BRIDGING HORIZONS

*Stronger Together for a More Inclusive Tomorrow*

# BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026

# Conference Program

# BELONGING

October 1–2, 2026 | Fresno Convention Center

*People • Possibilities • Stronger Together*

*Same Journey Brighter Horizons*




*Inclusion • Opportunity • Community*

BRIDGING HORIZONS
PEOPLE • POSSIBILITIES
STRONGER TOGETHER

# BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026
## Conference Program

*Stronger Together for a More Inclusive Tomorrow*

# HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM

**This program is here to help you plan your day.**

### Look at the schedule
Find out what is happening and when.

### Find your room
Use the breakout pages to match your room number.

### Choose your sessions
Pick the talks and activities that matter to you.

### Ask for help
Volunteers and staff are happy to help.

### Take breaks
It is okay to rest, eat, or have quiet time.

### Have fun and connect
Meet people, visit booths, and enjoy the conference.

*Go at your own pace.*
**You belong here.** ♡




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ROOTED IN POSSIBILITY

*Inclusion • Opportunity • Community*

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TOMORROW

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# WELCOME

## A Message from the Executive Organizing Committee

*Stronger Together for a More Inclusive Tomorrow*

### This program will help you:

- **Find sessions**
- **Know where to go**
- **Learn about events**
- **Get help if you need it**

*Same Journey Brighter Horizons*

### Welcome to Bridging Horizons 2026!

We are so happy you are here! On behalf of the Executive Organizing Committee, we warmly welcome individuals, families, self-advocates, presenters, providers, sponsors, and volunteers. Each of you helps make this conference possible, and each of **you belongs here.**

This year's theme is **Belonging.** Belonging means being accepted for who you are, having a voice, and being part of a community. Together, we are building a more inclusive California where everyone has opportunities to learn, grow, and reach their goals.

We hope this conference gives you new ideas, helpful tools, and meaningful connections. You will find inspiring speakers, practical workshops, and chances to meet others who share your journey. Whether you are here to learn, to teach, to connect, or to find support, you are an important part of this community.

Please take your time, go at your own pace, and do what feels right for you. If you need help, look for our friendly staff and volunteers — we are here for you. Don't be afraid to ask questions or let us know what you need. **Your comfort, safety, and full participation matter.**

Thank you for being here and for helping to make Bridging Horizons 2026 a welcoming, supportive, and empowering experience for all. **We are stronger together, and a brighter tomorrow is possible.**

Enjoy the conference!

**The Bridging Horizons Executive Organizing Committee**




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# WELCOME

## A Message from Central Valley Regional Center

*Stronger Together for a More Inclusive Tomorrow*

## Welcome to Bridging Horizons 2026!

On behalf of Central Valley Regional Center, I am pleased to welcome you to a gathering that celebrates the strengths, experiences, and contributions of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the community that stands alongside them.

This year's theme, **Belonging**, speaks to something we all deserve: to be welcomed, valued, and heard. Belonging means having opportunities to build relationships, make choices, pursue our goals, and help shape the communities we call home.

Bridging Horizons brings together individuals, families, advocates, service providers, professionals, and community partners to learn from one another and imagine what more is possible. Whether you are joining us for the first time or returning, your voice and perspective are an important part of this experience.

I encourage you to ask questions, share your story, meet someone new, and explore the resources and opportunities available throughout the conference. The connections we make here can open doors long after these two days have ended.

Thank you to our planning partners, presenters, sponsors, volunteers, and everyone whose dedication makes Bridging Horizons possible. Most of all, thank you for being here and helping build a community where everyone belongs.

