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Author, Farm Worker Advocate to Receive Awards from Chapman

Two prominent Latino leaders will share the 2005 Change the World Award
The May 20 award reception and book signing are open to the public

ORANGE, Calif., May 13, 2005 -- Noted children's book author Gary Soto and Jos Padilla, executive director of California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA) will be honored on Friday, May 20 by the Chapman University School of Education with the 2005 Change the World Award, which recognizes people who have had a major impact on the community.

Open to the public, the award reception, to be held at 4:30 p.m. in Chapmans Leatherby Libraries, also will feature a book signing of Sotos new book of poetry, *Worlds Apart*, which was released in March. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Soto is the popular author of numerous books for children, including *Chatos Kitchen*, *Chato and the Party Animals*, *Too Many Tamales*, *Fearless Fernie* and *Nerdlandia*. He serves as Young Peoples Ambassador for CRLA and the United Farm Workers of America, and lives in Berkeley.

Padilla, who will also receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Chapman at the universitys Commencement ceremonies on May 21, has devoted the past 25 years of his life to leading CRLA, an organization that advocates for the rights of Californias farm workers and rural poor. CRLA provides legal assistance for those in need, handling cases ranging from housing, immigration and labor disputes to pesticide exposure, civil rights and equal education.

Our Changing the World Award goes to an unsung hero, someone who contributes widely to make positive change in our world without asking for anything in return, said Dr. Anaida Colon-Muniz, School of Education faculty member and chair of the award committee. Jos Padilla has served in a legal advocacy role for years as an attorney, helping to alleviate the plight of migrant workers, language minority students and immigrants. Gary Soto has written a multitude of children's books, helping to bridge the Latino and Anglo cultures in America by presenting books in English through the lens of a Latino author. This helps to broaden our understanding of the Latino child and the Latino culture and fosters and enhances multicultural understanding. These two wonderful human beings certainly have changed the world in positive and meaningful ways through their words and actions.