

Woman of the Year

2021



March 15, 2021



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Dear Woman of the Year Honoree,

Congratulations for being honored as Woman of the Year, a significant recognition which speaks to your unique contributions to your community and the State of California. Since 1987, the California Legislature has set aside a day in March, Women's History Month, to recognize women who are making an extraordinary difference in their communities.

In a state of nearly 40 million people, you are one of just 120 exceptional women being recognized for this honor this year. But you join a growing sorority of honorees who have received this recognition since the Legislature first set aside a day in March more than three decades ago.

There has never been a more important time for leadership than during this COVID-19 pandemic. In ways big and small, noticed and unnoticed, leaders like you have inspired and changed our communities for the better and kept us going during an extraordinarily challenging time. It is for this reason that we decided we must continue this recognition this year, although our celebration will look different than in years past.

On these pages are the stories of your peers who are also making a difference in their communities. We who serve you here in the State Capitol are honored that you have accepted our commendation.

We hope that you will take personal satisfaction in this recognition, knowing that your leadership has brought positive change to your community and blazed a trail for other women.

Sincerely,

Cristina Garcia, Chair
Assemblywoman, 58th District

Nancy Skinner, Vice Chair
State Senator, 9th District

Meet the Honorees

Kristy Lanham

Assemblymember Megan Dahle, Assembly District 1

Kristy is a fifth-generation Shasta County native and serves as the North Sierra Community Relations Manager for Sierra Pacific Industries. Kristy is dedicated to stimulating economic growth and opportunities in the North State, especially in the forestry and timber products industry, through forming partnerships that enhance and develop our community.



Debra Kubin

Assemblymember Jim Wood, Assembly District 2

Debra Kubin, Superintendent of Ukiah Unified School District, has 29 years of experience in education. She is passionate about ensuring that student's education focus on quality instruction, inclusion and high standards. Since the pandemic, she has led her team in distributing over 2.2 million meals to children and facilitated multiple family events. Debra's leadership is a touchstone of passion, innovation and dedication.

Monica Soderstrom

Assemblymember James Gallagher, Assembly District 3

Monica Soderstrom, Community Health Division Director for the Butte County Department of Public Health, works tirelessly to promote the health of North State residents. Monica has been the central figure in organizing and managing COVID-19 testing, case investigation and contact tracing. This is an enormous responsibility, one that has quietly saved lives.





Joyce Overton

Assemblymember Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry, Assembly District 4

Joyce Overton is the Executive Director of the Clearlake Highlands Senior Service Center and has served on the Clearlake City Council for 16 years. Joyce has been a community leader in Lake County during wildfires, floods, power shutoffs, and COVID-19, providing valuable resources in times of crisis and need.

Dianne Fritz

Assemblymember Frank Bigelow, Assembly District 5

Dianne Fritz owns Happy Burger Diner. During COVID-19, she served her community by moving her business to outdoor dining and take out only, while offering “Canteen Coffee Time” for veterans and their spouses to receive free coffee or tea. An outstanding community member, Dianne strives to help those around her.



Lisa Tuter

Assemblymember Kevin Kiley, Assembly District 6

Lisa Tuter is Executive Director of Folsom’s Twin Lakes Food Bank. When the pandemic hit, the number of clients and need for food increased by 50 percent overnight. Tuter rallied her crew and resources to stock the shelves and provide contactless grocery distribution by masked and gloved volunteers and staff.

Ebony Ava Harper

Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, Assembly District 7

Coming out as a Black trans woman at an early age, Ebony Ava Harper worked as a community activist, emphasizing the intersectionality between her racial and transgender identity. Currently, she is the Director of California TRANScends, an initiative promoting health and wellness of transgender people throughout the state.



Lindsey R. Liebig

Assemblymember Ken Cooley, Assembly District 8

Lindsey Liebig grew up in Herald and is now the Executive Director of the Sacramento County Farm Bureau. She serves as an elected member of the Herald Fire Protection District, is a commissioner for the Sacramento County Local Area Formation Committee, and is a member of the Delta Protection Commission Advisory Committee.

Marie Jachino

Assemblymember Jim Cooper, Assembly District 9

Marie Jachino is most notably known for her work with the Elk Grove Food Bank. She started volunteering with the Food Bank after she retired and was quickly recruited to serve on the Board of Directors from 2004 to 2006. In 2007, she accepted the position of Interim Executive Director. Marie now serves as the Food Bank's Executive Director, a position she's held since February 2008.





Susan Gilmore

Assemblymember Marc Levine, Assembly District 10

Susan Gilmore is President and CEO of the North Bay Children's Center which provides comprehensive high-quality child care and early education programs. Susan also chairs the Petaluma Health Action Cradle to Career work group, and is actively involved on committees for Sonoma and Marin Counties on establishing strategies that support early education investments.

Michelle Strand

Assemblymember Jim Frazier, Assembly District 11

Michelle Strand is a small business owner and the president of Interstate 80 Forklifts, Inc. in Vacaville. Between running her company, providing scholarships to organizations in and around Solano County, and volunteering for a variety of causes in the county, Michelle is continually supporting and helping others.



Heather Green

Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua, Assembly District 13

Heather Green, Executive Director of Oasis City Center, has overseen the distribution of over one million pounds of essential household items – food, water, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, etc. – to 250,000 individuals and over 50,000 families in the greater Stockton area since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Latressa Wilson Alford

Assemblymember Timothy S. Grayson, Assembly District 14

Latressa Wilson Alford, J.D., is a long time resident of Vallejo, CA, and a strong community supporter. She serves as the State Director of Legislative Education and Policy for BWOPA, is an Adjunct professor, lecturing throughout the Bay Area, and started the First Mile, Last Mile transit program in Richmond.



Miriam Wong

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, Assembly District 15

Miriam Wong is the co-founder and Executive Director of The Latina Center, an organization dedicated to improving the health of Latina women and their families in the Bay Area. A believer in “service above self,” Miriam is a passionate community leader and change maker, who works daily to help her community thrive.

Suzan W. Bateson

Assistant Speaker pro Tempore Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Assembly District 16

Suzan Bateson has been the Executive Director of ACCFB since 2001. During her tenure, the Food Bank has grown its annual budget to more than \$20M; tripled its roster of employees; and more than quadrupled its annual food distribution, earning it the Feeding America’s National Food Bank of the Year in 2016.





Dr. Jian Zhang

Assemblymember David Chiu, Assembly District 17

Dr. Zhang has been the CEO of the Chinese Hospital System since 2017 and has over 20 years of experience in the healthcare profession. Throughout the pandemic, Dr. Zhang has led Chinese Hospital to safeguard the community by implementing a comprehensive COVID-19 initiative consisting of bilingual community education and outreach.

Alicia Garza

Assemblymember Rob Bonta, Assembly District 18

As an organizer, writer, and activist, Alicia Garza is a powerful voice and leading advocate for equity, justice, and empowerment. She is the co-founder of the Black Lives Matter Global Network and Supermajority, the Principal of Black Futures Lab, and Strategy & Partnerships Director for the National Domestic Workers Alliance.



Diane Havlir, M.D.

Assemblymember Phil Ting, Assembly District 19

Diane Havlir, M.D., is a Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. Her research focuses on strategies to address pandemics such as HIV, TB, and COVID-19. Dr. Havlir led UCSF's efforts, in partnership with organizations like the Latino Task Force, to set up COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites in San Francisco's predominately-Latinx Mission District.

Dr. Erica Pan

Assemblymember Bill Quirk, Assembly District 20

Dr. Erica Pan, Deputy Director of the Center for Infectious Diseases and State Epidemiologist, served as Acting State Public Health Officer August 10, 2020 to January 3, 2021. Pan, a Health Officer since July 2018, also served as Deputy Health Officer at the Alameda County Public Health Department since 2011.



Alicia Rodriguez

Assemblymember Adam Gray, Assembly District 21

Active in Planada and the greater Merced community since youth, Alicia Rodriguez has always put families first by providing care and assistance to those in need. As President of the local St. Vincent de Paul chapter, she advocates for local farm laborers. Recently, her efforts have been focused on raising and providing financial and food support for those in need. Alicia can be counted on to be the voice of those who are forgotten.

Rosanne Foust

Speaker pro Tempore Kevin Mullin, Assembly District 22

Ms. Foust is a leading voice of the business community in San Mateo County and across the Bay Area. She directs conversations important to maintaining a strong economy, attracting and retaining employers, and creating partnerships between business and government.





Lorna Roush

Assemblymember Jim Patterson, Assembly District 23

Lorna Schultz Roush is a fifth-generation family farmer. She is a wife, mother, grandmother, and a tireless advocate for agriculture. Her dedication to the Central Valley led her to start what has become a powerful grassroots effort demanding the completion of a dangerous state highway.

Julie Lythcott-Haims

Assemblymember Marc Berman, Assembly District 24

Julie Lythcott-Haims is a NYT bestselling author whose critically-acclaimed and award-winning memoir *Real American* depicts her experiences with racism and microaggressions. Since the killing of George Floyd, Julie has spoken widely throughout the district, California, and nationwide on the imperative to treat Black and brown people with dignity and kindness. She resides in Palo Alto.



Jinky Peralta

Assemblymember Alex Lee, Assembly District 25

Jinky Peralta, a resident of Milpitas, is the founder and Executive Director of Sleeping Bags for the Homeless of Silicon Valley. They deliver meals, toiletries, and sleeping bags to the unhoused every week. Jinky works for Stanford Healthcare and has played a critical role as a frontline worker during COVID-19.

Elizabeth Wynn

Assemblymember Devon J. Mathis, Assembly District 26

Elizabeth Wynn's commitment to bless her community through service is inspiring. She strengthens the Valley as she works for everyone's right to access to health care, food, shelter, and education. She currently serves as the Director of the Kaweah Delta Hospital Foundation in Visalia where she lives with her husband.



Jean Cohen

Assemblymember Ash Kalra, Assembly District 27

Jean Cohen was born and raised in San Jose, California. She has spent her professional career in local government, the labor movement, and the nonprofit sector to empower working people and build social and economic justice through policy and organizing. She is currently the Political and Communications Director for UA Local Union 393, which represents 3,000 construction workers in Santa Clara and San Benito Counties.

Leslee Guardino

Assemblymember Evan Low, Assembly District 28

Leslee Guardino is a prominent leader in Silicon Valley with over two decades of leadership experience in the corporate and nonprofit sectors. She is Co-Founding Principal of Canyon Snow Consulting, Co-Founder of the Silicon Valley Housing Trust, Co-Chair of the Women's High Tech Coalition, and Board Member of Teen Success.





Gail Pellerin

Assemblymember Mark Stone, Assembly District 29

Whether ensuring the highest election integrity at home and abroad, advancing the causes of marriage equality, or advocating for women in leadership roles, Gail Pellerin's long and distinguished tenure in public service has strengthened democracy and love for all citizens, regardless of race, religion, gender identity or sexuality.

Kathleen Zanger Ruiz

Assemblymember Robert Rivas, Assembly District 30

Kathy Ruiz has 50+ years of service to others in Assembly District 30. She has been a lifelong champion of education, a fierce advocate for the empowerment of women, and has spent decades working to uplift the most vulnerable members of our community. Kathy is an inspiration to our district.



Dr. Kathleen Rindahl, DNP, FNP-C

Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula, Assembly District 31

Dr. Kathleen Rindahl, a Fresno State Assistant Professor, is a tireless leader in bringing health services to rural and disadvantaged communities in Fresno County. Her commitment is even more appreciated during the COVID-19 crisis. Leading teams of Fresno State nursing students, Rindahl and the Mobile Health Unit have administered hundreds of vaccinations, providing crucial and indispensable assistance.

Mari Pérez-Dowling

Assemblymember Rudy Salas, Jr., Assembly District 32

Mari Pérez-Dowling is the first Latina President & CEO of United Way of Kern County. Previous to United Way, Mari hosted Community Affairs shows for radio and television, taught English and Spanish to high school students, farmworkers and female inmates. She earned her teaching credential and master's at CSU Bakersfield.