*Matthew Bahr*

**Matthew Bahr**
Central Valley Regional Center

### MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME HERE



**Ask questions**



**Share your story**



**Meet someone new**

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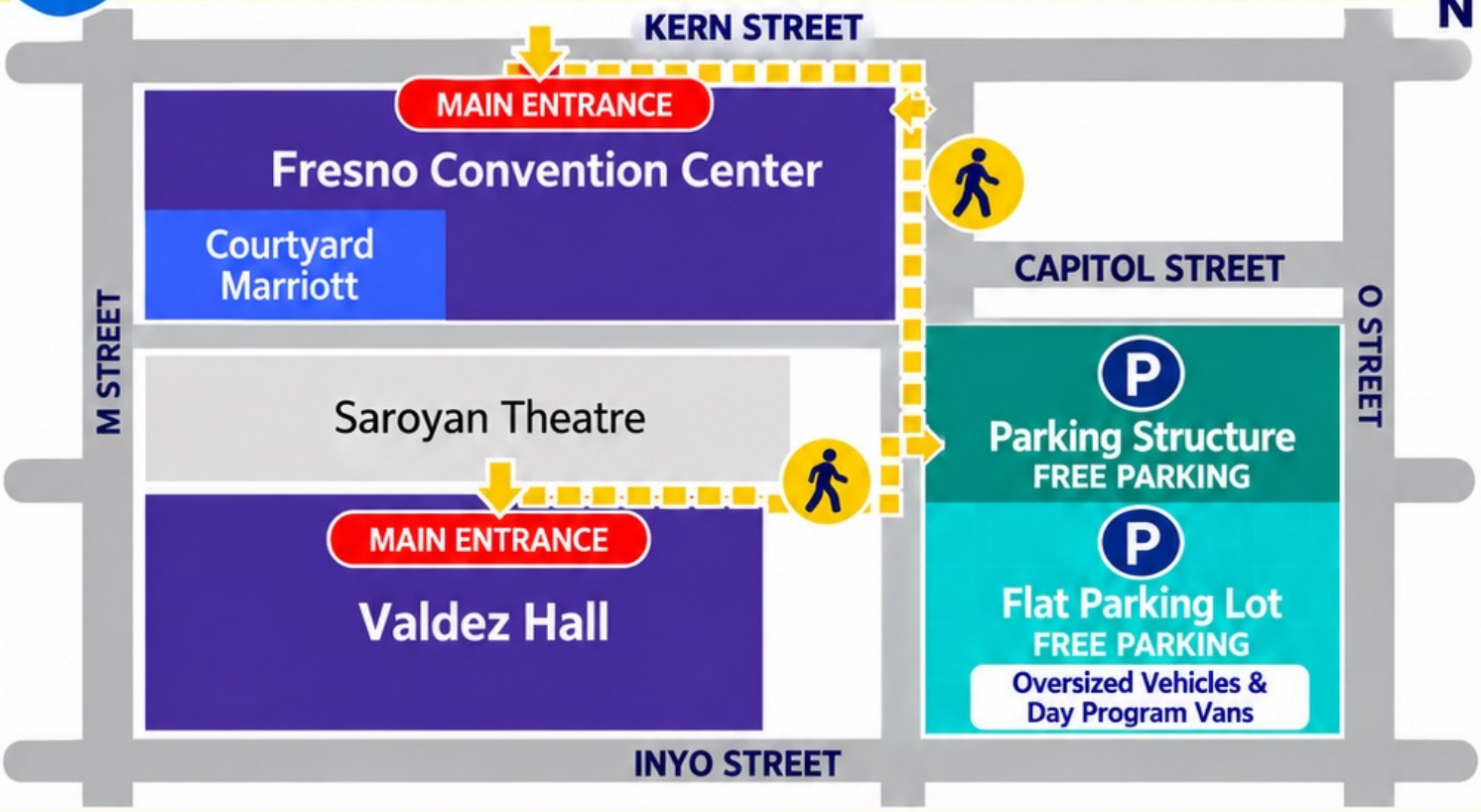
# BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026 VENUE & PARKING MAP

A simple map to help you find your way.

*Stronger Together for a More Inclusive Tomorrow*

## 1 Getting Here

Find the venue, parking, and follow the walking path.



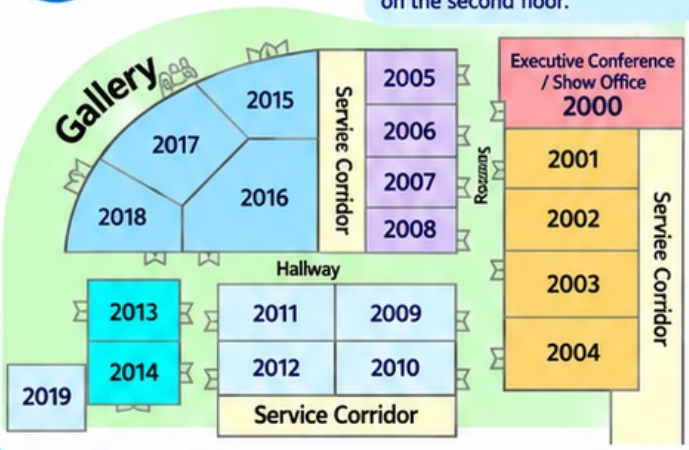

## 2 Main Level

Find the lobby, halls, and key areas on the main floor.




