

SOUTHEAST FRESNO COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



PRESENTS
TRAILBLAZERS
FOR PROSPERITY

7TH ANNUAL
AWARDS
L U N C H E O N

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 7
2018



Sponsored by:



Southeast Fresno Community
Economic Development
ASSOCIATION

PROSPERITY THROUGH EDUCATION & TRAINING

abc **30** ACTION NEWS | AM LIVE



| Tony Cabrera

| Amanda Venegas



CONGRATULATIONS TRAILBLAZERS
AND ALL HONOREES

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WELCOME

On behalf of the Southeast Fresno Community Economic Development Association (SEFCEDA) Board of Directors, we welcome you to the 7th Annual Trailblazers for Prosperity Awards Luncheon. For the past seven years SEFCEDA has recognized outstanding individuals throughout Southeast Fresno who embody courage, love for their fellow neighbor, and who selflessly give to their community.

SEFCEDA works tirelessly to improve the lives of Southeast Fresno residents through workforce development trainings, partnerships with the workforce sector to create job opportunities, the creation of recreational park facilities and community events bringing important resources to our community members.

Our event is possible with the support and contributions made by local businesses and institutions like Wells Fargo Bank, The Fresno Bee, ABC Channel 30, Fresno County Office of Education, AmeriCorps Vista, The

California Endowment, Fresno Building Healthy Communities, California State University, Fresno, Fresno Unified School District, Clovis Unified School District, State Center Community College District, Fresno City College, Donaghy Sales, and the Cesar Chavez Foundation.

This event is our largest fundraiser of the year and supports our efforts toward economic prosperity for Southeast Fresno residents. We want to give a big thanks to our sponsors, attendees and participants for their continued support over the last seven years and who believe in the mission of SEFCEDA. As we honor the amazing individuals here today, the "Trailblazers" of our community, let us not forget that there is much more work to be done to improve the economic conditions in Southeast Fresno.

Jose Leon Barraza
President & CEO
SEFCEDA, Inc.

Itzi Robles
Chair, SEFCEDA
Board of Directors



Southeast Fresno Community
Economic Development
ASSOCIATION

FOUNDERS OF SEFCEDA

Jose Leon Barraza
Venancio Gaona
Marie Chris Torres

Jose Luis Barraza
Michael Kurnosoff
Jose Villarreal, Jr.

Emerson Estrada
Elsa T. Leon
Irma Yopez-Perez

Sandy Fuerte
Dr. Nellie Neri



2018 SEFCEDA ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION • The Southeast Fresno Community Economic Development Association's (SEFCEDA) mission is to improve the quality of life of southeast Fresno and promote economic prosperity by expanding opportunities in **education, recreation, employment, housing and entrepreneurship** for healthy neighborhoods. The SEFCEDA Board is made up of southeast Fresno residents, economic and community development specialists, financial advisors, educators, attorneys, grant writers, and other professionals committed to using their experience and skills to make a positive impact on this community. On January 2018, the Board of Directors of SEFCEDA identified workforce development and the creation of a Regional Park and Soccer Complex as the two most important priorities to be addressed by the organization.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT • The SEFCEDA organization became an IRS 501(c)3 nonprofit tax-exempt organization on February 28, 2011. Since this date SEFCEDA has been addressing the poverty problem confronted by the Southeast Fresno community by bringing information, resources, support, and opportunities pertaining to education and training directly to its residents.

One of SEFCEDA's primary objectives is to increase per capita income of residents. SEFCEDA is accomplishing this objective by collaborating with strategic partners such as the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board, Fresno City College, Fresno Unified School District, Fresno Pacific University, Fresno Adult School, southeast Fresno churches, The United Way, New Americans and other agencies serving this target area.

As SEFCEDA provides career path options, training opportunities, tutoring, and job placement assistance to willing residents with demonstrated potential, it will significantly increase their chances of securing good paying jobs; which will contribute to their overall economic success. This positive momentum will spread within households as our first-round champions will become better role models for their children and family members.

Steps to Prosperity - The steps that are being taken by SEFCEDA for the successful implementation of this project.

1. Outreach to Southeast Fresno Community to identify residents who will commit to SEFCEDA Steps-to-Prosperity program. Work with churches, schools, non-profits, and other partners to market SEFCEDA to groups of participants. SEFCEDA's target audience is the heads-of-households as they command an important role in the future development of the family.
2. Interview prospective participants using SEFCEDA's intake protocol to ensure candidates meet program requirements.
3. For those individuals accepted into the program SEFCEDA conducts assessments and career exploration to educate them about the local, high-demand career options and training opportunities.
4. Working with Fresno City College and other training providers, SEFCEDA assists participants with training course and financial aid registration.
5. For those participants enrolled in training courses, connect them with tutoring resources to ensure satisfactory completion of coursework. SEFCEDA will also be providing tutoring services to participants.
6. Upon completion of training (certification, etc.), provide participants with job placement assistance working with community partners.
7. In addition to technical skills training, SEFCEDA provides participants with career-ready competency training (soft skills) to maximize probability of success once participant becomes employed
8. Track participants in Steps-to-Prosperity program from start to finish, documenting quantifiable measures (before and after), testimonials, etc. to be used for future program cycles and continuous improvement of model.
9. SEFCEDA with the help of other programs and resources from other agencies makes available financial literacy resources and information.