Amy Diane Pullen

Assemblymember Thurston “Smitty” Smith, Assembly District 33

Amy Pullen serves as the Chief Nursing Officer at Desert Valley Hospital where she has served the healthcare needs of the 33rd Assembly District with distinction for nearly 20 years. She has been married to Joshua for 24 years and is the mother of Kalee (17) and Caleb (14).

Kimberly Sandoval

Assemblymember Vince Fong, Assembly District 34

Kimberly Sandoval is currently a nurse manager for Dignity Health Memorial Hospital- Bakersfield. She manages 120 employees in the Telemetry Unit, which has been the main unit that transitioned to COVID-19 patients since March of 2020. Kimberly has been a nurse since 2010 and is a nurse leader for her hospital.





Thao Carey

Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham,
Assembly District 35

Registered Nurse Thao Carey currently works in Lompoc Valley Medical Center's Critical Care Unit. Thao received the international DAISY Award in February 2021 for her dedication to her work and deep compassion for her patients and has

been recognized by her colleagues for her outstanding work during the pandemic.

Candace Craven

Assemblymember Tom Lackey, Assembly District 36

Candace Craven is high-energy and spirited. She is always looking for ways to improve our community and help her students. Candace loves to take on new projects and she finds success disallowing barriers from stopping implementation of innovative ideas. She has a positive outlook as she views challenges as opportunities.



Dr. Van Do-Reynoso

Assemblymember Steve Bennett, Assembly District 37

Dr. Van Do-Reynoso is the Public Health Director for Santa Barbara County. Dr. Do-Reynoso is committed to working with partners to achieve a healthier and more equitable community for everyone. She is thankful for the amazing Public Health Department and the support from family, friends, and colleagues during the COVID-19 response efforts.

Liz Caddow

Assemblymember Suzette Valladares, Assembly District 38

Liz Caddow is Co-Founder and Headmaster of Trinity Classical Academy, a nonprofit TK-12 Classical Christian private school in Santa Clarita. Trinity began with 28 students in 2001 and now serves over 560 students in grades TK-12 and is one of the largest Classical Christian schools in the nation.



Yvette Lopez-Ledesma Escobedo

Assemblymember Luz M. Rivas, Assembly District 39

As the Urban to Wild Director for The Wilderness Society, Yvette Lopez-Ledesma Escobedo and her team work to advance equitable access to parks and open space. Yvette also serves as a City of Los Angeles Planning Commissioner. She lives in Arleta with her partner Jesse and their two dogs.

Veronica Lynn Arespacochaga Kelley

Assemblymember James C. Ramos, Assembly District 40

Dr. Kelley has been a social worker for the past 29 years. Her passion lies in working with those who are living with a mental illness and/or addiction, with a focus on serving those from diverse cultural backgrounds. Locally, Dr. Kelley is a collaborator, working with many local partners, and is a proponent of the supportive services her department provides, leveraging for the greater good.





Fran Robertson

Assemblymember Chris R. Holden, Assembly District 41

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Fran Robertson, Executive Director of Sowing Seeds for Life transitioned to a contactless drive-thru food pantry and doubled its capacity to serve over 200 thousand people in 2020. Fran provides solutions that address food insecurity and improves the quality of life for many people.

Patricia L. Cummings, PhD, MPH

Assemblymember Chad Mayes, Assembly District 42

Dr. Patricia Cummings is the Director of Epidemiology at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, CA. She received her doctorate in Epidemiology from UCLA and a Master's in Public Health from USC. For the past year she has dedicated her efforts to COVID-19 emergency response for the hospital and community.



Emelda Pasco

Assemblymember Laura Friedman, Assembly District 43

Emelda is a registered nurse with 32 years of experience, and has been with Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center in Burbank for 30 years. Coworkers describe her as a caring, loving person, calling her "the Mother of Nursing". Emelda stands out for her steadfast dedication to her patients and community.

Dr. Irene G. Pinkard

Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, Assembly District 44

Dr. Irene Pinkard, Executive Director of the Pinkard Youth Institute (a nonprofit organization), was former Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Oxnard and a former Trustee for the Oxnard Union High School District. She is a well-known and respected educator in Ventura County where she has been an active advocate for youth.



Lisa Kodimer

Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, Assembly District 45

Lisa Kodimer is the Co-founder and Executive Director of Connecting a Caring Community, a nonprofit organization empowering hundreds of participants by inspiring and mobilizing the community to live a life of giving. The organization has focused on the COVID-19 crisis by supporting front-line hospital workers and assisting communities with remote learning resources.

Dr. Yen Ang

Majority Leader Eloise Gómez Reyes, Assembly District 47

Dr. Yen Ang is the SNAP-Ed Program Assistant Director at the San Bernardino County Public Health Department where she oversees the largest food assistant education program. She also chairs the Department's Anti-Hunger Coalition and the Health Equity Committee. Dr. Ang is the recipient of two National Association of Counties achievement awards for her public health innovations.





Christine Knight

Assemblymember Blanca Rubio, Assembly District 48

Christine Knight is the embodiment of servant leadership. She has served the 48th Assembly District for decades as a small business advocate, teen mentor, PTA president, and planning homeless resource fairs - you name it, Chris has done it. All while caring for her beautiful family of three children and eight grandchildren.

Rose Matsui Ochi

Assemblymember Ed Chau, Assembly District 49

Rose Matsui Ochi was an attorney and advocate for civil rights, criminal justice reform and Japanese American redress. Rose became the first Asian American Woman to serve as a US Assistant Attorney General. She was also the first Asian American Women to serve on the Los Angeles Police Commission.



Betty White

Assemblymember Richard Bloom, Assembly District 50

Betty White is a legend, and now at the age of 99, she shows no signs of slowing down. In a career spanning over 80 years, the seven-time Emmy Award winner has created unforgettable roles in television. She has authored eight books and is a lifelong advocate for animal welfare.

Sandra Figueroa-Villa

Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo, Assembly District 51

Sandra Figueroa-Villa is the longtime Executive Director of El Centro Del Pueblo, an organization that provides services to families in Los Angeles. She was appointed to the Board of Police Commissioners in August of 2013. Figueroa-Villa first became involved in community activism as a student at Roosevelt High in Boyle Heights.



Sarah Crane

Assemblymember Freddy Rodriguez, Assembly District 52

Sarah Crane, MFT, is a case manager and TSE career advisor at Goodwill of Southern California in workforce and community development. Sarah holds a Master's degree in family therapy and African American family studies from Pacific Oaks College. She is from California and is the mother of seven children.

Trinity Tran

Assemblymember Miguel Santiago, Assembly District 53

Trinity Tran is the co-founder of California Public Banking Alliance and Public Bank LA. She is the Executive Director of Urban Partners LA, overseeing one of the largest food banks in California. Trinity is devoted to helping the underserved and transforming the financial system to advance social and economic justice.





Rabbi Sharon Brous

Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager, Assembly District 54

Rabbi Sharon Brous is the senior and founding Rabbi of IKAR, and a leading voice in reanimating religious life in America, working to develop a spiritual roadmap for a soulful, justice-driven, multi-faith ethos in Los Angeles and around the country.

Nell Chen

Assemblymember Phillip Chen, Assembly District 55

Nell Chen is the General Manager of Condor Outdoor Products, Inc. She represents and leads Condor in its mission to produce quality tactical products to help support the needs of members of law enforcement, military and first responders in their service to protect others. During the COVID-19 pandemic, helped Condor donate over one million masks to first responders to support their safety and well-being.



Theresa Mike

Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, Assembly District 56

Theresa Mike, founder of The Theresa A. Mike Scholarship Foundation and member of the Lummi Tribe, has dedicated over 26 years advocating for our community with a special focus on educating indigenous and tribal individuals. We honor her dedication and volunteerism in the 56th Assembly District.

Isabel Garcia

Assemblymember Lisa Calderon, Assembly District 57

Ms. Isabel Garcia is a long time resident of Whittier and an Activities Director at Whittier Hills Healthcare Center-Skilled Nursing Facility. During the pandemic, her dedication to her patient's quality of life and passion to continue inspiring her community persisted and she has been a true inspiration to our community.



Guadalupe Diaz

Assemblymember Cristina Garcia, Assembly District 58
Chair, California Legislative Women's Caucus

Guadalupe Diaz is a retired registered nurse from the City of Pico Rivera within the 58th Assembly District. She has led a life full of service to others through her healthcare profession, local women's community service organizations, scholarship fundraisers, monetary donations, and the adoption of her children.

Norma Diaz

Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer, Sr., Assembly District 59

Norma Diaz is a resident of Walnut Park where she currently offers bilingual DMV classes, etiquette classes, self-defense classes and anti-bullying workshops to the community. She serves as treasurer for the Walnut Park Civic Engagement Project an organization that targets key issues in their community and finds solutions on how to improve the livelihood of all residents.





Fauzia Rizvi

Assemblymember Sabrina Cervantes, Assembly District 60

Fauzia Rizvi is a mother, wife, engineer, small business owner, and community advocate. As a Western Municipal Water District Board Director, she is the Inland Empire's first Muslim-identified elected official. Fauzia's work as co-founder of the nonprofit "For the People Task Force," further embodies her commitment to public service.

Susan Straight

Assemblymember Jose Medina, Assembly District 61

Susan Straight is the author of ten books, a finalist for the National Book Award, winner of the Edgar Prize for Best Mystery Story, and a Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing at the University of California, Riverside. She was born in Riverside and lives there with her family.



Dionne Faulk

Assemblymember Autumn Burke, Assembly District 62

Dionne Faulk is the first African-American woman to be elected and the second woman seated on the Inglewood City Council. She is committed to this great City of Inglewood that is cutting-edge, resilient, and progressive. As Councilwoman, she will fight for sustainable jobs, affordable housing, a balanced budget, and make decisions that are responsive to the needs of Inglewood residents.

Audrey Casas

Speaker Anthony Rendon, Assembly District 63

Audrey Casas is a proud wife, mother of two, English teacher, and a fierce community organizer. When she is not teaching, Audrey is organizing events that provide direct services to her community. In the last year, Audrey fundraised over \$80,000 that was donated to families that were impacted by the pandemic.



Candace Leos

Assemblymember Mike Gipson, Assembly District 64

Candace Leos, Founder and Executive Director of Compton Advocates Coalition was born and raised in the City of Compton. Through her nonprofit, she has successfully brought forth resources and organized events that cultivate unity and increase civic engagement within the community.

Theresa Harvey

Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva, Assembly District 65

Theresa Harvey has served as President and CEO of North Orange County Chamber since 2005. A graduate of California State University, Fullerton, she has served her community for many years. Harvey has been recognized and received numerous awards and distinctions as a community leader and business woman.





Joeann Valle

Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, Assembly District 66

Joeann Valle was a community activist that left a legacy of community service. Seeking to make a lasting impact, she founded the Harbor City Neighborhood Council, Boys and Girls Club of the South Bay, and Friends of Liberty. Her selfless devotion to Harbor City, Harbor Gateway, and Lomita was inspirational to the South Bay community.

Kimberley Summers

Assemblymember Kelly Seyarto, Assembly District 67

Kimberley Summers has dedicated herself to the local government profession for over 20 years. She currently serves as the City Manager for Murrieta, where she has earned a stellar reputation of being an engaged leader with a hand-on approach who has built a culture of transparency and commitment to ethics.



Carolyn Cavecche

Assemblymember Steven S. Choi, Assembly District 68

Carolyn Cavecche has served as president and CEO of the Orange County Taxpayers Association since 2012. Prior to 2012, Carolyn served six years as mayor of the City of Orange and six years as Orange City Council Member. Carolyn has served on the Orange County Transportation Authority, Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink), Orange County Sanitation District, and Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency.

Valerie Amezcua

Assemblymember Tom Daly, Assembly District 69

Valerie Amezcua is a Santa Ana Unified School District Trustee serving the students and families of Santa Ana. Valerie played a key role in the expansion of Mental Health services throughout the school district. She works tirelessly to address school safety issues and supports providing each school with the tools necessary to ensure students' success.