## 3 2nd Floor Meeting Rooms

Find your breakout session room on the second floor.




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# Conference at a Glance

BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026

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**Use this page to orient yourself, then turn to the full schedules for details.**

## DAY 1 • THURSDAY, OCT. 1

Connection • Learning • Community

| | |
|---|---|
| **9:00** | Welcome: Matthew Bahr<br>Hall 3 |
| **9:15** | Keynote Address: Dani Bowman<br>Hall 3 |
| **10:00** | The State of Belonging: A California Disability Town Hall |
| **10:00** | Breakout Session #1 |
| **11:15** | Breakout Session #2 |
| **12:30** | Lunch |
| **12:30** | Dani Bowman Meet and Greet |
| **1:30** | Hope that Echoes Screening |
| **2:30** | Breakout Session #3 |
| **3:45** | Breakout Session #4 |
| **3:45** | Extended sessions |
| **5:00** | Breakout Session #5 |
| **5:30** | Bridge Builder Awards and Mixer |

## DAY 2 • FRIDAY, OCT. 2

Inspiration • Action • Celebration

| | |
|---|---|
| **9:00** | Welcome: Matthew Bahr<br>Convention Center Hall 3 |
| **9:00** | Welcome: Bridging Horizons Executive Committee<br>Valdez Hall |
| **9:05** | National Anthem performed by Nico Vargas<br>Valdez Hall |
| **9:15** | I Belong, We Belong Screening and Panel<br>Convention Center Hall 3 |
| **9:15** | Voices of Empowerment<br>Valdez Hall |
| **10:00** | Breakout Session #1 |
| **11:00** | Your Voice, Your Vote! |
| **11:15** | Breakout Session #2 |
| **12:00** | Lunch |
| **12:00** | Illuminate: Everyone Shines DANCE! |
| **1:30** | Breakout Session #3 |
| **2:45** | Breakout Session #4 |
| **4:00** | Closing Remarks |
| **6:00** | A Night of Stars Gala |

### Build Your Experience

Choose the sessions, events, and activities that interest you most. There is something for everyone!

### Where to Look First

- This page for a quick view
- Full session schedules (pages 5–7) for details
- Maps (page 8) to find your way
- Hotel and travel info (page 9)

### Need Help?

Look for staff and volunteers with blue shirts or visit the Information Desk.

**We are here to help!**




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# 2026 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

*Stronger Together for a More Inclusive Tomorrow*

**Meet the featured voices helping shape this year's conference experience.**



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## Dani Bowman

Award-winning animator, entrepreneur, autism advocate, and star of Netflix's *Love on the Spectrum U.S.* Dani shares an inspiring message about self-advocacy, employment, inclusion, and believing in what is possible.

**BELIEVE IN WHAT IS POSSIBLE**



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## Abbey Romeo

Entrepreneur, singer, advocate, and beloved star of Netflix's *Love on the Spectrum U.S.* Abbey brings warmth, honesty, and authenticity while celebrating individuality, meaningful relationships, independence, and using your voice.

**YOUR VOICE MATTERS**



FEATURED SPEAKER

## Assemblymember David Tangipa

Assemblymember David Tangipa represents California's 8th Assembly District. He brings a Central Valley perspective and shares his journey into public service and community leadership.

**PEOPLE STRONGER TOGETHER**




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# BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026

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## DAY 1 SCHEDULE

LEARN • CONNECT • CREATE CHANGE

| Time | Room | Topic |
|---|---|---|
| 9:00 AM | Hall 3 | Welcome |
| 9:15 AM | Hall 3 | Dani Bowman |
| 10:00 AM | Hall 3 | The State of Belonging: A California Disability Town Hall |
| 10:00 AM | 2nd Floor | Breakout Session #1 |
| 11:15 AM | 2nd Floor | Breakout Session #2 |
| 12:30 PM | — | LUNCH |
| 12:30 PM | Lobby | Dani Bowman Meet and Greet |
| 1:30 PM | Hall 3 | Hope that Echoes Screening |
| 2:30 PM | 2nd Floor | Breakout Session #3 |
| 3:45 PM | 2nd Floor | Breakout Session #4 |
| 5:00 PM | 2nd Floor | Breakout Session #5 |
| 5:30 PM | Hall 3 | Bridge Builder Awards and Mixer |