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM • A partnership with the Cesar Chavez Foundation is the construction of an apartment complex near Kings Canyon and Willow avenues. Our goal with this project is the placement of fifteen apprenticeship positions in the building trades. SEFCEDA pre-screens candidates and assesses basic skills and potential for their successful ability to be trained in the skilled craft areas for participation in an apprenticeship program. The Cesar Chavez Foundation includes provisions in its agreements with the General Contractors selected for construction of the apartment project to ensure the adequate funding and creation of apprenticeship positions as part of the construction of the apartment units.

SEFCEDA has adopted the following five career-ready competencies as standards for career preparation and is being provided to workforce program participants: 1) Work Ethic; 2) Basic Education Proficiency; 3) Workplace Communication Skills; 4) Collaboration and Teamwork; and 5) Critical Thinking. Overall for our entire workforce development program, about 500 residents have participated in our monthly orientation sessions that provide soft skills training and other relevant employment and job training information. While some participants are still in the process of being selected for training and employment consideration, SEFCEDA has been instrumental in the placement of more than 60 residents.



2018 SEFCEDA ANNUAL REPORT

REGIONAL PARK AND SOCCER COMPLEX PROJECT • In partnership with the Southeast Fresno Regional Park and Soccer Complex Authority (JPA), several community organizations and corporate sponsors, SEFCEDA has played a lead role in the implementation of an Agreement with the City of Fresno under the Adopt-A-Park Project. Under this project more than 500 volunteers have provided more than 2000 volunteer hours in the cleaning up of this park site located at 2155 S. Peach Avenue. Under this project the JPA and its partners are committed to planting 120 trees, laying 60,000 square foot turf area with the necessary irrigation and turf systems. Planting of the trees started in October of 2018 and will continue throughout the year. The short-term goal is to create a regional park on an 18-acre park site, with the long-term goal of building an 8-field soccer complex on a 30-acre park site.

Many organizations have been instrumental in the advancement of the work of this project including the Southeast Fresno Regional Park and Soccer Complex Authority that includes the membership of the City of Sanger and the Malaga County Water District, California State University, Fresno, California Endowment, Fresno Building Healthy Communities, Latino Rotary Club, Centro La Familia, CNC Education Fund, AmeriCorps VISTA, VFW Post 8900, MAG Engineering, Precision Engineering, Roosevelt Youth Soccer League, Home Depot, Every Neighborhood Partnership, Roosevelt Youth Soccer League, IWS Industrial Waste & Salvage, and Latino Peace Officers Association. Support and partial funding have been provided by the CA Releaf Program, CAI Fire, Assembly Member Joaquin Arambula, Council Member Luis Chavez, the City of Fresno PARCS and the US National Park Service.

Organizations and individuals interested in supporting or volunteering in the implementation of any of SEFCEDA projects may contact me **Jose Leon Barraza, SEFCEDA, Inc. CEO at 559-708-7101.**



Working Together to Create #OneHealthyFresno

Fresno Building Healthy Communities is a coalition of community- and faith-based organizations, residents, and young people working together to foster and encourage thriving communities where all children and families can live healthy, safe, and productive lives.

OUR ADVOCACY

- 📍 Parks & Green Space
- 📍 Restorative Justice
- 📍 #Health4All
- 📍 Environmental Justice
- 📍 Youth Leadership
- 📍 Healthy Housing
- 📍 Better Schools

JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

- ✓ Become a Volunteer or Resident Organizer
- ✓ Attend a Community Meeting
- ✓ Follow us on Social Media



FresnoBHC.org



SEFCEDA STAFF & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors

ITZI ROBLES, Chair

BA, Political Science & Legal Studies, California State University, Fresno

- Fresno City Council Assistant, Area
- District # 1, City of Fresno
- MBA Candidate, California State University, Fresno
- Former Intern, Education & Leadership Foundation
- Former Intern, Migrant Education Program
- Former Taekwondo Instructor, Fresno Black Belt Taekwondo Center

CATHERINE ROBLES, Vice Chair

BA, Business Administration, California State University, Fullerton

- Broker & Owner, Casa Robles Realty
- Board Commissioner, Fresno EOC
- Board Secretary, Fresno CDFI
- Member, National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professional, Fresno Chapter
- Lifelong Fresno Resident

JOSEPH J. RIOJAS, SR., Treasurer

Fresno City College and California State University, Fresno
Joseph Riojas Sr. has held many leadership positions including business owner. For the last 20 years he has been employed by Wells Fargo Bank N.A. In 2007 he became the manager of the Sunnyside Plaza Branch located at 5642 E. Kings Canyon Rd. in Fresno, CA. In 2008 he earned his Vice President title for his hard work, dedication and great leadership skills. In 2010 He received “The Servant Leader” award From Wells Fargo for the hundreds of volunteer hours committed to community service. In 2017 he was recognized as a “Star Performer” for his exceptional contributions and commitment to excellence while serving Wells Fargo Customers.