Martha Deichler

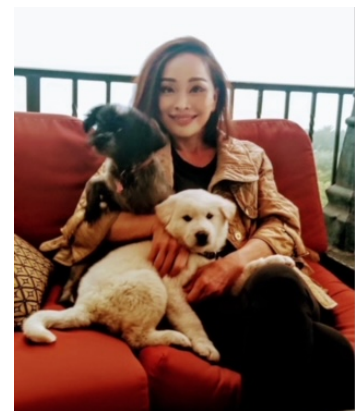
Assemblymember Randy Voepel, Assembly District 71

Martha is retired from the Borrego Springs Unified School District but remains on the board. She serves on many boards in the valley and is always available to give someone a ride to get a vaccine, test, feed a cat, etc. She donates her time selflessly and generously.

Monique Huong Thien Le

Assemblymember Janet Nguyen, Assembly District 72

Monique Le is a physician, board certified in anesthesiology and internal medicine. For the past decade, her passion has been the Vietnamese Physician Association of Southern California Foundation. She is one of its founders and helped the organization grow from a social professional group into a charitable foundation.





Sherri Lex

Assemblymember Laurie Davies, Assembly District 73

Sherri Lex's dedication to her community is beyond reproach. Sherri is a successful realtor by day and local food bank volunteer by night. After many local food pantries closed during COVID-19, the RSM Cares Food Pantry took the initiative to pick up the slack to serve hundreds of additional families. Sherri's leadership and community outreach has positively affected so many especially the senior community who have been so isolated during COVID-19.

Barbara Finlayson-Pitts

Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris, Assembly District 74

Professor Finlayson-Pitts is an inspiring leader, who has organized major research initiatives at UC Irvine. She has formed and served as a director of the AirUCI Institute, the mission of which is to "address urgent challenges we face in air and water quality, human health, climate change, and green technology through the integration of research, education, and outreach".



Lila MacDonald

Minority Leader Marie Waldron, Assembly District 75

Lila has helped shape the Fallbrook community for decades. She has served as President of several local PTAs, on many nonprofit committees including Fallbrook Food Pantry, on several County Revitalization and Public Safety Committees, and even served as the 2011 Fallbrook Honorary Mayor. She is currently the Fallbrook Chamber CEO.

Jacqueline "Kiki" Bispo

Assemblymember Tasha Boerner Horvath, Assembly District 76

Kiki's passion in life is being a social justice activist through education, love, and community building. Throughout her education career, she has steadily focused on elevating student success. Kiki is the Lead for the Family & Community Engagement Network at Vista Unified School District; a community network she designed herself.



Valerie Brown

Assemblymember Brian Maienschein, Assembly District 77

Valerie Brown, Senior Program Adviser for United Policyholders, is an experienced nonprofit professional. She coordinated the community's long-term disaster recovery efforts in the aftermath of the October 2007 Witch Creek Wildfire, which destroyed over 1,500 homes. Brown's passion for service spans from disaster relief, community outreach and beyond.

Patty Maysent

Assemblymember Christopher Ward, Assembly District 78

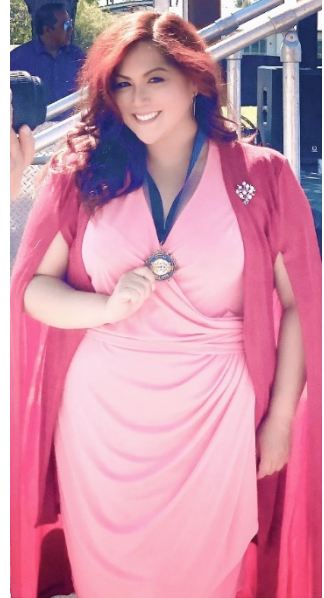
Patty Maysent is Chief Executive Officer of UC San Diego Health. Appointed CEO in 2016, she oversees a \$2 billion annual operating budget and more than 9,000 employees. Bringing a wealth of experience in leadership and strategic planning to her role, Maysent has focused on growth and expansion — enhancing UC San Diego Health's reputation as a health care destination for complex specialty care and local, community-based care.



Francine Mague

Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez, Assembly District 80

"The Face of Global Pinay Power" and "1 of the 100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the World," Francine Mague received her master's from Harvard University and bachelor's from UCLA. Francine is an accomplished leader, activist, educator, author, artist and poet, who's served as District Director for the 80th Assembly District for over seven years, producing innovative programs for diverse communities.



Honoree Biographies

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Kristy Lanham

Kristy is a fifth-generation Shasta County native and serves as the North Sierra Community Relations Manager for Sierra Pacific Industries. After graduating with honors as a tri-star athlete from Foothill High School, Kristy attended Saint Mary's College of California on a full ride academic scholarship. In addition, she played NCAA Women's Division 1 Softball for the Gaels. Kristy holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration with a minor in Organizational Leadership, as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science. She began her career in the public sector in 2002, while living overseas in Italy with her husband Tyler who was serving with the United States Air Force. As a civilian employee for the Department of Defense in Europe, she quickly found her passion for creating partnerships and working to enhance their local community.

Kristy continued in this direction when she and her husband returned to Redding in 2007. She worked in the financial services industry for two years before being sworn-in as a Shasta County Deputy County Clerk where she coordinated countywide elections at the Shasta County Clerk/Elections Office. She later worked in the County Support Services Department and supported the Personnel, Risk Management and Purchasing Divisions, in addition to serving as the County Volunteer Coordinator. Kristy made the transition to City Hall in 2011, where she worked for the City of Redding-starting in the Finance Department and later promoting into the Personnel Department. In 2013, she was honored as one of Shasta County's Top 20 Under 40 Young Professionals. Kristy was hired by Sierra Pacific Industries in early 2018, where she works in Corporate Affairs and Community Relations throughout the ten northern most counties in California.

Kristy has been honored to serve as a Board of Director for various community organizations and philanthropic associations. Kristy has served on the Board of Directors for One Safe Place since 2012. She has been an active member of the Rotary Club of Redding since 2010 and served as the Board of Director for Youth Services from 2013-2015. She is enjoying her current terms on the Shasta Family YMCA as well as the Reach Higher Shasta Board of Directors, and joined the Shasta County Economic Development Corporation in the Spring of 2019.

Married to Tyler for over seventeen years, they love living in Northern California and raising their two children, Ashlynn and Cooper, in their hometown. Their family takes full advantage of the outdoors and the gorgeous landscape here in upstate California. Kristy is dedicated to stimulating economic growth and opportunities in Northern California, especially in the forestry and timber products industry, through forming partnerships that enhance and develop our community.

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Debra Kubin

Debra Kubin, Superintendent for the Ukiah Unified School District since 2012, has 29 years of experience in education.

Debra was raised in Mendocino County and attended Willits schools, graduating at the top of her class. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Davis, and earned her two teaching credentials and master's degree from San Diego State University. She began her career teaching middle school language arts and high school leadership prior to moving into administration.

Debra has served as President of the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Mendocino County Chapter, is currently serving as the Region 4 representative to the ACSA Superintendent's Council, and has served on various state education committees. She has been honored as a California League of Middle Schools Teacher of the Year finalist, Marin County ACSA Secondary Principal of the Year and Mendocino County ACSA Superintendent of the Year.

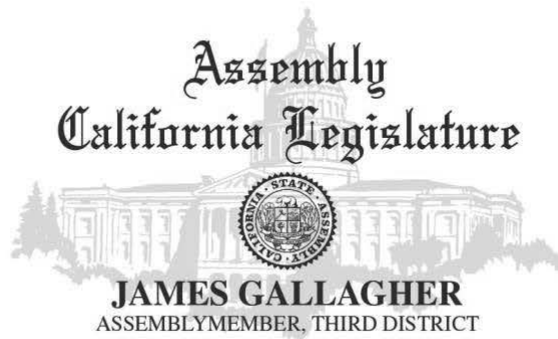
Debra has spent her entire professional career in public education and is passionate about ensuring that students have a well-rounded education focused on quality instruction, inclusion and high standards. She explores innovative ways to improve student achievement and sets high expectations for principals and other school leaders. Over the last several years she has modernized the disciplinary system, reducing expulsions and suspensions.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, every Wednesday for 12 straight hours, Debra and her amazing team at Ukiah Unified have distributed food to more than 2,000 children at drive-thru events. They also provide weekly deliveries to students whose families are in isolation or quarantine. More than 2.2 million meals have been provided since March. They have worked hard to create special events around the holidays including a Labor Day BBQ drive-thru, Halloween pumpkin distribution, and holiday food boxes for families to cook their own complete turkey dinner. Her dedication goes beyond the students in her district to the entire community they live in.

Debra is the proud mother of three teenagers.

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Monica Soderstrom

Monica is a long-time public health nurse and serves as the Community Health Division Director for the Butte County Department of Public Health. Monica oversees many programs within that division including, but not limited to: Communicable Disease Control, California Children Services, Public Health Clinics, Public Health Laboratory, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health, Foster Care Nursing Program, Adult Protective Services Nursing Program, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Monica has been instrumental in responding to multiple wildfires, including the most devastating Camp Fire, a measles outbreak, and of course most recently the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to all of the duties involved in the Public Health Division, Monica stepped up over one year ago to serve as the COVID-19 Response Operations Section Chief. She has worked tirelessly throughout the response to the pandemic to maintain regular public health services in her division and ensure Butte County has effective and efficient testing services, case investigation and contact tracing efforts, data analysis and epidemiological services and many other vital parts of the response. In addition to all of that, Monica is now instrumental in the team planning for and implementing distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Monica serves as the "go to" person for all things nursing related and is a mentor to newer division directors within the Public Health Department. No matter how over-worked she is you can always count on Monica to be polite, courteous and happy to help. She is full of passion for the health of the entire Butte County Community and although it is impossible, seems to have an endless supply of energy when it comes to serving the citizens of the county.

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Joyce Overton

Joyce Overton, a resident of Lake County, California, is dedicated to serving her community in as many ways as possible, to help ensure that every resident has their basic needs met. After living in Lake County as a teenager, Joyce made her home in Clearlake to raise her children in this close-knit community. She believes Clearlake is the most wonderful place to live, and she loves the rural lifestyle of Lake County.

Joyce is the Executive Director of the Highlands Senior Service Center in Clearlake. The Senior Service Center is a valuable lifeline to the older adults of Lake County. The center connects residents to warm meals, in-home support, exercise, socialization, and more. Tragically, Lake County has been devastated by repeated compounding disasters in recent years: wildfires, floods, power shutoffs, and now COVID-19. Joyce and her devoted team at the senior center quickly mobilized each time wildfires threatened homes to stand up an evacuation and recovery shelter at the Senior Service Center. The center has been a critical energy source during extended power shutoffs during high fire risk periods. Joyce has also organized COVID-19 vaccine distributions at the center. The Highlands Senior Service Center has quickly become the hub for information and assistance during emergencies in Lake County, and Joyce is at the core of it all.

In addition to her work in the nonprofit sector, Joyce was elected to the Clearlake City Council in 2004. She has served as Mayor three times and Vice Mayor twice. Joyce has been instrumental in moving the City of Clearlake into the 21st century and has continued to lead the city through this difficult year.

Joyce loves volunteering to help her community even further. She is the co-founder of Clearlake Youth Service and actively raised funds to rebuild the skate park at Austin Park. She is the founder of the Warm for the Winter program, providing coats, winter clothing, blankets, and other necessities to those in need. Joyce adamantly believes in giving back to the community, and looks for the gaps that need to be filled. She is a fierce advocate for our most vulnerable neighbors that need support, including our children, veterans, those who are physically or developmentally disabled, and our seniors.

Joyce has certificates in accounting, management and management training. Joyce's career extends from restaurant management, business ownership, and corporate management. She enjoys helping businesses become successful by offering her expertise for free to new entrepreneurs.

Joyce is a native Californian and has three beautiful grown children. In her spare time, Joyce most enjoys the peacefulness of the outdoors and loves to relax within nature. I am immensely proud to honor Joyce Overton as the 2021 Woman of the Year for Assembly District 4.