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BRIDGING HORIZONS

DIFFERENT PATHS
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

# BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026

# DAY 1 BREAKOUTS

Convention Center 2nd Floor • Rooms 2001–2016

*Learn • Connect • Create Change*

PEOPLE
POSSIBILITIES
STRONGER
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## 10:00–11:00 AM

**2001** **Building Belonging: Affordable & Multifamily Housing in San Diego and Imperial Counties**
Saralynn Keenan, SDRC

**2002** **Understanding HCBS Modifications**
CVRC Federal Compliance Department

**2003** **Taking Person-Centered Thinking & Planning to the Next Level: An Introduction to Person-Centred Active Support**
Julie Beadle-Brown, CCLN

**2005** **Navigating Puberty, Dating, & Sexuality on the Spectrum**
Kimberly Lavelanet, BEHAVRIUM Health Services

**2008** **Planning for Tomorrow: Succession Strategies for Sustainable Provider Leadership**
Aaron Olson, CVRC and James Clark, Jay Homes Inc.

**2011** **Fiscal Audit 101: How to Prepare and What to Expect**
Jimmy Gomez, CVRC

**2012** **Quality Incentive Program – Measuring Quality**
Joshua Sudarma, DDS

**2016** **Building Inclusive Communities Through a Strong DSP Workforce: Department Strategies Making a Difference**
Krystall Rollins, MSW; Julian Elliott & Erica Graff, Department of Developmental Services

## 11:15 AM–12:15 PM

**2001** **Do's and Don'ts of HCBS**
CVRC Federal Compliance Department

**2002** **Improving Organizational Safety Outcomes by Cultivating Positive Workplace Culture**
Bryndahl Childers, LCSW, CVRC

**2003** **A Place to Belong: Community-Based Care for Medically Fragile Adults with Developmental Disabilities**
Dana Lennemann, Celeste Fisher, RN, and Patricia Garza, LVN III, Our House Residential Care, STAR Center Adult Day Program

**2004** **Understanding EVV: Simple Steps to Stay on Track**
Jennifer Parsons, DDS and Omar Flores, CVRC

**2005** **Advancing the DSP Workforce in California**
Teresa Anderson, CPCIDD and Mark Melanson, CCLN

**2008** **Generations Making a Difference: Foster Grandparents in Action**
Jean Martens, CVRC

**2011** **From Isolation to Belonging: Pathways to Recovery, Reentry & Community**
Craig Grant and Jessica Lujan, WestCare STOP Area 3

**2012** **By the Numbers: Proactive Strategies from the Field**
CVRC Federal Compliance Department

**2014** **Understanding HCBS Modifications**
CVRC Federal Compliance Department

**2016** **California's Changing Service Landscape: Rate Reform, Technology & Outcomes**
Aaron Christian, DDS; Aaron Olson, CVRC; Josh Sudarma, DDS; and Tony Anderson, ARCA

## 2:30–3:30 PM

**2001** **Building Recovery Pathways: Understanding SUD & Prevention in the IDD Community**
Hilario Vazquez, Sober State

**2002** **A Place for Everyone: Real Skills and Real Lives**
Dr. Amy Kaufman, Jessica Pence, and Maria Perez-Orenelas, MARS Group

**2003** **Beyond Compliance: Building a QA System That Works**
CVRC Quality Assurance Department

**2004** **Improving Service Delivery for Deaf Plus Individuals**
Jade Riggins, VPCI

**2005** **Building Inclusion Through Cultural Diversity: Creating Spaces Where Everyone Belongs**
Natasha Ambriz, CVRC

**2008** **Sexual Harassment Training (Managers)**
Fred Mora, HR Consortium

**2009** **Understanding HCBS Modifications**
CVRC Federal Compliance Department

**2016** **Mandated to Protect: Upholding Zero Tolerance Through Effective Reporting**
Jordan Renteria, CVRC

## 3:45–4:45 PM

**2001** **Reporting Matters: Strengthening Timely and Accurate SIR and Incident Reporting**
Glenda Zuniga and Bryan Lott, CVRC

**2002** **Ready When It Matters: Emergency Preparedness for Providers**
Ben Klassen, CVRC

**2003** **Transporting with Care: Driver Safety for Service Providers**
Stacy Francis, CVRC

**2004** **Partnering for Employment: The Role of the Employment Specialist in Supporting Individual Success**
Gabriel Ruiz, CVRC

**2005** **Do's and Don'ts of HCBS**
CVRC Federal Compliance Department

**2008** **Sexual Harassment Training (DSP)**
Fred Mora, HR Consortium

**2010** **Understanding HCBS Modifications**
CVRC Federal Compliance Department

### Extended · 3:45–5:45 PM

**2011** **Before It Gets Worse: Recognizing and Responding to Changes in a Consumer's Condition**
Jahziel Sulit, Day Spring Health Interactive

**2012** **Partnering with First Responders for Safer Outcomes**
Nicholas Lutton, SCDD

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BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026

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# DAY 1 FEATURED MOMENTS

Stronger Together for a More Inclusive Tomorrow

**Big moments you may not want to miss.**

**9:00 AM**

## Welcome

Start the day together in Hall 3.

