



AUGUST UPDATE

Investing in Our Indigenous Leaders



This August, the 8 most senior staff at Amigos participated in a week-long **Amigos Leadership Development Program** to develop their management and leadership skills. The English-language workshop was facilitated by professional executive leadership coaches and long-time Amigos supporters, Laura and Steve Hansen, who generously donated their time and expertise. Staff developed skills like team management, delegation and providing feedback, and will continue an ongoing individual mentor relationship with either Laura or Steve. These young indigenous leaders are taking their professional development to the next level at Amigos, and as leaders in their community!

We are honored to share two of their professional development stories below.

Alberto Rafael - CECAP Industrial Arts Director

"I am proud of my work for Amigos because my own accomplishments are a result of Amigos' vision."

When Alberto graduated from the 6th grade in 2004, he was the first in his family to have finished primary school. It was a big achievement! But Alberto's sights were set higher. He continued his studies all the way through university, eventually earning his Associate's degree in business administration. Yet Alberto also



always had a strong interest in technical studies and when CECAP opened he quickly enrolled in the welding program. He liked the fit and joined the Amigos staff in 2012 as a

CECAP Administrative Assistant, eventually working his way up to the position of Co-Director of CECAP in 2016! Alberto now oversees all CECAP Industrial Arts Courses, combining his academic background in administration with his technical interest and studies.

Alberto is constantly looking for ways to develop personally and professionally so he jumped at the chance to participate in the Amigos Leadership Development Program. Alberto is a key member of the Amigos leadership team and is excited to further develop his skills to have a greater impact in his community.

Dominga Hernandez - Production Manager



“Being part of the Leadership Development Program helped me see all the opportunities to develop my skills and further my career. There’s a whole world of exciting ways that we can develop ourselves.”

Dominga has worked for Amigos since 2011 apart from two years she spent studying in Portland, Oregon. While Dominga liked her time in the U.S., she always wanted to work to improve her own community of Santa Cruz and returned in 2013 to continue working with Amigos' Nutrition Program. Now as the Manos Cruceñas Production Manager, Dominga coordinates embroidery, sewing, weaving, crochet and beading orders with over 100 Santa Cruz artisans.

Through the Amigos Leadership Development Program, Dominga has been working on her management and coordination skills that will allow her to take on more responsibilities and grow as a leader in her community. In 2016, Dominga became the first woman elected to the Municipal Economic Development Committee, an important development for herself and her community. Dominga also recently married and is expecting her first child! While most women in Santa Cruz retire from work after marriage and pregnancy, Dominga is excited to be a working mother and continue her professional career.



AMIGOS' 20th ANNIVERSARY

Each month we are sharing the stories and photos of just how much has changed in Santa Cruz over these 20 years, in the community and among the individuals with whom we work.



Eric (left) and Jose (right) were good friends back in 2004, when both were in the 2nd grade and had little idea that their education would go much further. Eric went on to become the first in his family to graduate from high school, his older siblings and parents having completed just primary school. Jose, the eldest in his family, was also the first to graduate high school when he finished an accounting major in 2016. These are huge

achievements, in their families and in their community!

Eric and Jose each then joined Amigos' Youth Corps to gain practical work experience and develop their skills as young leaders through the Youth Corps leadership projects. Eric is currently a Youth Corps Intern at Starfish, an education-focused nonprofit in Panajachel, and Jose completed his Youth Corps placement in 2017 in Amigos' accounting office. Eric and Jose are part of a new wave of educated youth in Santa Cruz that are challenging expectations and working toward a brighter future for their community.

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Photo: [Daniel López Pérez Photography](#)

Update Our Contact Information!

Please note that Amigos has a new U.S. mailing address and phone number.

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