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Dianne Fritz

Dianne Fritz has been a dedicated community member in Mariposa County for many years. In 2004, she was elected to the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors and served as Vice-Chair for the Mariposa County Local Transportation Commission. She worked wholeheartedly on county projects such as the Yosemite West Community Planning and Recreational Sports Complex. She helped deal with the Flood Disaster in March of 2005 and the Ferguson Rock Slide Disaster in 2006. She worked on economic development issues such as improvements on community parks, health care, and she fought the closure of the Mount Bullion Youth Conservation Camp. With her witty sense of humor and genuine commitment to the community, she served on the Board of Supervisors until 2008.

Before she was a supervisor, she and her husband created Happy Burger Diner which has been open since 1995. It is the type of place people go to spend quality family time and enjoy a freshly cooked meal. Being a small business owner during the COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenge with having to handle the uncertainties of everyday life, but she has managed to keep the community's spirits up by creating different ways to serve her community and keep her doors open. Moving her business to outdoor dining and take out only, she still offers "Canteen Coffee Time" for veterans and their spouses to receive free coffee or tea. Dianne even has a special doggie dining area for people to dine with their pets. Family and community engagement are both things Dianne is passionate about.

In her free time Dianne enjoys spending time with her children Darci, Joshua, Vikki and Elissa and their spouses along with her grandchildren. Not only is she a great cook, but her hobbies include needle crafts and sewing.

Dianne Fritz is an outstanding community member and continues to strive to help the people around her.

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Lisa Tuter

Lisa Tuter was named executive director of Folsom's Twin Lakes Food Bank in 2018. It is part of a continuum of faith and service that have been part of her life since childhood, but were jarred into perspective when she survived the blast of a bomb that killed her boss in 1995. Tuter had just left a conversation with Gilbert Murray, the president of the California Forestry Association and was about 20 feet away when he unwittingly opened a bomb sent by Unabomber Ted Kaczynski.

Tuter was 25 years old, pregnant with a bright future before her, but was suddenly thrust into an emotional bubble, thinking about her own mortality. As a woman of faith, it prompted her to ponder deeper questions about her role in her family, the community and the world. And it prompted her to change her life and career. She reckoned with God, "thank you for sparing me and my baby. Now what do you want me to do?"

Her daughter was born and Tuter became a full-time mother who participated in a Bible study that led to a volunteer role as a teaching director to 200 women. Her son was born in 1998 and she spent another seven years leading Community Bible Study. Wanting to continue to minister to others, serve her community and fulfill her calling, she joined Folsom's Lakeside Church as an adult ministry pastor in 2011. She worked on the pastoral staff at the church until taking the leadership role at Twin Lakes Food Bank.

Throughout her journey, she developed a philosophy of relational discipleship, "working on your own faith to become more like Christ, and in doing so, becoming a living reflection of him in the world," she said. It is a philosophy she employs as a defining mission of Twin Lakes Food Bank.

"Twin Lakes Food Bank was always meant to be an extension of the church," she said. "We serve those in need. Period." Our strong team of staff and volunteers are developing and implementing innovative programs and services while collaborating with constituent groups including the food bank's clients, community leaders and board of directors.

Tuter is adept at leading organizations through periods of substantial growth and transition, which came into play at the onset of the pandemic and will be tested again as the organization's building committee works to move the food bank to a larger and better-equipped facility to serve the region's growing needs. "We are bursting at the seams here," Tuter said in reference to the current operations in a modified duplex on Montrose Way in Folsom.

Twin Lakes Food Bank regularly serves almost 2,000 people, including 800 or more children, each month and Tuter said challenging times such as the pandemic "reveal the awesome generosity of our community. We couldn't be doing what we are doing without the support and donations from our community, volunteers and church partners."

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Ebony Ava Harper

Ebony Ava Harper is a first generation American born in Prince Georges County, Maryland, to her family of Jamaican descent. During her early childhood, Harper's family relocated to Los Angeles, California, where she spent the first 27 years of her life. Having come out as a Black trans woman at an early age, Ebony began working as an activist in the trans community, emphasizing the importance of the intersectionality between her racial and transgender identity. Over the years she has transitioned from a trans activist to a human rights activist, making a difference for marginalized communities both on a local and national level.

Experience working at Project Angel Food and the Los Angeles Youth Network propelled Harper into a staff position at Children of the Night in Van Nuys, California. It was at this nonprofit, focused on rescuing children from the devastation and trauma of human trafficking and prostitution, where Harper learned community-based outreach and how to apply her lived experience as a Peer Counselor. Harper dedicated her time to helping homeless youth experiencing many of the same disadvantages and tribulations she navigated during her childhood.

Continuing her advocacy work, Harper made her way to Sacramento where she began working at the Gender Health Center as the PrEP Coordinator. Driven by her passion to dismantle systems of oppression as well as improve the quality of life for all living beings, Harper has continued her activism working at the local and national level addressing gender justice, climate justice, disability justice, and race equity.

In 2019, Harper left the California Endowment to step into her current role as the Director of California TRANScends. This statewide initiative works to promote the health and wellness of transgender people throughout the state. She's one of the recipients of the 2019 Stonewall Four Freedoms Award, the first-ever trans person to host the 2019 State Capitol Tree Lighting ceremony with Governor Gavin Newsom, and served as the 2019 Grand Marshal of Sacramento's Pride Parade.

Harper has been a speaker and facilitator at the Global Alliance for Banking on Values Summit in Vancouver, written articles for Forbes and other news sources, been highlighted on NBC and other media outlets, and serves as the newest board member for the Transgender Law Center.

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Lindsey Liebig

Lindsey is the executive director of the Sacramento County Farm Bureau, a nonprofit organization representing farmers and ranchers in Sacramento County.

Previously, Lindsey was a Program Director at the California Farm Bureau, where she managed all aspects of the Young Farmers & Ranchers and Leadership Farm Bureau programs, including committee management, conference and event planning, and leadership development. She also assisted with membership services including membership demographics and recruitment and retention efforts.

Lindsey earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business from California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo. She is active in volunteering, and is an elected member of the Herald Fire Protection District Board of Directors and President of the Sacramento Farm Bureau Foundation for Ag Education. She is a commissioner for the Sacramento County Local Area Formation Committee, and is a member of the Delta Protection Commission Advisory Committee, the Delta Stakeholder Engagement Committee, and the Delta Conveyance Design & Construction Authority. On a national level, she is the president of the Sigma Alpha Educational Foundation and past national president of Sigma Alpha Sorority.

Lindsey lives on her extended family's farm in southern Sacramento County, where they grow wine grapes. She enjoys traveling with her family and spoiling her nieces. She oversees her late father's scholarship fund, providing financial assistance to Galt Future Farmers of America for student and leadership development, including SAE projects and judging team assistance. It is with great honor to introduce Lindsey Liebig as Woman of the Year for Assembly District 8 in 2021.

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Marie Jachino

Marie Jachino is most notably known for her work with the Elk Grove Food Bank. She started volunteering with the Food Bank after she retired and was quickly recruited to serve on the Board of Directors, which she did from 2004 to 2006. In 2007, she accepted the position of Interim Executive Director. Marie now serves as the Food Bank's Executive Director, a position she's held since February 2008.

Under Marie's leadership, the Food Bank has expanded its reach from two programs to fourteen programs – being ever vigilant to ensure that the most vulnerable of our neighbors receive the services that they need. Services offered at the Food Bank now include those for seniors, children, homeless, disabled, veterans, and those unemployed residents in Elk Grove and south Sacramento County. Thanks to her perseverance, a much-needed new facility will be built in the coming months, allowing the Food Bank to dramatically increase its capacity and impact. In 2020, the Food Bank served the equivalent of more than 1,111,000 meals.

Marie has lived in Elk Grove for 40 years. She has been a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church for 37 years and active with St. Vincent de Paul Society. Marie is the mother of two adult sons, Brent and Shawn, whom she considers to be her greatest accomplishments.

Marie earned her bachelor's degree in Social Work from California State University, Sacramento, where she also attended graduate school.

Ms. Jachino retired from the California Department of Aging. She then went on to work as a geriatric social worker/care manager and facilitator of Alzheimer's caregiver support groups for Alzheimer's Aid Society and the Northern California Alzheimer's Association for nine years.

Marie is a past member of the National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers and has served on the Board of Directors for the Greater Sacramento Alzheimer's Association, the Elk Grove Community Garden, Uplift Elk Grove, and on the Board of Trustees for the Stanford Home for Children. She has recently served on the City of Elk Grove's Provisions Task Force and is currently serving on the Elk Grove Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force. Marie was a panel member for the University of Michigan's Food Supply Chain Project last year.

Other volunteer work includes ombudsman services of Northern California, Sacramento Hospice Consortium, Loaves and Fishes, California Senior Games, Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, and the Senior Center of Elk Grove.

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Susan Gilmore

Susan Gilmore is President and CEO of the North Bay Children's Center (NBCC), which provides comprehensive high-quality childcare and early education programs. Recognizing the need for year-round childcare services for working families in Marin County, Susan founded NBCC in 1986 serving sixty children.

Her education program was the first in the North Bay to provide subsidies for infants and toddlers to help families get back into the workforce and be able to live and work in the Bay Area. Today, the organization serves close to 500 children across Sonoma and Marin Counties.

Susan serves on various boards and commissions throughout the North Bay further linking NBCC to numerous resources. Susan Chairs the Petaluma's Health Action Cradle to Career work group, serves on the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) consortiums for Marin and Sonoma County, and is actively involved on committees for both counties on establishing strategies that support early education investments. Susan's ability to make connections, network and build relationships with different community sectors creates a win-win situation for all involved. Her entrepreneurial spirit and passion inspires those around her, and encourages collaboration toward system change.

In 2011, the Heart of Marin recognized Susan for Excellence in Leadership. In 2012, she was recognized by CBS 5 and KCBS Radio and was named a Jefferson Awards recipient. And in 2013, Susan received the Nonprofit Leadership Award from the North Bay Business Journal. She holds a degree in Child Development and has more than 35 years of experience in the child development field.

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Michelle Strand

Michelle Strand is a native Californian, was born at Travis Air Force Base, is a small business owner, a community leader, a mother, and is a current resident of Vacaville.

Michelle spent most of her career in the construction industry, which ultimately led her to her journey as a small business owner of Interstate 80 Forklift, Inc. in 2008.

As a certified small business in California, Interstate 80 Forklift, Inc. services the needs of general contractors, subcontractors and government agencies in Northern and Central California with rentals and repairs. Interstate 80 Forklift, Inc. also sells off heavy construction equipment and provides equipment transportation.

While Michelle puts in long hours as the business owner, she also has other interests outside of work. One in particular is training for Spartan Races, and another is volunteering and supporting local fundraising events. As she puts it, "I've never met a fundraiser I didn't like."

Michelle and her company sponsor and support a variety of local organizations including: the Vacaville Performing Arts, the Solano Land Trust, Solano Foster Care (Court Appointed Special Advocate), Opportunity House for the reduction of homelessness, and Loop the Lagoon- a fun fundraising event for the Vacaville Public Education Foundation.

Michelle's community involvement and great joy for giving herself and her time to worthy charities and organizations, and sponsoring local events is a personal commitment that she makes with a thankful, grateful heart and without hesitation.

Between running her company, providing scholarships to organizations in and around Solano County, and volunteering for a variety of causes in the county, Michelle keeps herself busy helping others. She believes when one supports local non-profits and businesses, you are supporting and strengthening our community.

Today I am proud to name Michelle Strand as the 11th District Woman of the Year.

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Heather Green

Heather Green is the Executive Director at Oasis City Center. Oasis Cares is a nonprofit program that launched on February 26, 2020 under Oasis City Center with the intentions of being a small program that supplied local students with snacks throughout the week. However, like the rest of the nation, they were forced to quickly adjust their strategies as we learned to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Immediately after closing their doors to the public on March 17, 2020, they established a drive-thru food distribution that provided staple pantry items. These items ranged from food to essential supplies like toilet paper, water and cleaning products. As executive director, Heather oversees the general functions of Oasis Cares' distributions. She works with community partners to maximize outreach efforts to provide for as many in the community as possible.

Coming into nearly a full year of shut-downs and business safety restrictions, thousands of families are now reaching out for help – some never imagined they would be in a situation where they wouldn't be able to afford these essential household items. Under the leadership of Heather, Oasis Cares has used their distribution center to provide food, resources, and hope to roughly 250,000 individuals and over 50,000 families while giving away over one million pounds of product. Over 15,000 cars have been served, sometimes waiting in over two-hour long lines to receive aid, showing the devastating effects so many are feeling from this pandemic.