**9:15 AM**

## Dani Bowman

Hear from our morning keynote speaker.

**10:00 AM**

## The State of Belonging: A California Disability Town Hall

A conversation about disability and community in California.

**12:30 PM**

## Dani Bowman Meet and Greet

Say hello and connect in the Lobby.

**1:30 PM**

## Hope that Echoes Screening

Enjoy a special screening in Hall 3.

**5:30 PM**

## Bridge Builder Awards and Mixer

Celebrate leaders and connect with others.

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# BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026

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LEARN • CONNECT • CREATE CHANGE

# DAY 2 SCHEDULE

| Time | Room | Program |
|---|---|---|
| **9:00 AM** | Convention Center Hall 3 | Welcome: Matthew Bahr |
| **9:00 AM** | Valdez Hall | Welcome: Bridging Horizons Executive Committee |
| **9:05 AM** | Valdez Hall | National Anthem performed by Nico Vargas |
| **9:15 AM** | Convention Center Hall 3 | I Belong, We Belong Screening and Panel |
| **9:15 AM** | Valdez Hall | Voices of Empowerment |
| **10:00 AM** | 2nd floor | Breakout Session #1 |
| **11:00 AM** | Convention Center Hall 3 | Your Voice, Your Vote! |
| **11:15 AM** | 2nd floor | Breakout Session #2 |
| **12:00 PM** | — | Lunch |
| **12:00–2:00 PM** | Valdez Hall | Illuminate: Everyone Shines DANCE! |
| **1:30–2:30 PM** | 2nd floor | Breakout Session #3 |
| **2:45–3:45 PM** | 2nd floor | Breakout Session #4 |
| **4:00 PM** | Convention Center Hall 3 | Closing Remarks |
| **6:00–10:00 PM** | Valdez Hall | A Night of Stars Gala |




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BRIDGING HORIZONS
DIFFERENT PATHS
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

# BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026

# DAY 2 BREAKOUTS

**Convention Center 2nd Floor • Rooms 2001–2016**

*Learn • Connect • Create Change*

PEOPLE
POSSIBILITIES
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2026

## 10:00–11:00 AM

**2001** **Finding Your Voice: Student and Parent Participation in the IEP and ITP**
Alison Braness and Josie Garcia, Exceptional Parents Unlimited

**2002** **Staying Calm: Tools to Help You Feel In Control**
Yenifer Gallegos-Mejia, YAI California START

**2003** **Living Your Best Life! Your Goals, Your Independence, Your Way!**
Michelle Guzman and Michelle Aldaz, KALOS Specialized Services

**2004** **Understanding the Regional Center System**
Josh Yang, CVRC and True Moua, The Fresno Center

**2005** **I Belong, We Belong – Train the Trainer Certification Training**
Kourinthia Burton, Kings View

**2008** **Taking Care of My Body: Sexual Health and Hygiene**
Veronica Magallanes, SCDD

**2011** **Navigating Self-Determination: Understanding the SDP Journey**
Marlene Morales, DDS and Maria Klassen, CVRC

**2012** **From Idea to Airwaves: How to Create Your Own Podcast**
Community Vocational Services and CCAT

**2016** **HCBS Desde Nuestra Perspectiva**
ARC Fresno/Madera Peer-to-Peer HCBS Trainers

## 11:15 AM–12:15 PM

**2002** **Mantener la Calma: Herramientas para Ayudarte a Sentir que Tienes el Control**
Yenifer Gallegos-Mejia, YAI California START

**2003** **¡Vive Mejor Vida! Tus Metas, Tu Independencia, a Tu Manera!**
Susan Lopez, KALOS Specialized Services

**2004** **Build Your Best Resume: Skills, Tips & Tools for Success**
Gabriel Ruiz Knabb, CVRC

**2005** **Sexy and Disabled: A Discussion About Disability and Relationships**
Scott Johnston, Nathan Todd, and Dr. Michelle Fynan