- Past Board Member / Treasurer, Valley Preparatory Academy
- Owner, Riojas Rental Properties

DR. LISA HERNANDEZ, Secretary

BS, Ph.D., University of California, Davis
MBA, California State University, Fresno

- 15 years’ experience in Biotech/Pharmaceutical R&D
- Member, Beta Gamma Sigma, Fresno Chapter
- Member, Phi Sigma, Gamma Delta Chapter
- Former Member, Graduate Advisory Board, Craig School of Business, CSU Fresno
- Former Member, MESA Industry Advisory Board, CSU San Jose

DR. NELLIE NERI, Board Member

University Southern California and California State University, Fresno

- Volunteer Counselor, Youth Exchange, Rotary District 5230
- Past Assistant Governor, Rotary District 5230
- Past Board President, Association of Mexican American Educators
- Past Board President, Girl Scout Council
- Past Board Representative, Association California School Administrators

CHARLES VANG, Board Member

BA, Business Administration, California State University, Fullerton

- President, Vangolds USA Corp
- Past Planning Commissioner, City of Fresno, 2000-2008
- Past President, Lao Family Community of Fresno, Inc. 2004-2006
- Board Director, Fresno County Workforce Investment Board

ANDY HANSEN-SMITH, Board Member

BA, Biology, California State University, Fresno, 1987

- Non-profit Creative Fresno Board Member 2014- present
- Memorial United Methodist Church 2002-present
- Attend all City of Fresno Council and Fresno County Board of Supervisors Meetings 2016-present
- City of Fresno Planning Commission 2010-2015



Itzi Robles



Catherine Robles



Joseph J. Riojas, Sr.



Dr. Liza Hernandez



Dr. Nellie Neri



Charles Vang



Andy Hansen-Smith



JUAN MANUEL SAAVEDRA, Board Member

Ordained Minister, The United Methodist Church

- Pastor of Grace United Methodist Church, Fresno and St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Fresno
- Founder & Founding Director, Hamilton Family Center, San Francisco, CA
- Founder & Founding Director, Alameda Multicultural Center, Alameda, CA
- Past Board Member Pathfinder High School, San Jose, CA
- Past Board Member of PACT,
- San Jose, CA

DR. SYLVIA A. SANCHEZ, Board Member

Alliant International University, Fresno, CA and California State University, Fresno

- Ed.D. Educational Leadership and Management, Dissertation: "Perceptions of Challenges and Values of Higher Education between First-Generation and Subsequent Generations on Male Latinos"
- Twice Recipient of the Marie Klugo Scholarship (Statewide)
- CSU, Fresno, Fresno, CA
- MA Educational Administration and Supervision
- BA Public Administration
- Minor: Cultural Studies
- CSU, Fresno, Fresno, CA
- Certificate Community College Faculty Preparation
- Certificate Grant Writing and Management

Staff

JOSE LEON BARRAZA, Chairperson

BS, Business Admin. & MPA, Public Admin., California State University, Fresno

- Former Director of Economic Development for the County of Fresno with a 34-year career in the County Administrative Office
- Former Chair of the Fresno County Blue Ribbon Business Committee and Fresno County Regional Enterprise Zone Board
- Former Member of Fresno Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Board
- Licensed Real Estate Broker and General Contractor

GABRIEL LOZANO, Coordinator

Marketing/ Fundraising

- Volunteer, Reading and Beyond Program
- United States Navy Veteran, 1984-1989
- Graduate, Roosevelt High School, Fresno, USD

AmeriCorps Vista

- Harrell Floyd
- Dominic Marmolejo

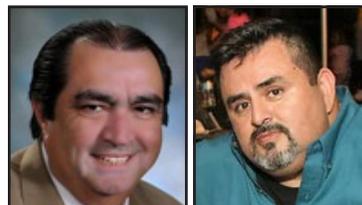
UEI Interns

AmeriCorps/Vista

- Juliana R. Hernandez
- Andres Sanchez
- Denessa Cason
- Veronica Alcalá
- Margaret Anderson
- Kina Montejano



Juan Manuel Saavedra Dr. Sylvia A. Sanchez



Jose Leon Barraza Gabriel Lozano

Achieving great things for our community



When a group of people comes along who have the courage and vision to turn dreams into reality, they make the future bright for everyone.

We proudly celebrate the achievements of Southeast Fresno Community Economic Development Association.

Wells Fargo - Sunnyside Plaza
Branch Manager- Joseph Riojas Sr.
5642 E Kings Canyon Rd.
559-453-1259

wellsfargo.com

Together we'll go far





TRAILBLAZERS
FOR PROSPERITY

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Robert G. Nelson

Superintendent, Fresno Unified School District

Robert G. Nelson was appointed Superintendent of Fresno Unified School District in September 2017. Prior to his appointment to superintendent, Dr. Nelson served the district for over 23 years, holding various roles including teacher, vice principal, principal, human resources administrator and chief of staff. Dr. Nelson served as the Chawanakee Unified Superintendent in Eastern Madera County for approximately three years before returning to Fresno Unified School District. Dr. Nelson graduated from the University of Southern California (USC), completed his Masters in Educational Administration and Supervision at California State University, Fresno and earned his doctoral degree at USC. Outside of being an educator, Dr. Nelson and his wife Tiffany are parents of seven amazing children ranging in ages from 22 years to 2-year-old twins. Dr. and Mrs. Nelson have always felt a need to support children and have spent a number of years as foster parents, resulting in the adoption of four of their seven children.