The work that Heather and the Oasis City Center have done this past year represents humanity at its best. They have helped to provide essential aid and hope to their neighbors and community at large during what many would consider, the most difficult time of their life. My office and the rest of Assembly District 13 are extremely grateful for their efforts.

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Latressa Wilson Alford, J.D.

Latressa Wilson Alford, J.D. is a member of the Napa-Solano Chapter of Black Woman Organized for Political Action (BWOPA) and serves as its Chapter Vice President. She serves on BWOPA's State Board as its State Director of Legislative Education and Policy and has been awarded the organization's highest honor, the Ella Hill Hutch Award.

Latressa is Senior Campaign Advisor for U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Lee, 13th Congressional District. She previously served as Senior Aide to Congressman George Miller for 15 years until his retirement in 2015. Latressa is highly respected for her success to help get black women elected to office and is a co-founder of California Black Women's Collective – a statewide initiative to support women in elected and appointed offices.

As CEO of the firm L. Wilson Alford & Associates, she provides community engagement services and assists agencies seeking to work on issues of diversity and inclusion. She recently assisted the City of Richmond to reach underserved communities with its innovative First Mile, Last Mile Transportation Strategic Plan.

A resident of Vallejo, Latressa serves on the board of the Community Democratic Club and is Vice-Chair of the City of Vallejo Design Review Board. In 2019, Latressa collaborated with a team of diverse women to draw the winning map for the first-ever District elections in Vallejo.

A strong advocate for promoting and protecting the performing arts, Latressa Wilson was inducted into the Bay Area Blues Hall of Fame in 2013.

Latressa is also an adjunct professor and a featured lecturer on law and public policy throughout the Bay Area, which has included the School of Nursing at Touro University.

Latressa has a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from New College/JFK University, School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from San Jose State University and is the proud mother of three daughters.

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Miriam Wong

Miriam Wong is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of The Latina Center, an organization dedicated to improving the physical, mental, and spiritual health of Latina women and their families in West Contra Costa County and the broader Bay Area region. Located in Richmond, The Latina Center's mission is to improve the quality of life and health of the Latino community by providing leadership and personal development opportunities for all Latinas.

In 2000, Miriam started Mujer, Salud y Liderazgo (MSL) out of her own living room, connecting Latina women together to build peer support and increase opportunities for Latina women in our community. The program grew into a one-year leadership development and community service program that has graduated more than 420 women as peer leaders. MSL was a life-changing experience for Miriam Wong, and had a profound impact on the lives of the women who participated. They were able to successfully build immeasurable skills and confidence through the program, and use what they learned to bring change to their communities.

During the past 21 years since its founding, The Latina Center has expanded exponentially under Miriam's leadership – outgrowing two different office locations, and increasing the number of staff, volunteers, programs offered, and number of women and families they serve. Miriam is the proud purveyor of hope to more than 500 individuals who participate in the Center's parenting education courses, and an example to the students who partake in their leadership training and Young Latina Future Leaders Program in Richmond Middle and High Schools. The Latina Center also supports 100 small business and micro-enterprise entrepreneurs with their Richmond Economic Development program, and works to improve physical health and well-being by educating the community on HIV, breast cancer, and diabetes.

Despite humbling challenges, Miriam remains inspired by the successes of the families that The Latina Center has helped, and the more than 10,000 residents their programs have reached. She also gives credit to the foundations, individual donors, private businesses, and government agencies who have provided financial support and in-kind donations to support her organization's community-centered programs. A believer in "service above self," Miriam Wong is a passionate community leader and change maker in the Bay Area, who works daily to help her community thrive.

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Suzan W. Bateson

Suzan W. Bateson has been the Executive Director of Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) since 2001. During her two-decade tenure, the Food Bank has grown its annual budget from \$3.75M to more than \$20M; established a permanent headquarters site in Oakland; tripled its roster of employees; and more than quadrupled its annual food distribution – with a target of more than 52 million pounds this fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. The organization’s success and bold approach earned it Feeding America’s National Food Bank of the Year in 2016, and numerous other recognitions.

In 2020, faced with a dramatic rise in food insecurity due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, Suzan led her organization to expand services in the 16th Assembly District. Leveraging established community partnerships, Suzan led ACCFB to establish a drive-thru distribution site at the County Fairgrounds in June 2020. To date, the site has served 105,295 clients from 27,880 households. Under Suzan’s tenure, ACCFB has expanded its reach and scope of food distribution into the Tri-Valley area, partly due to the Policy & Partnerships Department’s deep engagement with the Tri-Valley Anti-Poverty Collaborative, a cross-sector collaboration formed to address issues of hidden poverty in the Tri-Valley Area.

In 2020, Suzan received Feeding America’s prestigious John van Hengel Fellowship, awarded to one food bank leader annually in recognition of their local impact, national influence, commitment, and entrepreneurial spirit in hunger relief. Suzan is also a 2017 inductee into the Alameda County Women’s Hall of Fame, which honors local outstanding women for their contributions to the community. She is currently chair of Feeding America’s Western Region and serves on the Feeding America Ending Hunger advisory committee. Suzan has formerly served as both board chair and board member of the California Association of Food Banks and was formerly a member of Feeding America’s Policy Engagement and Advocacy Committee.

Suzan attended California College of the Arts and was a participant in the Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders at Stanford University’s Graduate School of Business. She lives in Moraga with her husband, John and their dog, Coda. In her spare time, she enjoys celebrating just about anything she (and they) can think of with her grown children and grandsons, who all live locally.

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Dr. Jian Zhang, DNP, FNP-BC, NEA-BC, FAAN

Dr. Jian Zhang has been the CEO of the Chinese Hospital System since 2017. Prior to her current role, she served as the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Outpatient & Innovation Officer for the Chinese Hospital. She has over 20 years of experience in business development, operation, marketing, growth, innovation, clinical practice, teaching, and research. She has strong expertise in organizational strategic planning and turnaround, leadership development, team building, healthcare delivery system design, implementation and evaluation, practice modeling and payment design, quality improvement, patient safety, patient experience, and health care regulations.

Dr. Zhang earned her DNP in healthcare system executive leadership at the University of San Francisco (USF) in 2012; a Master's Degree of Science and a Post-Master Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate at UCSF in 1992 and 1996; and a bachelor's degree at Sun Yat-Sen University of Medical Sciences in 1989.

Dr. Zhang strongly promotes population-based, patient-centered health management to improve health and care in an effective and efficient way. She has written numerous grants to bring funding to implement innovative initiatives to improve quality of care and promote well-being of the San Francisco Bay Area Chinese community.

Since January 2020 and in collaboration with the San Francisco Department of Public Health, elected officials, and community leader, Dr. Zhang has been leading Chinese Hospital to safeguard the community through the pandemic by implementing a comprehensive COVID-19 initiative consisting of bilingual community education and outreach, testing, contact tracing, quarantine procedures, and linkage of care and vaccination. These prevention and mitigation efforts have proven successful, as the Chinatown community remains one of the areas with very low infection rates, despite being one of the most densely populated areas in the nation. This successful model was adopted by SFDPH and disseminated to other communities through grants, gaining local and national accolades from the NY Times, San Francisco Chronicle, PBS, KQED, CBS, and several Chinese media outlets.

- CEO, Chinese Hospital and Chinese Community Health Plan, San Francisco
- Associate Clinical Professor, UCSF, School of Nursing
- Professor & Associate Dean, Sun Yat-Sen University, Xinhua College of Nursing, China
- Board President, Chinese Community Health Resource Center
- Board of Director/Treasurer, Jade Medical Group
- Board of Director, San Francisco Health Plan
- Board of Director, NICOS

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Alicia Garza

Alicia Garza believes that Black communities deserve what all communities deserve — to be powerful in every aspect of their lives. An innovator, strategist, and organizer, she co-founded the Black Lives Matter Global Network, an international organizing project dedicated to ending state violence and oppression against Black people.

Garza also founded the Black Futures Lab, an organization that invites Black people to experiment with new ways to build independent, progressive Black political power. In 2018, the Black Futures Lab launched the Black Census Project, the largest survey of Black communities in over 150 years, whose results focus on the economic and criminal justice concerns of Black communities in the U.S. — including special focus on LGB+ voices — and how gender shapes the lived experience of Black people in the U.S.

Garza also serves as Strategy & Partnerships Director and Special Projects Director for the National Domestic Workers Alliance, the nation's premier voice for millions of domestic workers in the U.S., where she works to build a movement at the intersections of race, gender, and the economy.

Garza is also the co-founder of Supermajority, a membership-based home for women's activism that affirms and builds women's power, training and mobilizing a community of all ages, races, and backgrounds to become the most effective advocates they can be and build a more equitable future for all women.

Garza has served in various social-justice leadership positions throughout her career. In 2009, she served as executive director for People Organized to Win Employment Rights (POWER) for the San Francisco Bay Area. In 2011, she was elected board chair for Right to the City Alliance (RTTC) in Oakland, which fought gentrification and police brutality. She has also served as a board member of Forward Together's Oakland branch, Black Organizing for Leadership and Dignity, and Oakland's School of Unity and Liberation (SOUL).

Garza has been the recipient of numerous awards for her organizing work. In 2020, she was honored on *TIME's* 100 Most Influential People in the World list and 100 Women of the Year list, and appeared on *Fortune's* "40 under 40" in the "Government and Politics" category.

She shares her thoughts on women transforming power in her monthly column for *Marie Claire*, and hosts a weekly political commentary podcast, "Lady Don't Take No." Her writings have been published by *Time*, *Elle*, *Essence*, *The Nation*, and *Rolling Stone*, among others.

Born in Los Angeles, California, Garza holds a B.A. in Anthropology and Sociology from the University of California, San Diego, and earned her Master's Degree in Ethnic Studies from San Francisco State University. She currently lives and works in Oakland, California.

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Diane Havlir, MD

Diane Havlir, MD, is a Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. The goal of her research is to develop therapeutic and prevention strategies to respond to global infectious disease pandemics such as HIV, TB, and COVID-19. This includes the application of antiretroviral therapy to eliminate HIV and TB.

A leader in the field of HIV/AIDS research, Dr. Havlir continues to design and test strategies to accelerate the end of the AIDS epidemic by testing innovative prevention and treatment strategies that reach the persons being left behind with current approaches. In the SEARCH study, her team showed a multi-disease, patient-centered approach to HIV testing and treatment reduced HIV incidence, HIV-associated tuberculosis and HIV associated mortality, and improved population level control of hypertension in a NIH-funded 320,000 person cluster randomized study in rural east Africa.

Her research team is also working on addressing COVID-19 in San Francisco. She lead UCSF's efforts to collaborate with the Latino Task Force, CZ Biohub and the San Francisco Department of Public Health to set up low-barrier mass testing and vaccination sites in San Francisco's Mission District, to understand and intervene on COVID-19 transmission in the disproportionately-affected Latinx population of the neighborhood.

Dr. Havlir earned her B.A. from St. Olaf College and M.D. from Duke University Medical School. She performed her residency in internal medicine at UCSF and a fellowship in infectious diseases at Case Western Reserve University. Her honors include the Duke Distinguished Alumni Award, the UCSF Chancellor's Award for the Advancement of Women, the St. Olaf College Alumni Achievement Award, the HIV Research Achievement Award of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and HIV Medicine Association, induction into the Vanity Fair Hall of Fame as a "pioneering leader in the fight against AIDS," and election as a member of the National Academy of Medicine. She served as the United States Co-Chair for the XIX International AIDS Conference in Washington, D.C. and Scientific Chair for the XVIII International AIDS Conference in Vienna.

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REVENUE AND TAXATION
UTILITIES AND ENERGY

Dr. Erica Pan

Erica Pan, MD, MPH, FAAP, the deputy director of the Center for Infectious Diseases and State Epidemiologist, was sworn in July 13, 2020. She was the acting state public health officer from August 10, 2020 to January 3, 2021. Prior to joining California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Pan served as the health officer since July 2018, and the director of the Division of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention, and deputy health officer at the Alameda County Public Health Department since 2011.