**2008** **From Idea to Airwaves: How to Create Your Own Podcast**
Community Vocational Services and CCAT

**2009** **I Belong, We Belong Training**
Kourinthia Burton, Kings View

**2010** **Life Transitions (ATP to Beyond)**
Meagan Barrientos and Laura Sanchez, Central Unified School District

**2011** **Navegando la Autodeterminación: Comprendiendo el Camino del Programa de Autodeterminación (SDP)**
Maria Klassen, CVRC

**2012** **Understanding Your Benefits While Working**
Alicsa Conley, CVTC

**2016** **HCBS Through Our Eyes**
ARC Fresno/Madera Peer-to-Peer HCBS Trainers

## 1:30–2:30 PM

**2003** **Understanding Section 504: High School and Beyond**
Exceptional Parents Unlimited

**2004** **ATP y Más Allá: Preparando a Estudiantes con Discapacidades para una Vida Adulta Plena y Significativa**
Meagan Barrientos and Laura Sanchez, Central Unified School District

**2008** **Executive Functioning in Autism: Strategies That Make a Difference**
Yenifer Gallegos-Mejia, YAI California START

**2009** **All About ADPs: What You Need to Know**
CVRC Community Resources

**2010** **Building Your Path to Employment**
Gabriel Ruiz Knabb, CVRC

**2011** **Entendiendo los Centros Regionales**
Aaron Olson, CVRC

**2012** **Planning Ahead: Emergency Readiness for Individuals & Families**
Ben Klassen, CVRC

**2014** **Creating Space to Belong: How CalABLE Helps People with Disabilities to Save for the Future**
Maria Sandoval, CalABLE

**2016** **Supporting Growth, Safety, and Healthy Sexual Development**
Veronica Magallanes, SCDD

## 2:45–3:45 PM

**2001** **R&R – Recharging with Respite**
Christian Bravo, Jeanette Ortiz, and Jay Miranda, Maxim Health Care and Respite

**2002** **Planning for the Future: Resources and Supports for Adulthood**
Exceptional Parents Unlimited

**2003** **Sex, Sexuality, and Intimacy**
Scott Johnston, Nathan Todd, and Dr. Michelle Fynan

**2004** **My Voice: One Page Profile Workshop**
Michelle Smith, Dawn Purdy, Pathways to Change

**2005** **Person Centered Care, HCBS, and Belonging**
Emmanuel Navarro and Michelle Alexander, Exceptional Parents Unlimited

**2008** **Regional Centers 101: Understanding Services, Supports & Your Rights**
Aaron Olson, CVRC

**2009** **ATP & Tshaj Ntxiv: Npaj Cov Tub Ntxhais Kawm Uas Muaj Kev Xiam Oob Qhab Rau Lub Neej Laus Uas Muaj Ntsiab Lus**
Meagan Barrientos and Laura Sanchez, Central Unified School District

**2010** **Applying for CVRC Services: What You Need to Know**
America Works of California / FRYES

**2016** **Hope That Echoes: Documentary Screening, Panel & Discussion**

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# DAY 2
# FEATURED MOMENTS

*Stronger Together for a More Inclusive Tomorrow*

## Celebrate, learn, and belong.

**9:15 AM**

### *I* Belong, We Belong Screening and Panel

Watch and learn together in **Hall 3**.

**9:15 AM**

### Voices of Empowerment

Start the day with inspiration in Valdez Hall.

**11:00 AM**

### Your Voice, Your Vote!

Join the conversation in **Hall 3**.

**12:00 PM**

### Illuminate: Everyone Shines Dance!

A joyful dance event in Valdez Hall.

**All Day**

### Breakout Sessions

Choose topics that fit your interests and goals.

**6:00 PM**

### A Night of Stars Gala

End the day with celebration and community.




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# Community Marketplace and Vendor Resource Fair

Connect • Discover • Support • Belong

*Stronger Together for an Inclusive Tomorrow*

## Vendor and Community Fair

Connect with local vendors, service providers, and community organizations offering valuable products, programs, and resources. Explore unique goods, learn about available services, and discover opportunities designed to support individuals and families in our community.