Fresno Unified School District
Preparing College and Career Ready Graduates





COMMUNITY TRAILBLAZERS

MIKE SPENCER

Teacher, Roosevelt High School, FUSD

Mike Spencer has taught English at Roosevelt High School (RHS) for fifteen years. He helped the Riders win several Valley Championships in Men's Soccer and founded Roosevelt's first Girl's Golf Team before FUSD supplied the equipment. He also started The Roosevelt High School Bass Fishing Club (BFC) where he has worked tirelessly to provide students fishing trips and tournaments all over the state. With the BFC, he has organized over 4000 community service hours and helps host two yearly community out-reach projects, Trunk-O'-Treats at RHS every Halloween and an Easter Egg Hunt at Jackson Elementary.

On the academic side, he has helped hundreds of students reach their college dreams through his rigorous but supportive AP Literature class, focusing on writing techniques and critical thinking. Mike Spencer is available to his students every lunch and most days after school. He has held many a tutorial for current and former students on his front porch just down from Roosevelt on weekends.

Mike Spencer was a finalist for Fresno Unified School District Teacher of the Year in 2017, and felt honored, but considers the emails and texts he gets every year from his students off in college thanking him for what they learned in his class the only professional affirmation he needs.

Mike Spencer recognizes he would be unable to do so much for the Roosevelt community without the constant support of his wife, Emily, his daughter Madeline, his parents Tom and Jackie, his Roosevelt family, and the amazing volunteer boat captains and community partners of the RHS BFC.



Mike Spencer

GILBERT R. LARA

BBVA Compass, Northern CA Area Sales Manager

Gil has just under twenty-five years' experience in the banking industry and has worked his way up from his humble beginnings as a teller at Bank of America in Kerman, California to now managing eight passionate business bankers that cover from Bakersfield to the East Bay and East up to Roseville as part of his Northern California territory. Gil has had a successful career as a banker and has been a good mentor, advocate and friend to his peers and various non-profits throughout Central California.

Gil has always been deeply involved in the Community from working with the Elder Indian Council in Kerman to helping Hmong Refugees set up their bank accounts to later assisting his peers with helping set up two ethnic Chamber of Commerce organizations to support entrepreneurship. Gil also worked with HUD early in his career to establish photo novellas to help educate low literacy ethnic groups on home ownership. He also sat as a Commissioner for Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission as he cares deeply about the underserved members in our community.

At present he is a loan committee member, board of director and past Board President for Access Plus Capital formerly known as Fresno CDFI for approximately fifteen years. He has enjoyed working with the CDFI leadership and staff to grow the organization from a refugee farm loan program to a thriving alternative lender that now serves Bakersfield to Modesto.

Gil's passion for his community has also recently earned him a seat as one of four directors for Central Valley Economic Development Institute, an organization that will provide apprenticeship training to help bring skilled trades and valuable jobs to better the lives and enrich our community.



Gilbert R. Lara



COMMUNITY TRAILBLAZERS

PETER VANG

Executive Director, Lao Veterans of America, Inc.

Peter Vang was born in Laos at the beginning of the Secret War in Laos. Peter was determined to come to the United States, and he did so alone as his parents decided to stay. Peter lived with an American foster family for four years until his parents made it to the United States and settled in California. He rejoined his parents as they moved to Fresno for farming.

Peter is a retired Staff Analyst and Refugee Community Liaison for Fresno County Department of Social Services (DSS). Previously, he worked for Fresno County Human Services System; Immigration and Refugee Services of America as Pre-Arrival Specialist and held management positions as Director of Refugee and Immigration Services for Lao Family Community of Fresno, Director of Resettlement Program for Nationality Services of Central California.

Peter Vang provides training on Cultural Diversity, Board & Management, and Leadership skills. For more than thirty-seven years, Mr. Vang has been involved in bettering the Southeast Asian community and has been invited to speak and provide consultation at the local, state and national levels on issues impacting the refugee and immigrant communities.

Peter is current the Executive Director of the Lao Veterans of America, Inc (National Headquarter) located in Fresno, California. He has taken the lead in cooperation with the Center for Public Policy Analysis and joined with Hmong and American Veterans across the country in working closely with the House of Representatives who co-sponsored the Hmong Veterans Recognition Act Bill. In addition, Mr. Vang also worked with Senators Murkowski, Reed, and Whitehouse. President Donald Trump signed the bill on March 23, 2018 securing Hmong Veteran burial at the National Veterans Cemetery. Peter has donated over 2,700 professional hours to assist the Lao Veterans and their chapters across the United States.



Peter Vang

ELIZABETH DIAZ

Fresno County Public Defender

Ms. Diaz was the first in her family of four sisters and two brothers to graduate from college and attend law school. Both of her parents were farmworkers who came from Texas and later settled in the town of Selma where Ms. Diaz graduated from Selma High School, California State University Fresno, and New College School of Law in San Francisco.

Ms. Diaz joined the Public Defender's Office in 1990 as a trial lawyer, where she represented both adult and juvenile clients in all criminal matters. During the past 28 years as an attorney, she has held several positions within the Office: Lead Attorney for the Juvenile Unit; Chief Supervising Attorney of the Felony Team; Assistant Public Defender; Interim Public Defender; and was the first female attorney appointed in 2014 by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors as Fresno County Public Defender.