Dr. Pan served in several positions, at the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFPDH) from 2004 - 2011, including director of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Section, deputy health officer, and director of the Bioterrorism and Infectious Disease Emergencies Unit in the Communicable Disease Control and Prevention Section.

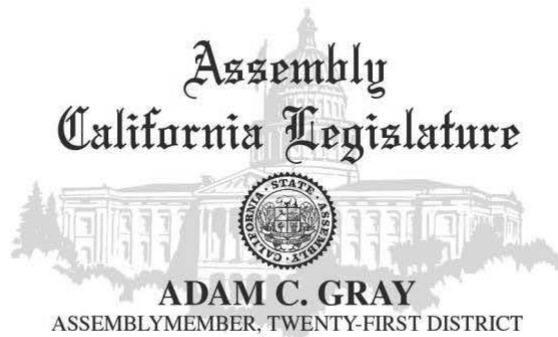
She is also a clinical professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the University of California, San Francisco. She maintained her clinical work at San Francisco General Hospital and at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals in San Francisco and Oakland in Infectious Diseases until 2019.

In 2012, Dr. Pan was chosen to be one of 30 California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) Leadership Fellows, and she completed her fellowship in 2014. As a fellowship alumni, she continues to leverage opportunities within the CHCF network to collaborate with leaders from multiple healthcare sectors across California.

Her previous training includes completion of a pediatric residency, chief residency, and Pediatric Infectious Disease, and traineeship in AIDS Prevention Studies Fellowships at the University of California, San Francisco. She also completed a Medical Epidemiologist Trainee year at the SFPDH. She is board certified in both Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Pediatrics. She received her MD and MPH degrees from Tufts University School of Medicine, and completed her undergraduate education at Stanford University.

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Alicia Rodriguez

Active in Planada and the greater Merced community since youth, Alicia Rodriguez has always put families first by providing care and assistance to those in need. Marrying her high school sweetheart, Larry, and raising their two children, Irene and Larry Jr., she has always had the needs of the community and its youth in her focus.

As president of the local St. Vincent de Paul chapter, she advocates for local farm laborers and seniors. Recently, her efforts have been focused on raising and providing financial and food support for those in need. She has been a tenacious advocate to ensure the toys are given to the needy and food is provided to the hungry. She is always willing to jump into action in a moment's notice. Alicia can be counted on to be the voice of those who are forgotten.

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Rosanne Foust

As the president & CEO of the San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA), Roseanne Foust is a leading voice of the business community in San Mateo County and across the Bay Area. She directs the conversations on issues important to sustaining a strong local and regional economy, attracting and retaining major employers and good jobs, and creating partnerships between business and government to address the critical issues of affordable housing, mobility improvements, and maintaining a good quality of life.

Ms. Foust has built SAMCEDA into an influential and highly regarded inclusive association with membership of Fortune 500 corporations including technology and social media, biotechnology and life sciences, banking and financial services, utilities and energy, construction and developers, as well as healthcare, education and nonprofits. Her leadership has facilitated successful advocacy efforts related to major infrastructure projects, including California High Speed Rail, Caltrain electrification, TransBay Terminal, reform of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and protection of the Hetch-Hetchy reservoir. More recently, she led the business community to support transportation and transit initiatives including the Highway 101 Managed Lanes Project, and the successful passage of Measure W (2018) and Measure RR (2020). *The San Francisco Business Times* has honored Ms. Foust as one of the "Most Influential Women in Business in the Bay Area" from 2009 until the present.

With 12 years of service on the City Council of Redwood City, and terms as mayor and vice-mayor, Ms. Foust was a driver of the Downtown Precise Plan, which served as a catalyst for the transformation of the City's downtown. She successfully negotiated the Development Agreement to bring Stanford University to the community, oversaw the building of a brand new public library in Redwood Shores, approved a \$90 million recycled water plant and secured funding to restore Bair Island.

Ms. Foust's commitment to the community is evident by her service on the boards of the San Mateo County Transportation Authority for ten years, and seven years on the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority. She continues to serve on the boards of the Bay Area Council Economic Institute, NOVA-Workforce Investment Board, the Redwood City Improvement Association, Chamber-San Mateo County, Notre Dame de Namur University, Casa de Redwood and Pen TV.

She brings business savvy and political acumen to all she undertakes, demonstrated the past year in response to the pandemic. Ms. Foust's recent accomplishments are numerous, but most importantly, she engaged with countless organizations, public and private, to advocate for the needs of nonprofits and small businesses and to channel resources in an expeditious manner. Through her leadership, the San Mateo County Strong Fund was established, creating one of the most quick and efficient compilation of resources and dispersal of funds, both public and private, in a streamlined process and kept organizations alive. She rolls up her sleeves and gets "stuff" done!

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Lorna Schultz Roush

Lorna Schultz Roush is a fifth generation family farmer in Fresno County and a tireless advocate for agriculture in the Central Valley. After obtaining her Agricultural Business Degree from Fresno State in 1998, Lorna went on to get her teaching credential. Following a career in the classroom, Lorna returned to the agricultural field to work full time on the family farm in 2005.

Schultz Ranch, Inc. is based in Burrel, an unincorporated community in southern Fresno County where Lorna's family has farmed since 1886. They currently grow pistachios, wine grapes and almonds. Lorna manages accounting, legal, chemical tracking, and safety procedures on the ranch. On top of the day-to-day operations on the farm, Lorna is active in many community organizations including California Women for Agriculture and Central Valley Women for Agriculture, My Job Depends on Ag, the Ag One Foundation at Fresno State, Riverdale Community Foundation, Fresno County Farm Bureau, Horizon Pistachios Company, and American Pistachio Growers.

Lorna's advocacy work extends beyond farming. After a tragic accident on Highway 41 in Fresno County in November 2020 took the life of a family member, Lorna started what has become a powerful grassroots effort demanding the completion of the dangerous state highway. She created the "Widen Highway 41" Facebook page, which now has nearly 6,000 members. It has become a place for the families of victims to remember their loved ones, as well as a warning for other drivers. Her dedication to this issue created a great deal of momentum, led to the installation of community funded signage, and revived the interest of local elected officials to complete the project.

Lorna is married to her high school sweetheart Chris, has two children and three grandchildren.

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Julie Lythcott-Haims

Julie Lythcott-Haims believes in humans and is deeply interested in what gets in our way. She is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the anti-helicopter parenting manifesto *How to Raise an Adult* and her TED Talk on the subject has more than 5 million views.

Her second book is the critically-acclaimed and award-winning prose poetry memoir *Real American*, which illustrates her experience as a Black and biracial person in white spaces and the impact of racism and microaggressions on her sense of self.

A third book, *Your Turn: How to Be an Adult*, aimed at young adults who struggle with 'adulting,' will be out in April 2021.

Julie is a former corporate lawyer and Stanford dean, and she holds a BA from Stanford, a JD from Harvard, and an MFA in Writing from California College of the Arts. She is an activist in local, state, and national issues, and was an Obama delegate at the 2008 Democratic National Convention.

She serves on the board of Common Sense Media and on the advisory board of LeanIn.Org, and she is a former board member at Foundation for a College Education, Global Citizen Year, The Writers Grotto, and Challenge Success. She volunteers at Stanford Hospital with the hospital program No One Dies Alone.

She lives in Palo Alto with her partner of over thirty years, their itinerant young adults, and her mother.

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Jinky Peralta

As the Assemblymember for the 25th Assembly District, it is my honor to recognize Jinky Peralta as the 25th Assembly District's Woman of the Year.

Jinky Peralta, a resident of Milpitas, is the Founder, Executive Director, and Treasurer for Sleeping Bags for the Homeless of Silicon Valley. Under her leadership, Sleeping Bags for the Homeless of Silicon Valley has been able to deliver warm meals, non-perishable foods, toiletries, sleeping bags, tents, and tarps to unhoused members of our community on a weekly basis.

Jinky has been working as a patient financial clearance representative with Stanford Healthcare for nine years and has played a critical role as a frontline worker during the COVID-19 pandemic. Jinky has worked in the healthcare industry for almost 26 years.

Jinky was born in the Philippines and immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 15 years old in 1987. She lives with her husband and has three children and three grandchildren.

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Elizabeth Wynn

Elizabeth Wynn's commitment to bless her community through service is inspiring. She strengthens the Valley as she works for everyone's right to access to health care, food, shelter, and education.

Elizabeth is from Visalia, California, and received her education locally at the College of the Sequoias and her B.A. in Human Resources at Fresno Pacific University.

Elizabeth credits her first encounter with a culture of community service to her time at QK (Planning/Engineering/Architectural Consultants) of Visalia in the early 90's whose leadership encouraged staff to find their passion and serve on volunteer boards. During that time she was awarded Young Visalia of the Year for community service by the City of Visalia Jaycees and was a founding board member of Naz Sports, a large local youth sport organization.

After spending time in the Seattle, Washington, area working with local groups to establish two nonprofits serving youth and disadvantaged individuals she returned home to Visalia to provide leadership and direction for the Visalia Emergency Aid Council. She led the organization through a major building campaign for a 6,000 sq.ft. pantry and new administrative offices that have been a critical resource in distributing food to a record number of families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Her years of service and volunteer activities are numerous and include serving on the Visalia Education Foundation Board, Visalia Chamber of Commerce Christmas Tree Auction Chair, Visalia Church of the Nazarene Building Committee Treasurer, Kaweah Delta Community Advisory Committee, Rotary Club of Visalia Board of Directors and President, City of Visalia Planning Policy Task Force, City of Visalia Housing Element Task Force and Chair and Commissioner of the City of Visalia Planning Commission. Elizabeth is a College of Sequoias Hall of Fame Inductee.

Elizabeth currently serves as director of the Kaweah Delta Hospital Foundation whose mission it is to support the needs of the Kaweah Delta Hospital District. Philanthropic support has been an essential part of their growth, and has helped them save countless lives. Investments from the community assist their efforts to equip their facility with the latest technology that allows patients to remain in the local area while receiving care. Elizabeth believes, "Everyone deserves quality healthcare and my role at the Foundation is to work with community members, private foundations and government entities to find ways to fund the needs of the District in their mission to provide excellence in healthcare."

She currently lives in Visalia with her husband, Ray. They have two adult daughters and are the proud grandparents to five grandchildren. Elizabeth spends her free time cooking, gardening, and golfing.

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JUDICIARY
TRANSPORTATION
WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Jean Cohen

Jean Cohen was born and raised in San Jose, California. She has spent her professional career in local government, the labor movement, and the nonprofit sector to empower working people and build social and economic justice through policy and organizing.

For six years, Jean served as a senior policy advisor on housing, land use, and transportation for Senator Jim Beall during his tenure as a County Supervisor. In her role at Sacred Heart Community Service as the Director of Development and Communications, Jean was a leader in the successful effort to formalize Sacred Heart's role as a regional leader responsible for developing countywide solutions to poverty.

She is currently the political and communications director for UA Local Union 393, which represents 3,000 construction workers in Santa Clara and San Benito Counties. Jean is an American Leadership Forum Senior Fellow and a graduate of Saint Mary's College, where she earned an M.A. in 21st Century Leadership.

She serves on the Executive Board of Democratic Activists for Women Now, an organization that assists in the election of Democratic, progressive, pro-choice women to public office. She is the current vice chair of the Santa Clara County Democratic Party and 1st Vice President of the South Bay Labor Council.

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HIGHER EDUCATION

CHAIR: LEGISLATIVE LGBTQ CAUCUS
VICE CHAIR: ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER
LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

Leslee Guardino

Leslee Guardino is a prominent community leader with over two decades of leadership experience in the corporate and nonprofit sectors. During her time at Solelectron Corporation, an electronics manufacturing and services company, she played a pivotal role in leading board administration and corporate governance activities for the company. She formulated Solelectron's legislative strategy and advocated on behalf of the company, its customers, and the electronics industry.