- Knowles Telecom Advisors, LLC
- CalABLE
- Central Valley Training Center
- Connections Care Services
- Kadiant
- Behavrium Health Services
- America Works of CA
- Casa Buena Care Services
- Community Vocational Services, Inc
- Jorgia's Impact Foundation
- California Mentor Network
- Central Valley Regional Center
- Alternative Ways
- Brightside Transportation, LLC
- WestCare STOP Area 3
- Mi Casita Supportive Living
- G-Aims Transportation
- ACCESS ADP
- Blossoming Supported Living Services, LLC
- T&K Innovators
- Arabesque Conservatory of Music
- West Coast Sports and Fitness
- AngelSense
- Rivendell Community, Inc
- Fresno Best Buddies
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- The ARC of Fresno/Madera Counties
- Access Specialized Treatment Program
- JDO ILS Program
- Exceptional Parents Unlimited
- Dobbins Transportation, LLC
- Limitless Abilities
- Way Finders at Fresno State
- GT Independence
- Ives Torres Foundation
- Heart of Gold Medical Transport
- Community Anchor Services
- Fresno EOC Headstart
- Community Integrated Work Program
- Buddies Supported Living Services
- 12welve Creatives
- Ritz FMS
- Madera County Behavioral Health
- Adjoin
- 24-Hour Home Care
- Sharon Homes LLC - SLS
- Able, Inc
- CCAT
- 360 Behavioral Health
- Maxim Health Care
- Fresno EOC Transit System
- WestCare – Opioid Education & Naloxone Distribution
- Robo Enrichment
- Fresno Yosemite Health Care
- One Good Home Health Hospice
- Public Partnerships, LLC
- Family Options
- KALOS Specialized Services
- Vendor Advisory Committee
- Szabad Supportive Services
- Bryant Transit Services

*Together, We Build Stronger Communities*

## Community Marketplace

Discover unique, handcrafted items created by participants from local community programs. Shop for one-of-a-kind artwork, gifts, accessories, and more while supporting creativity and entrepreneurship in our community!

- **Access Specialized Treatment:** Jewelry and framed or unframed diamond art
- **Central Valley Regional Center:** Paintings, drawings, and stickers
- **Central Valley Training Center:** Paintings, artwork, pens, sugar scrubs, keychains, bracelets, candles, jewelry, planter boxes, and succulents
- **Clovis SSVS:** Keychains
- **Community Integrated Work Program:** Paintings, jewelry, keychains, birdhouses, wall plaques, wind chimes, tie-dye shirts, pet and gift baskets, candy dishes, small figurines, decorated tumblers, diamond art, snacks, and drinks
- **Kalos Specialized Services CIP:** Jewelry, diamond art, and crocheted stuffed animals
- **Social Vocational Services:** Jewelry, pot holders, drawings, framed artwork, paintings, pottery, and other fragile art pieces
- **Social Vocational Services – Tower:** Paintings, jewelry, and small figurines
- **Social Vocational Services – Porterville:** Original artwork and sketches, custom and tie-dye shirts, and beaded keychains
- **The Arc of Fresno and Madera Counties:** Origami art, jewelry, beaded and braided keychains, diamond art, and small figurines
- **The Creative Center:** Paintings, jewelry, pottery, small figurines, and crocheted stuffed animals
- **UCP:** Paintings, jewelry, pottery, crocheted stuffed animals, Hot Wheels art, handmade bookmarks, beanies, and keychains
- **Vocation Plus Connections, Inc. (VPCI):** Paintings, jewelry, and cups

## Art Gallery Participants

Explore an inspiring collection of artwork created by talented participants from local community programs. The gallery will feature a variety of original pieces showcasing creativity, individuality, and self-expression.

Select artwork will be available for purchase, offering guests an opportunity to take home a one-of-a-kind piece while supporting artists in our community.

- **Social Vocational Services, Tower**
- **Enrichment Center**
- **The Creative Center**
- **KALOS Specialized Services**

*Art Creates Belonging*




DIFFERENT PATHS
STRONGER FRESNO

*Celebrate • Connect • Belong*

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STRONGER TOGETHER

# Bridge Builder Awards & Mixer

An evening of recognition, celebration, and connection.

*Stronger Together for a More Inclusive Tomorrow*

**Thursday, October 1, 2026** | **5:30 PM** | **Fresno Convention Center**
Fresno, California

## 2026 HONOREES



**Nicole Vazquez**
Chief Consultant to the California State Assembly Budget Committee



**Kopi Sotiropulos**
Retired News Anchor



**Meagan Barrientos**
Special Education Educator



**CVRC Foster Grandparents and Companions Program**

## PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS



**2025 Recipient**

Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula



**2024 Recipient**

Senator Shannon Grove

## MIXER HOSTED BY

The Arc. Fresno/Madera Counties

CVTC Inc.