Ms. Diaz has collaborated with other Justice Partners in Fresno County to establish three specialty courts: The Juvenile Drug Court, the Adult Behavioral Health Court and the Veterans Treatment Court and currently handles an active caseload in representing clients for both the Adult Behavioral Health Court and the Veterans Treatment Court.

Aside from her administrative and attorney duties in the Office, Ms. Diaz is also an active member of the community. She is a current member of several bar associations that includes the Fresno County Bar Association and past board member; a current member of the La Raza Lawyers Association having served as past president; and current member of the Fresno County Women Lawyers. She is a board member of Centro La Familia Advocacy Services and has served on that board for the past 25 years; a past board of SEFCEDA and New Millennium Institute of Education; has volunteered as a mock trial coach working with high school students and is currently an adjunct professor at Alliant International University.



Elizabeth Diaz



COMMUNITY TRAILBLAZERS

SERGEANT DONNIE DINNELL

Southeast Division, Fresno Police Department

Donnie was born in Fresno in 1964. His family moved to Ventura when he was in the second grade, but he came back to Fresno to attend Fresno State and was hired by the Fresno County Sheriff's Department in 1994. He worked there as a Correctional Officer III until 1999 when he was hired by the Selma Police Department. He started in patrol and worked his way up to the position of Field Training Officer. While in Selma, Donnie was also assigned to the department's Weed and Seed Team where he worked gangs, narcotics, the warrant service team, and assigned to the schools as the neighborhood school officer.

Donnie was hired by, the Fresno Police Department in April of 2003. As he will tell you this was a very proud day in his professional life as he was born in our city and was now being given the chance to give back to the community from which he came. He has served in many positions including patrol officer, district and bureau crime suppression team member, and as an investigator in the Financial Crimes Unit, as the Southeast District Robbery Detective.

Donnie Dinnell was just promoted to Fresno Police Department Patrol Sergeant on 09/17/2018. He is currently assigned to the Southeast Policing District as a dayshift supervisor. While assigned to the same district, he served as the misdemeanor crimes detective and robbery detective.

Donnie holds an AA degree from Ventura Jr. College as well as a BS and MS in Criminology Law Enforcement, from California State University at Fresno. Donnie is married to his lovely wife Cheryl whom he met while working at the Sheriff's Department. They have four children, six grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Donnie and Cheryl have been married for 22 years.

DETECTIVE GER VANG

Southeast Division, Fresno Police Department

Ger was born in Thailand and immigrated to the United States in 1988 with his family. Ger graduated from DeVry University with a bachelor's degree in management.

He started his eight-year law enforcement career with the Visalia Police Department in 2010, where he worked for five years. Ger started his career with the Fresno Police Department in 2015. Ger has worked patrol, Gangs, and is currently assigned as a Problem Oriented Policing (POP) Detective. In 2016, a year after Ger was hired with Fresno Police Department he was awarded

the department's recovered firearms pin for recovering firearms involving ten separate incidents which led to arrests. Officer Ger Vang is currently assigned as a Detective to the Southeast Policing District. There are three Detectives for the district and Detective Vang handles POP.

When Ger is not at work he enjoys spending time with his children. Ger and Zoua have been married for eight years and they have; two sons, Chance and Collin and a daughter, Claire. Ger was the first in his family to become a Police Officer. He now has two nephews in law enforcement and they work for Sanger, California and Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.

RALPH ALCARAZ

Data Engineer, United Health Care

I have been working with United Health Care for ten years as a Data Engineer. I have been in the health medical insurance industry for thirty-five years: Santa Cruz Co. Health Options; Health Plan of the Redwoods; Health Systems Design Corp.; and Perot Systems.

I am an "E" licensed coach. I have been coaching in youth soccer off and on, as my career permitted me, since 1994. I have coached with the following organizations: CYSL - Central Youth Soccer League: Coached U10 and U12 boys; Geyserville High School: Head soccer coach; and RYSL - Roosevelt Youth Soccer League: Coached U8, U10, and U12; Former RYSL President; Current RYSL Liaison to the JPA and New Soccer Complex development. I am actively involved with other organizations in making the dream of a Park and Soccer Complex a reality for our community.



Sgt. Donnie Dinnell



Det. Ger Vang



Ralph Alcaraz



MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Gilbert Magallon

KFSN-ABC 30 Action News Team

Gilbert Magallon joined the Action News Team in November of 2017 as a multimedia journalist and general assignment reporter. He was born and raised in the Central Valley and is excited to be back and tell the stories of the people who live here. Gilbert has lived throughout the valley, including the communities of Dinuba, Hanford, and Fresno.

Previously Gilbert was a multimedia journalist at KNDO-TV and Telemundo in Yakima, WA. During his time in Yakima he covered everything from fires and floods to murders and immigration.

Gilbert is a Bulldog, graduating from Fresno State with a B.A. in Broadcast Journalism. While in college, he interned at ABC30. It was through his internship that Gilbert fell in love with journalism.

In his free time, he likes to travel, catch a good movie or spend time with friends and family.