Leslee has also held leadership roles as Vice President of the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group, where she led a successful campaign to bring \$1.2 billion in traffic relief projects to Silicon Valley, and as Executive Director of the American Electronics Association (AEA), a trade group representing 900 technology companies. Her leadership at AEA was instrumental in passing three key bills, which increased tax credit, improved education, and enhanced worker job flexibility.

In her current role as co-founding principal of Canyon Snow Consulting, Leslee oversees and leads the government and community affairs practice. As a long-time Bay Area resident and professional, Leslee has cultivated relationships with community leaders at all levels of government as well as with her clients to whom her and her partner have assisted directly regarding government affairs issues. As many of her clients are creating and implementing business-focused government affairs programs, they rely on Leslee's strategic guidance and advocacy to advance their business interests.

Leslee is also a co-founder of the Silicon Valley Housing Trust, co-chair of the West Coast Chapter of the Women's High Tech Coalition and board member of Teen Success. In her spare time, she is a competitive triathlete, duathlete, and marathon runner, competing at both national and international levels. Leslee resides in Monte Sereno with her husband, Carl, and their three children, Siena, Jake, and Jessica.

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HUMAN SERVICES
NATURAL RESOURCES

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ACCESS TO NATURAL RESOURCES
VICE CHAIR, JOINT COMMITTEE ON
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Gail Pellerin

Global pandemic, economic fallout, racial injustice, protests, devastating fires, insurrection. Despite the dark topics that dominated this past year's headlines, 2020 also recorded some positive milestones. The year marked the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote. 2020 also saw a presidential election that set the highest voter turnout record in 120 years. On these two high notes, Gail Pellerin, the woman who has overseen Santa Cruz County elections for the past 27 years, hung up her hat (one of many) as Santa Cruz County Elections Clerk and passed the torch of democracy on to another. As she charts a new course for herself, she does so with the title of 29th Assembly District Woman of the Year, an honor I am proud to bestow upon this extraordinary individual.

Gail has turned Thomas Paine's quote, "lead, follow, or get out of the way," into actionable rules of engagement that guide her approach to getting things done. When, for example, she was discouraged from pursuing higher education, her drive and determination propelled her forward as she paid her own way through college, eventually obtaining a degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. While cutting her professional teeth as a journalist, Gail found herself irresistibly pulled to the halls of our State Capitol and to a career in policy and politics. Taking a legislative staff position with Assemblymember Rusty Areias, Gail's knack for getting things done attracted the attention of then-Speaker Willie Brown. She was subsequently hired by the Speaker, whom she credits for providing her with in-depth knowledge of the inner workings of governmental decision-making.

Several years later, Gail embarked on a new adventure by relocating to Santa Cruz with her husband Tom Chaffin. Her prior experience with elections and campaigns led her in 1993 to accept a position as elections manager for Santa Cruz County Clerk Richard Bedal. Upon Mr. Bedal's retirement in 2004, Gail was appointed county clerk. She was later elected, and then reelected a total of four times, each time running unopposed. Her skills and knowledge were revered by her colleagues across the state, and led to her accepting the role of president of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials, and membership in both the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Future of California Elections. Gail's reputation as an expert in election processes also landed her the prestigious position of international elections observer, where she bore witness to the birth of democracy in the Transcaucasia region.

Gail and Tom were soon blessed with two wonderful children, Emily and Jacob. Despite Gail's demanding schedule and Tom's busy law practice, the couple found the time to be fully present in Emily and Jacob's lives. After the unexpected passing of Tom in 2018, Gail channeled her grief into advocacy, actively working to increase suicide prevention and mental-health awareness.

Although recently retired from Santa Cruz County as "the head of democracy and love," – the latter being a reference to the fact that she also issued marriage licenses – the incomparable Gail Pellerin is still getting things done, and will continue to do so well into the future.

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Kathy Zanger Ruiz

Kathy Zanger Ruiz has over fifty years of service to others in Assembly District 30. She has been a lifelong champion of education and a fierce advocate for the empowerment of women. She has spent decades working to uplift the most vulnerable members of our community.

Kathy was born in 1930 in Bismarck, North Dakota. She is the third of seven children. In 1952, she earned a B.S. in Library Science from Saint Catherine University in Minnesota. She then moved to California to become a librarian at Santa Clara University. Later in life, she returned to Santa Clara University to earn her master's degree in counseling.

With her career underway, Kathy married farmer Joseph Zanger, and they began a life together just outside of Hollister. On the farm, Kathy took on many of the challenges that came with starting and building a family business: payroll, work as the fore-lady at the apricot cutting shed, and sign painter for advertising, all while raising four children. The family farm grew into Casa de Fruta on Pacheco Pass Highway. As was the pattern in her life, Kathy found ways to serve her community through the San Benito County Farm Bureau and local 4-H club.

Kathy also continued her professional career, with a focus on empowering women. At Gavilan Community College in Gilroy, she served as a Title IX Coordinator and Head Counselor. She became the Director of the Women's Re-entry Program that advocated for and supported women returning to their formal education. The success of this program was recognized nationally by the Ford Foundation. She was president of the San Benito County Board of Education from 1975-77, and served as Gavilan College's Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences before retiring in 1985.

In 1989, Kathy married Anthony "Tony" Ruiz, a Spanish teacher at Gavilan College. Together, they were active in local politics. Tony was the first Mexican-American elected to public office in Hollister. Kathy served on the Democratic Party Central Committee in San Benito County. She volunteered on many local campaigns, including Leon Panetta's campaigns for U.S. Congress and Anna Caballero's campaign for State Assembly. Her deep community ties made her a valuable addition to these campaigns.

Throughout her life, Kathy has continued working to uplift the most vulnerable members of our community. She served for ten years as a court appointed special advocate for three children from Monterey County. She also served as head of the Fishes and Loaves/Peace and Justice Ministry at Sacred Heart/St. Benedict Church in Hollister. Seeing a growing need for homeless services, Kathy chaired the homeless task force that set up the first emergency shelter in San Benito County.

Across Assembly District 30, people will attest to the ways Kathy Ruiz has changed their lives for the better. Through her professional career and volunteer activities, she has spent over fifty years working to create opportunities for those most in need. She is a valued leader who has had a deep impact on our community.

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DR. JOAQUIN ARAMBULA
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT

Dr. Kathleen Rindahl

Dr. Kathleen Rindahl, an Assistant Professor at Fresno State, has been a stalwart and tireless leader in bringing health services to the rural and disadvantaged communities of Fresno County. Her commitment has never been more appreciated than during the COVID-19 crisis.

She leads teams of Fresno State nursing students who participate in the mobile health unit and in outreach clinics. They provide screenings and services, getting first-hand experience. At the same time, they attend to people who have little or no access to health care.

Rindahl, in fact, initiated the establishment of the mobile health unit. That program, working with other partners, this year has helped administer hundreds of free COVID-19 vaccinations to the elderly and to agriculture workers.

Rindahl previously led the Fresno State School of Nursing's successful application for a nearly \$149,000 Song-Brown grant to fund the "Spirit of Health" clinic that was located at the Spirit of Woman shelter in Fresno. The clinic, which now is closed, provided free health care services to women recovering from substance abuse issues and to their children.

Her efforts have been recognized by her peers. She was honored with a Nurse of the Year – Education award by the Nursing Leadership Coalition.

Rindahl, who earned a doctorate degree in nursing practice, joined the Fresno State School of Nursing faculty in 2013. Before that, she served as a migrant health nurse for the Fresno County Office of Education for 10 years.

Rindahl also has worked professionally throughout her career for different hospitals and medical groups in California.

A native of Los Angeles, Rindahl also serviced as a hospital corpsman for the United States Navy and was stationed at different naval bases, mostly on the East Coast.

Rindahl lives with her husband of 31 years, Marty Rindahl, in Fresno. They have three daughters.

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Mari Pérez-Dowling

Mari Pérez-Dowling is the first Latina to assume the role of President & CEO of United Way of Kern County. Born in Ensenada, Mexico, she first started learning English after she moved to the United States when she was 13 years old.

As one of the largest nonprofit organizations in the world, United Way has been able to continue their efforts of providing help to those in need of it the most in our Central Valley communities as a result of her leadership.

The call for service was instilled in her through her previous occupations as a teacher and radio/TV show host. As a role model for success in a large community with educational inequities, she wanted to create greater educational opportunities for children facing literacy issues and rally more stakeholders to become involved in funding programs that promote early childhood literacy. Her ability to engage with different community-based organizations to support additional programs related to ending homelessness, food insecurity, and free income tax assistance has benefitted many families in the region.

Ms. Pérez-Dowling earned a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Language and Literature from San Diego State University and California State University, Bakersfield, where she continued to work on her master's degree and obtained her teaching credential.

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JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
THE ECONOMY
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE

Amy Pullen

Amy Pullen was born on July 26, 1978 to her parents Chuck and Sharon Wagoner. She grew up in the High Desert Community of Hesperia, California, where she attended elementary, junior high, and high school. She graduated from Hesperia High School in 1996. In 1997, she married her high school sweetheart, Joshua Jack Pullen, and they have celebrated 24 happy years together raising their two children: daughter Kalee, 17 years old, and son Caleb, 14 years old.

In their early years of marriage, they moved to Oklahoma while Josh was enlisted in the USAF. During their time in Oklahoma, Amy attended Nursing School at Western Oklahoma State College and graduated with her nursing degree in 2000. Amy has always had an interest in the sciences, which may have been influenced by her mother who herself was a registered nurse.

Following her graduation that same year, they moved back to Hesperia where Amy began her nursing career at Desert Valley Hospital working in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). In 2009, Amy excelled in her clinical and leadership responsibilities and was promoted to the director of the Emergency Department. Education remained important to Amy so she returned to school and in 2015 she graduated with her bachelor's degree in nursing and later completed her master's degree in business in 2017 at Grand Canyon University. In March 2018, Amy once again was promoted to the role of chief nursing officer in which she became responsible for all Nursing Departments and other Ancillary Services that touch the patient. She has been employed by the Desert Valley Hospital for almost 20 years which has garnered her the respect of the staff and physicians alike. Amy is devoted to her family and her profession.

In her free time, Amy enjoys camping, traveling, and spending time with her family and friends.

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Kimberly Sandoval

Kimberly Sandoval is currently a nurse manager for Dignity Health Memorial Hospital-Bakersfield. She manages 120 employees in the Telemetry Unit, which has been the main unit that transitioned to COVID-19 patients since March of 2020. Kimberly has been a nurse since 2010.

Kimberly began her journey into healthcare by receiving her Associate of Science in Nursing from Antelope Valley College. After graduating in December of 2009, she began her career at Bakersfield Memorial Hospital as a staff nurse/charge nurse in the Telemetry Unit. Kimberly has spent time in the Emergency department and served in many roles over her ten-year career. Alongside her duties as a nurse, Kimberly is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing Leadership to enhance her career.

When the global pandemic hit California, Kim was a true leader in responding to the needs of the hospital and community by transitioning her floor to COVID-19 patients. Kim's hospital leadership describes her as "nimble, thoughtful and strategic" and that she has been and continues to be a nurse that leads by example. Early in the pandemic, Kimberly herself became positive with COVID-19 and when she recovered, she quickly returned to work to ensure her staff and patients were supported. She has sacrificed her personal life to ensure the hundreds of patients she has cared for are given top quality care.

Kimberly's journey is the definition of tenacity in order to care for both her patients and her daughter, as a single mom. There have been many tough choices she has faced as a nurse, but her strength and guidance during this time has been felt by many. She has led her hospital and nursing staff during the greatest public health event of our time and we are honored for her commitment to the 34th Assembly District. We are proud of Kimberly for her bravery and service.

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Thao Carey

Thao Carey was born in Saigon, Vietnam, and immigrated to the Bay Area when she was 7 years old. She followed her love of science, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from San Francisco State University. After working as an analytical chemist, she decided that she wanted to pursue a human-centered career, which led her to attend Allan Hancock College's Certified Nurse Assistant Program. In 2017, she graduated with honors from CSU Channel Islands with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

After working as a student nurse at Cottage Health System, she began working at Lompoc Valley Medical Center as a Critical Care Nurse. Thao has earned an exceptional reputation at LVMC, described by her colleagues as "the ultimate team player," particularly as she has taken every opportunity to lend a helping hand to her fellow nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In February 2021, Thao was honored with the prestigious DAISY Award, an international award that "honors nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families." Thao goes above and beyond during each shift, including working countless extra shifts during the pandemic, known for her deep compassion and dedication to her patients. It is clear why she received several nominations for the DAISY Award and is a deserving recipient of the 2021 Woman of the Year Award.

