow's leadership styles. The following are powerful portrayals of this year's [Central American Fellows](#) expressed by their peers:

[Agueda Ordeñana](#): Inspiring, feminine power, passion, engaging people, strong, nurturing.

[Mabilia Joj](#): Generous, wise, open to learn and to serve, uplifting and guiding the indigenous people.

[Rocio Gonzalez](#): Strong, independent, adventurous, always present for others, leads with wisdom and intuition.

[Madeline Mendoza](#): Insightful, perceptive, open to new possibilities, passion to guide others, social justice, grace.

SIF Executive Director Mauricio Vivero shared remarks about a previous trip to Guatemala, where he met current 2010 International Faculty member Mabilia Joj. He returned to Seattle inspired to share with others about his experience meeting with a strong, educated female leader, striving for social change. Mauricio shared, "That trip reminded me again of how much they [community leaders] know and can teach us. " He stressed how impressed he was by Mabilia's dedication over the years, and how much wisdom from Central American leaders, particularly women, can influence global development through their experience working on the ground. SIF supports the key values of the iLEAP International Fellowship program such as the creation of truly collaborative partnerships, engagement of local leaders, and emphasis on grassroots social change.

On Thursday, November 18, 2010 the [iLEAP International Fellows](#) graduated to become iLEAP's 2010 International Faculty. The six leaders have demonstrated their ability to learn and commit to community service through the completion of a ten-week fellowship program, taking classes at Antioch University and participating in internships at various nonprofits in Seattle. They are eager to share their advanced skills and knowledge with their communities as they return home to their respective countries and focus on change at the grassroots level.

The graduation ceremony brought together faculty, staff, board members, donors, friends and

The Central America Women's Leadership fellowship is a collaborative effort between iLEAP: The Center for Critical Service and the Seattle International Foundation. This year's inaugural class set the tone as a unique intensive training program, designed to strengthen and expand the leadership capacities of experienced female leaders from Central America. iLEAP works to foster and deepen relationships between program participants and the global development sector in Washington State. The program is organized around the central themes of: Social Innovation and Enterprise, Collaboration and Partnership, Leadership, Digital Literacy, and Sustainability. For more information regarding the 2011 application process for the Central America Women's Leadership Fellowship, [click here](#) or contact SIF's Program Officer, Michele Frix, directly at mfrix@seaf.org.

To view more photos of this event, please visit our [flickr](#).

To see the Fellows' work in digital literacy and to read more about their experiences, visit [iLEAP's blog](#).