

The Berkana Exchange

invites you on a Learning Journey to



Sept. 30 - Oct. 10, 2007





The Berkana Exchange invites you to participate in a Learning Journey to Mexico, where you will meet and learn from pioneering leaders who are creating extraordinary change in their communities.

Berkana Exchange Learning Journeys connect us deeply with the people, culture and rhythms of communities around the world that share our commitment to making a difference. As our hosts on the journey, local leaders provide unique insight and access to the balance of tradition and innovation they are calling upon to solve their most pressing problems.

We are not tourists on the journey. Nor are we teachers. We arrive as fellow learners with an appetite for discovery, engagement and authentic conversation. We return home renewed and recommitted, able to see new possibilities for right action in our organizations, families and communities.

On this journey, we will travel to two of Mexico's most unique regions, Oaxaca and Chiapas. Known for the vibrancy of their indigenous cultures, these southern states will inform our exploration of the tensions between ancient wisdom and the modern world. Our experience will be shaped by CEDI/Unitierra, a leadership learning center focused on reclaiming the freedom to learn and reconnect to traditional culture. With guidance from Unitierra Co-founder Sergio Beltrán and The Berkana Institute Co-President Deborah Frieze, we will explore local forms of leadership that are working well, and that offer us new possibilities for making a difference in our own lives.



Our journey will begin with a visit to Monte Albán, the once thriving capital of the Zapotec people.

Our Itinerary: Sept. 30 - Oct. 10, 2007

September 30 - October 3: Oaxaca City

Our journey begins in Oaxaca City, the capital of a region that is host to both Indian and Spanish cultures. We will begin with a visit to Monte Albán, the once-flourishing capital of the Zapotec people. We will then meet the CEDI/Unitierra team, who will introduce us to their work in supporting the emergence of learning systems that honor the richness of Oaxaca's indigenous culture. We will visit community leaders experimenting with permaculture, alternative energy techniques, traditional arts and more. This sets the stage for our inquiry into the relationship between traditional systems and the modern world.

October 4 - 6: Juchitán

The next stage will begin to expose us to the resiliency and adaptability of indigenous people. We will journey to the Istmo region, where we will visit government development projects that have been resisted by local communities. We will continue on to Juchitán, the political and economic center of the region, which has been governed peacefully since 1989 by a Zapotec Indian political movement. Part of our time will be spent at the Juchitán Ecological Forum, the site of the former city dump which has been transformed into an environmental education center. We will visit with Unitierra Istmo and engage in an intergenerational dialogue with indigenous communities.

October 7 - 10: Chiapas

Chiapas is home to the Zapatista movement, a revolutionary group that emerged in 1994 intending to overthrow the Mexican government. Today, the Zapatistas preside over 32 autonomous municipalities, demanding the freedom to live authentically as taught by ancient Mayan traditions. We will meet with members of the Zapatista movement to learn about perspectives on autonomy and relate these to our own views of democracy. We will visit the Unitierra Chiapas campus, where indigenous learners are engaged in self-directed programs. We may also have an opportunity to spend a day and night in the homes of local families from a Zapatista community. Our closing days are also an opportunity for us to reflect on all that we learned and prepare ourselves for returning to our communities at home.



Meet the founder, work the land and hear the story of Tierra del Sol, a sustainable agriculture center just outside Oaxaca City.

How do I sign up?

We can accommodate 20 guests on this Learning Journey. To learn more or to sign up, please contact Lauren Parks at lauren@berkana.org or call (617) 422-6231. Participant deposits are due by June 29, 2007.

How do I purchase airline tickets?

Participants are responsible for their own air travel arrangements. We will be arriving and departing from two different airports in Mexico and tickets will need to be purchased accordingly. Participants will arrive in Xoxocoatlan Airport in Oaxaca (OAX) and depart from Tuxtla Gutierrez Airport in Chiapas (TGZ).

How much does it cost?

The price of this journey is \$2,400. That includes lodging, most meals, ground transportation and activity fees. It does not include your international flight or trip insurance. This price covers the Exchange's costs for bringing you on this learning journey. CEDI/Unitierra is part of our global network of learning centers. It is our hope that once you have seen the profound changes these leaders are creating, you will be moved to support the Berkana Exchange. We will be asking you toward the end of the journey to consider making a contribution.

For more information, visit us at learningjourneys.newworkspaces.net or www.berkana.org



Sergio Beltrán Sergio is co-founder of Universidad de la Tierra (Unitierra) in Oaxaca, Mexico. Years ago, he left his life as an up-and-coming, young Mexican intellectual to live and work with the Zapatista supporters network. He developed a deep respect for the capacity people have to make a good life for themselves when they are free to take responsibility for their own communities. Sergio is a fierce spiritual warrior who stands for the rights and capacities of people everywhere.



Deborah Frieze Debbie is Co-President of The Berkana Institute and co-directs the Berkana Exchange. An entrepreneur, business strategist and social activist, Debbie joined Berkana in 2002 to help bring Berkana's vision into the world and grow the Institute. She also works with The Mastery Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to peace and reconciliation in such divided communities as Northern Ireland and Israel.

About the Berkana Exchange

The Berkana Exchange is an initiative of The Berkana Institute, co-founded by Margaret Wheatley, author of *Leadership and the New Science* and most recently, *Finding Our Way*. We connect and support pioneering, life-affirming leaders around the world who strengthen their communities by working with the wisdom and wealth already present in its people, traditions and environment. We define a leader as anyone who wants to help, who is willing to step forward to create change in their world. And we know that the leaders we need are already here.