Vocation Plus Connections, Inc.

*Celebrating leadership, advocacy, and belonging.*




CENTRAL VALLEY ROOTED IN POSSIBILITY

*Inclusion • Opportunity • Community*

FRESNO A STRONGER TOMORROW

BRIDGING HORIZONS

Different Paths A Stronger Fresno

# Illuminate

## EVERYONE SHINES!

BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026 DANCE

Music
Inclusion
Friendship
Belonging

**FRIDAY**
**OCTOBER 2, 2026**

**12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

**FRESNO CONVENTION CENTER**
**VALDEZ HALL**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**
Individuals • Families
Providers • Professionals
Community Partners

DANCE • CONNECT • CELEBRATE • BELONG




DIFFERENT PATHS
A STRONGER FRESNO

BELONGING LIVES HERE

*Different Paths A Stronger Fresno*

# A NIGHT OF *Stars*

BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026 GALA

AN EVENING OF INSPIRATION,
CONNECTION, AND POSSIBILITIES.



FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST

## Abbey Romeo

*Keynote Speaker & Meet and Greet*

Entrepreneur, singer, advocate, and beloved star of Netflix's *Love on the Spectrum U.S.*, Abbey Romeo brings warmth, honesty, and authenticity to the stage. Through her personal journey, Abbey celebrates individuality, meaningful relationships, greater independence, and the courage to share your voice with the world.

FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 2, 2026

6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

FRESNO CONVENTION CENTER
VALDEZ HALL

DINNER • AWARDS • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
KEYNOTE • MEET & GREET

*Everyone Belongs Here* ♡




DIFFERENT PATHS
A STRONGER FRESNO

BELONGING
LIVES HERE

BRIDGING HORIZONS
2026
People • Possibilities
Stronger Together

# Executive Organizing Committee

## Bridging Horizons 2026

*Stronger Together for an Inclusive Tomorrow*

The Bridging Horizons Executive Organizing Committee brings together self-advocate, families, educators, providers, and community leaders who help shape the conference and advance belonging throughout our community.



**Jaime Murphy**
Self-Advocate, Community Vocational Services



**Scott Johnston**
Community Access Advocate Intern, Kings View



**Sammy Calderon**
Self-Advocate, Vocation Plus



**Troy Campbell**
Student Advocate, Connections Adult Transition Program



**Dr. Anthony Ash, DSW, MSW**
Federal Compliance Program Manager, Central Valley Regional Center



**Pamela Scarano**
Owner and Executive Director, Community Vocational Services, Inc.



**Cameron Grisham**
Assistant Director of I/DD Services, Kings View



**Elisabete "Liz" Dobbins**
CEO, Chance Dobbins Sr. Charity / Club 67



**Reva Guimont**
Parent Advocate



**Vartan Hekimian**
Chief Executive Officer, AMVA Corp



**Meagan Barrientos**
Educator Central Unified School District



**Aren Hekimian**
Chief Operating Officer, AMVA Corp



**Nick Lutton**
Manager, Sequoia Office, California State Council on Developmental Disabilities

***Thank you to the leaders and partners who help make Bridging Horizons possible.***




DIFFERENT PATHS
STRONGER FRESNO

Celebrate • Connect • Belong

BRIDGING HORIZONS

People • Possibilities • Stronger Together

*Stronger Together for a More Inclusive Tomorrow*

# SAVE THE *Dates*

## SEPTEMBER 30, 2027
AND
## OCTOBER 1, 2027

**FRESNO CONVENTION CENTER**

STAY CONNECTED FOR UPDATES AT

www.bridginghorizonsca.com

*Same Journey Brighter Horizons*




CENTRAL VALLEY
ROOTED IN POSSIBILITY

*Inclusion • Opportunity • Community*

FRESNO
A STRONGER
TOMORROW

BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026
People • Possibilities
Stronger Together

# Community Organizing Partners

*Stronger Together for an Inclusive Tomorrow*

Thank you to the organizations helping bring Bridging Horizons 2026 to life.

Central Unified School District

The Arc Fresno/Madera Counties

Central Valley Regional Center

UCP Central California

PSW

CVTC Inc.

Kings View

California State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Community Vocational Service, Inc.

Club 67

AMVA Corporation

**Special Thanks**

This conference program was proudly printed at the PSW Print Shop.