If you have story ideas for Gilbert, or if you want to know more about him, feel free to message him through email or social media.

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Fresno Co. Office of Education

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California State University, Fresno
Clovis Unified School District
Fresno Unified School District
Wells Fargo

SILVER

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State Center Community
College District

BRONZE

Cesar Chavez Foundation
Donaghy Sales
Fresno City College
Fresno Co. EDC

FRIENDS

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John Alkire
Brian Angus
Dr. Joaquin Arambula, Assembly
Member, District 31
Juan Arambula

Arte Américas
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Dr. Joseph Castro, President, CSUF
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Lee Ann Eager
Ruben Elias
Michael Evans
Falcon Cleaners
Sandra Flores
Fresno Adult School
Fresno City College
Fresno County Social Services
Fresno Economics Opportunity
Commission
Fresno EDC
Fresno Fair

Fresno Housing Authority
Fresno Latino Rotary
Fresno Pacific University
Fresno Police Department
Fresno Regional Workforce
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Louis Gonzales
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Home Depot
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Gilbert Lara
John Leal, Trustee, SCCC
Felipe Lemus
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Lowe's
Gabriel Lozano
Malaga County Water District
Luis D. Martínez
Me-n-Ed's Pizzeria
MetroPCS
Daren Miller
Dr. Nellie Neri
Clint Olivier, Council Member #7

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SCCCD
Luis Perez, CPA
Preston Prince
Michael Rabara
Joseph Riojas
Catherine Robles
Itzi Robles
Diana Rodríguez
Roosevelt High School
Roosevelt Youth Soccer League
Rev. Juan Saavedra
Ray Salas
Jaqueline Shabazz
Dr. Sylvia Sanchez
Michael Sigala
Southeast Fresno Regional Park
Sunnyside High School
Dr. Victor Torres
Torres Fence Co.
Vallarta Supermarkets
Valley Air Conditioning
Charles Vang
Vangolds
Eddie Varela
José Villarreal
Walmart



7TH ANNUAL TRAILBLAZERS AWARD LUNCHEON

November 7, 2018 • 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Fresno Fairgrounds - Industrial Education Building • 121 South Chance Avenue

PROGRAM

Gilbert Magallon, *KFSN-ABC 30 News Team*, Emcee

PRESENTATION

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8900 Color Guard

WELCOMING REMARKS

Itzi Robles, *Chair, SEFCEDA Board*
Jose Leon Barraza, *CEO, SEFCEDA Inc.*

INVOCATION

Edward Valdez, *Deacon*
Saint Anthony Padua Catholic Church

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. Robert G. Nelson, *Superintendent*
Fresno Unified School District
Introduction by **Jose Leon Barraza**

TRAILBLAZERS FOR PROSPERITY AWARDS

For their contributions to the Fresno area:

Mike Spencer, *Fresno Unified School District*
Gilbert Lara, *BBVA Compass*
Peter Vang, *Lao Veteran Services*
Elizabeth Diaz, *Fresno County Public Defender*
Det. Donnie Dinnell, *Fresno Police Department*
Det. Ger Vang, *Fresno Police Department*
Ralph Alcaraz, *Parks / Community Leadership*

COMMUNITY LEGACY CHAMPION/ LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Hugo Morales, *Executive Director & Co-Founder*
Radio Bilingüe

POSTHUMOUS CULTURAL/ LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARD

Alberto Emiliano Nieto, *Co-Founder & Former Director*
Centro La Familia

PROGRAM CONCLUSION



COMMUNITY LEGACY & LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Honoring Hugo Morales

Executive Director, Radio Bilingüe
Community Legacy Champion / Lifetime Achievement Award

Hugo Morales is a Mixteco Indian immigrant from Oaxaca, Mexico, who was raised in his Indigenous homeland until the age of nine, when he and his mother and two siblings joined his father at a farm labor camp in Healdsburg in Sonoma County. Hugo's parents are farm worker organizers. Hugo got his education in the prune fields. He was elected president of Healdsburg High School in 1967 in a school that was six percent Mexican.

After high school Hugo was accepted to the University of California, Berkeley, Stanford and Harvard. Hugo attended Harvard College on scholarship and Morales received a Bachelor's of Arts degree in 1972 and then went on to Harvard Law School, where he graduated in 1975 with a juris doctor degree. He is the first Latino to have two degrees from Harvard and the only Mexican-American of his Harvard class.

Hugo moved to Fresno in 1975. In 1976 Hugo co-founded Radio Bilingüe, a Latino noncommercial community radio network. Radio Bilingüe went on the air on July 4, 1980, as a symbol of the Latino right to exercise our First Amendment rights. Radio Bilingüe promotes traditional Chicano /Mexicano/ Tejano/ Latino music and provides meaningful information to half a million Latinos in the United States.

In 1994, Hugo Morales became a MacArthur Fellow in the area of Communications and Journalism. The MacArthur Foundation states that "In 1993, under his leadership, a twenty-four-hour-a-day satellite network, Satélite, was created, making Radio Bilingüe's Spanish-language programming available nationwide. The network serves over half a million listeners with its daily national talk show, Línea Abierta, its independently produced news service, Noticiero Latino, and a wide array of Spanish-language folk music."

Today, Radio Bilingüe has fourteen full power radio stations in the southwest, sixty affiliate radio stations in the United States and Mexico, and it has ten repeaters in California and Arizona. The Radio Bilingüe family is comprised of over 100 community volunteers and twenty staff that produce family friendly musical programming and critical news and information, including the current rapid response campaign in defense of immigrants.

Morales is the executive director of Radio Bilingüe and the vice-chairperson of California Tomorrow, which promotes a fair, multicultural society. He is the founder of the Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and co-founder of Fresno Tomorrow, an effort by citizens to address the problems of youth at risk. He was appointed to the California State University Board of Trustees by Governor Jerry Brown.

In addition to the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, his recognitions include the Lannan Foundation Cultural Freedom Prize, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting Edward R. Murrow Award, and the Alliance for Public Technology's Susan G. Hadden Pioneer Award for ensuring equitable access to information for the Spanish-speaking population in the United States and Mexico.



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Posthumous Honor to Alberto Emiliano Nieto

Alberto Nieto, age 87, peacefully passed away on Monday, June 11, 2018. Alberto was born to Alfonso and Bertha Nieto on September 5, 1931, in Santa Barbara, CA. At an early age, Alberto's family moved to his grandparents' farm in Caruthers, CA. From there Alfonso and Berta purchased a farm on Clinton and Cedar which is now the location of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and school. The Nieto family then relocated to Clovis, CA, after purchasing 120 acres of land to start a dairy farm.

Alberto Nieto graduated from Clovis Union High School in 1949, as valedictorian and school president. Alberto went on to attend Fresno State College and graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Political Science. Alberto graduated from Fresno State College and was awarded a scholarship to the Coro Foundation, a nonpartisan nonprofit organization focused on cultivating diverse leaders through hands-on, collaborative, cross-sectoral learning.

Alberto served his country in the Korean Conflict as a Captain in the United States Air Force stationed in South Korea serving as a Provost Marshall, securing the nuclear arsenal. After returning home from the war, he met the love of his life, the beautiful Lydia Carrillo. The two married and settled in Clovis, and she joined the family team to run the dairy farm.

In 1961, the Nieto family won the Champion Dairy Award. Later in the 1960s they expanded their farming ventures to the Yokohl Valley which is at the base of Rocky Mountain in Exeter, CA. The family bought a 300-acre orange farm. Alberto had observed early on in his life that God does not bless his children equally. Some individuals are blessed with extraordinary gifts and intellectual talents, and God did not do this so they could amass huge fortunes of wealth and abuse the less fortunate but rather they could sustain themselves financially and yet still be able to lend a hand to those less fortunate. This was one of Alberto's deepest tenets. It is okay to succeed but take some people under your wing along the way.

Under the shade of the old Clovis farm sycamore tree would become neutral territory for Sunday afternoon meetings for creating plans within plans and political strategies that would shape the future of the valley.

With the blessing of Governor Jerry Brown through his representative, Leo Gallegos, people like Cruz Bustamante, Jess Marques, Mayor Victor Lopez, Judge Al Villa, Judge Armando Rodrigues, Ben Benavidez, Venancio Gaona, Catarino Hurtado, Taniz Ybarra, Esther Padilla, and the Villegas family would put aside their differences and unite on the issues of the day. These were some of the core hard working individuals who shaped the structure of the Hispanic community then and now.

Alberto and his brother, Ricardo, worked with Caesar Chavez dedicating many a night and assisting with housing, transportation, and other needs during the long marches. Alberto and Ricardo also spent many fun hours working with Luis Valdez with Teatro Campesino in the Tower District. In the 1970s, Alberto and eight other community professors founded the first Mexican American University in Del Rey, CA. It was called Universidad de Aztlan. The spirit of Aztlan incorporated individuals like Elizar Risco, Ph.D., Tomas Gonzalez, Ph.D., Ricardo Duran, and others.

Upon the death of their father, Alfonso, Alberto and Ricardo went full bore into the political arena. They lent their services to Governor Jerry Brown, Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, and Secretary of State March Fong Eu. They had many



unrecognized battles and victories. One of the greatest victories was the 1980 redistricting plan for the State of California which today is responsible for the Democrat's success in maintaining a majority in the state even to this day.

The political structures and power base of the Hispanic community of the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s were created by a lot of hard work by many unsung community leaders. One such unsung hero was Guadalupe Gutierrez as he would lead hundreds of protest marches throughout the state with his songs and music. In the early 1980s, Alberto and five of his students, that he mentored from Fresno State, set up a card table on the side walk in front the Fresno County welfare department located at the Fresno County Fair Grounds.

With clipboards in hand they began to advocate for welfare recipients. After many and long brutal battles they were able to convince the Fresno County Board of Supervisors to remove the existing welfare director and this gave birth to Centro La Familia. Alberto's vision as director of Centro La Familia was for people to be able to get immediate food and shelter and not want for the essentials. Since its creation, Centro La Family has grown in many areas of community advocacy services.



In 2002, the Nieto family expanded their farming ventures for one last time and bought a vineyard in Sanger, CA. Alberto enjoyed the strategy meetings at the Raisin Bargaining Association, where small farmers were learning to stand up for themselves. Alberto had to wear two hats. A large portion of Alberto's life was spent on challenging the farmers in fair treatment of their workers which put him at opposition to fellow farmers sometimes. The second hat, was Alberto was always a farmer at heart and enjoyed the gathering and meeting with the other raisin farmers and to talk "farmer" issues.

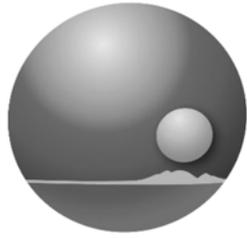
Almost to the end, Alberto could be seen driving his tractor through the vineyards and his dog-mutt army following behind. At the sunset it was always a debate by the neighbors whether the dust cloud from the dog-mutt army was bigger than the dust cloud from the tractor. The vineyard rows are a half mile long in length running east to west and at the end of the rows is a eucalypti forest that grows along the canal bank. Just recently, the campesinos have said on a quiet evening just before sunset if you listen carefully you can hear a voice call out "Dogs, Dogs, Dogs," and if you look quickly you can catch a glimpse of Alberto's green tractor driving into the sunset followed by a bigger dust cloud from the dog-mutt army.

Albert always believed that major accomplishments could be made when the Hispanic community worked together.

Congratulations

Gil Lara

and the Trailblazer Award Honorees!



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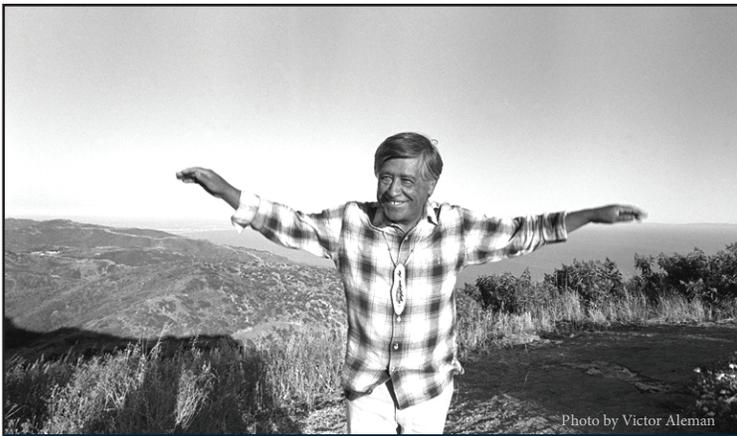


Photo by Victor Aleman

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The Cesar Chavez Foundation is proud to support the 7th Annual Trailblazers for Prosperity Awards Luncheon

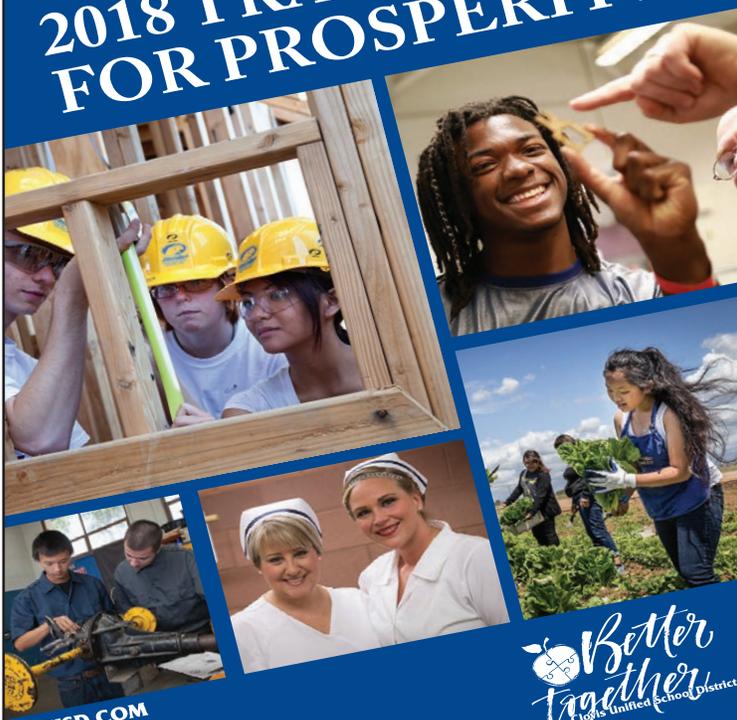


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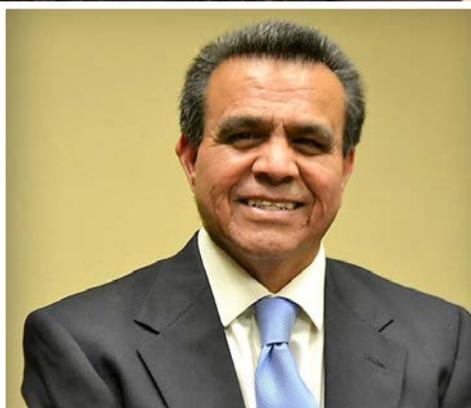


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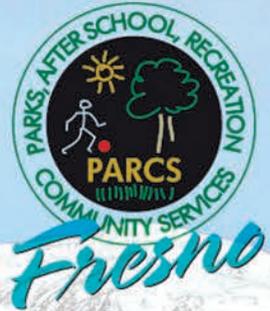


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