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Candace Craven

Candace Craven is the Coordinator of Extended Learning and Community Outreach Educational Services for the Palmdale School District. She has positively influenced the lives of students and families in Palmdale.

Candace networks with district and site personnel to manage and create successful parent, family and community events to support the goals and actions of the district. These events include the Palmdale School District's PE Olympiad, Backpack events, and Read Across America. She has organized Free Book Giveaways with the local library, helped to organize a desk give-away to improve students' distance learning environment, and every day you can find her at one of the school sites handing out food boxes for families in need.

Candace worked with the local Boys and Girls Club to provide childcare for essential workers in our community. She created a space at the local markets to meet parents, encourage enrollment opportunities and answer questions. She works with sites to organize and promote community events such as parades, Veteran's Day activities and Holiday gift baskets.

Candace coordinated the District's Saturday School PROMISE program across all sites, encouraging students, working with parents, and supporting teachers. She also collaborated with LA County to help promote families complete their Census.

Mrs. Craven embodies all the tenets of California School Administrative School Leaders.

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Dr. Van Do-Reynoso

I am humbled to honor Dr. Van Do-Reynoso as Woman of the Year of 2021 of the 37th Assembly district, who has been an essential leader during the current Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2017, she was hired as the Public Health Director for Santa Barbara County. Her time in Santa Barbara has been struck with natural disasters, and currently the Covid-19 pandemic. Dr. De Reynoso has been on the front lines of insuring the Santa Barbara community is informed and protected during the Covid-19 pandemic as the Director of Santa Barbara County Public Health Department. She worked alongside UCSB in creating a task force to address the issues migrant and marginalized communities have faced throughout the pandemic.

Dr. Do-Reynoso has managed county behavioral health and human services programs since 2004 and became a leader in public health in Madera County in 2008. For seven years before coming to Santa Barbara County, she has served as Madera County's Public Health Director following two years as its Assistant Public Health Director. During her tenure as Director, she also served as the Interim Director of Madera County's Behavioral Health Department for one year. Do-Reynoso is deeply committed to public health, public service and collaboration. She was responsible for assembling a diverse group of stakeholders to support a countywide strategy to improve health within Madera County. She also has extensive experience working at the state level and serves on the California Medical Services Program (CMSP) and the California Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC) executive committees. She is one of the founding members and served as chair of the San Joaquin Valley Public Health Consortium, which engages public health leaders from eight central California counties in strategic planning, training, policy development, and research to improve the quality and responsiveness to pressing public health issues faced by the region. Her prior experience also includes operations planning with Kaiser Permanente Northern California, and extended volunteer public health activities for an orphanage in Mexico.

Dr. Reynoso's leadership has been essential to our community the past year and I look forward to the work ahead of us.

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Liz Cadow

While completing her Master's degree in Education from the University of Southern California, Liz began to entertain the idea of someday starting a school. A once proud California public education system was now in deep decline and Liz thought that there must be a better way. Liz happened to meet a terrific woman at USC who had a son with special needs. When she realized the public schools could not help her son adequately, she started a school to address his challenges. Her story inspired Liz and the idea continued to grow.

Upon graduation, Liz embarked on a teaching career at the junior high level. Despite the best of intentions, Liz saw firsthand that the public schools were just not providing the kind of education or environment that she would someday want for her own children. She also witnessed first-hand the outright hostility toward Christianity that exists in some quarters of the government schools and she believe it resulted in a hopelessness and lack of passion in many of her students.

By the time Liz became a mother, she was convinced that there must be a better way to educate her own children. Beginning a school was occupying more and more of her thoughts until one day while listening to Focus on the Family, Lis heard Dr. Dobson interview Douglas Wilson, who had begun a Classical Christian school in Idaho. Mr. Wilson's passion for his endeavor, coupled with his persuasive contention that a return to Classical Christian education is essential for producing exceptional, godly young students hit her like a lightning bolt. Liz believes God gave her a big nudge that day and in the weeks and months to come, Liz read everything she could on Classical Christian education. It soon became clear to her that this method, used for centuries but abandoned at the advent of modern education, was the best method to integrate deep faith and an incredible academic experience in students.

Liz and her husband wondered if perhaps others might have the same feelings about modern government education - that it was sorely inadequate, lacking real challenge and certainly any spiritual aspect. They surveyed some people at their church, asking if they would be interested in a school that offered a challenging education grounded in the Christian faith and the Classical tradition, and they were amazed at the overwhelming response. They were on to something and a dream soon became reality.

From those humble beginnings, with God's guidance and a handful of passionate and steadfast families, Liz Cadow founded Trinity Classical Academy in 2001.

After two years of intense planning and prayer, they opened their doors in 2001 with 28 students in grades K-2. Trinity Classical Academy soon became a fixture on the Santa Clarita education landscape and before long they were one of the fastest growing Classical, Christian schools in the country. In nineteen years Trinity Classical Academy has grown to 560 students in grades TK-12 who come from over 80 churches in the Santa Clarita Valley and beyond.

Perhaps that which Liz is most proud, is that the students are cultivating a love for God and a love of learning. They are learning how to think well, write well and speak well and their entire experience is infused with a Christian worldview.

Liz believes that God has blessed their efforts and feels that they are indeed fulfilling Trinity Classical Academy's mission, which states: ***The Mission of Trinity Classical Academy is to offer a challenging education grounded in the Christian faith and the Classical tradition to produce young men and women of virtue, wisdom, purpose, and courage.***

Liz is as passionate now as she have ever been about Trinity Classical Academy. Liz believes the brightest days are certainly ahead and she can't wait to see what incredible things God has in store in the years to come.

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Yvette Lopez-Ledesma Escobedo

Yvette Lopez-Ledesma was born in Echo Park, California. She is the daughter of Guillermina Escobedo and Jose de Jesus Lopez, proud immigrants from Chimaltitan, Jalisco, Mexico. At the young age of 7 she and her family relocated to San Diego, California where Yvette spent most of her formative years until she met her forever quebradita partner, a proud son of Pacoima, Jesse Ledesma. Soon after, she relocated to the Northeast San Fernando Valley.

In her mid-late twenties Yvette attended Los Angeles Valley College, and transferred to California State University Northridge (CSUN) where she majored in Urban Studies and Planning. A passion for cities, their vibrancy and a desire to address issues related to improving the quality of life within communities drew her to pursue this field of study. She then continued to further her academic career by pursuing a master's degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in Urban Planning at CSUN, all while working full-time for various national and local non-profits. It was her time serving as Deputy Director of Pacoima Beautiful (2013-2018) where her life's purpose became clearer. Organizing and being of service to and with the people of the Northeast San Fernando Valley where the community embraced her helped her develop a clearer sense of justice, dedication and self-determination.

In 2018, she transitioned from Pacoima Beautiful to The Wilderness Society where she leads a team that works to advance equitable access to parks and open space in Los Angeles, Seattle, and Albuquerque. A life-long lover of parks and open space like her dad, Yvette and her team strive to identify and eliminate the layers of systemic inequities that create park access deficits in communities of high and very high park access need. She is a dedicated advocate, motivated by a vision where every person, inclusive of their race, immigration status, income, abilities, gender identity and zip code can experience the benefits of being in nature.

Yvette has also served on many boards and commissions. She served on the City of Burbank Sustainability Commission, the L.A. Metro Service Council, the City of Los Angeles North Valley Area Planning Commission, and the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters. She currently serves as a member of the City of Los Angeles Planning Commission.

In her free-time Yvette enjoys walking around Arleta, record collecting, going to concerts, sporting events with her partner, hiking all over Southern California, and sitting on the couch at her mom's house with her mother, partner, nieces, siblings, many cousins, and her dogs, Mingus and Miles.

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Veronica Lynn Arespachaga Kelley

Dr. Kelley has been a social worker for the past 29 years. Her passion lies in working with those who are living with a mental illness and/or addiction, with a focus on serving those from diverse cultural backgrounds. She began her career in San Bernardino County Behavioral Health as the Cultural Competency Officer, implementing state and federal regulations to ensure inclusive treatment and prevention strategies for all residents of the County. She was then promoted to Deputy Director over Regional operations and Substance Use Disorder Services then named Assistant Director. In 2016, she was appointed Director.

She is also the Alcohol & Drug administrator for San Bernardino County and is a subject matter expert in substance use disorders. Dr. Kelley helped inform the state process that allowed counties to provide more services to county residents, drawing down more federal dollars to assist individuals in their recovery process from addiction, through the Organized Delivery System (ODS). She also sits on the Medi-Cal Healthier California for All sub-committees, providing a local voice in the change process for Medi-Cal in the state.

Locally, Dr. Kelley is a collaborator, working with many local partners, including the Superintendent of Schools, Department of Public Health, and Law & Justice partners. She is a proponent of the supportive services her department can leverage for the greater good. Examples are providing behavioral support to the community at large, clients specifically, and sister departments, as was noted during the San Bernardino County terrorist attack of 2015. During that tragedy, she ran the daily operations of crisis response to the county at large.

In her spare time, Dr. Kelley teaches social workers of the future and is dedicated to mentoring women who are entering the field. She spends her free time enjoying the company of her three children and new grandbaby.

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Fran Robertson

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Fran Robertson, Executive Director of Sowing Seeds for Life expanded its capacity to serve people and families in need and assembled a team of volunteers who served over 200k people in 2020-more than double their pre-Covid monthly average of about 9,000 people. Sowing Seeds for Life was able to grow their capacity to serve through their faithful corps of volunteers who transitioned to a contactless drive thru food pantry and a partnership with the Fairplex.

When Fran sees a need and food insecurity in the community, she develops a plan and executes it to provide solutions that improves lives. Over the years, she has initiated additional food programs that benefit seniors and Veterans. In fact, when it became known that more and more college students were struggling with home and food insecurity, Sowing Seeds for Life established one of the first mobile food pantries in the San Gabriel Valley emphasizing service to college students who attended Cal Poly Pomona. This effective food program is now being modeled at Mt. Sac because unfortunately food insecurity for college students persists at an alarming degree.

Fran Robertson is a graduate of Cal State San Bernardino with a degree in Marketing. She has dedicated her adult life to the efforts of non-profit organizations here in the Inland Empire and San Gabriel Valley. Her career began running the thrift shop for the Humane Society of San Bernardino. She continued with work at the local branches of the Salvation Army, The United Way, The Pomona Valley Workshop, and the Inland Empire Hope Partners (formerly The Council of Churches).

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Patricia L. Cummings, PhD, MPH

Dr. Patricia Cummings is the Director of Epidemiology Research and Evaluation at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, CA. She received her doctorate in Epidemiology from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Jonathan & Karin Fielding School of Public Health, and a Master's Degree in Public Health with a specialization in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California. With her extensive list of publications on chronic and infectious diseases, she has substantive experience working on public health issues both nationally and locally.

Dr. Cummings joined Eisenhower in 2016 to conduct epidemiologic research and perform a wide range of investigative and analytical activities related to hospital-based disease surveillance, antibiotic stewardship, infection prevention and control, health disparities, and population health. She has been the principal or co-principal investigator of multiple federal and local-funded research studies focusing on antibiotic resistance prevention, the built environment, foodborne diseases, obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular health, including school-based nutrition and food policy implementation.

For the past year she has worked tirelessly on COVID-19 emergency response, including generating predictive models for the Coachella Valley community, tracking COVID-19 surveillance trends, and applying her expertise in pandemic preparedness to assist the hospital in its response. Early in the pandemic, she assisted community decision makers by predicting the extent of outbreak for the Coachella Valley, in collaboration with Congressman Raul Ruiz's office.

Prior to COVID-19, she led Eisenhower Health to be named the first hospital in the United States by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a *Million Hearts® Hospital* – a designation awarded to hospitals excelling in their efforts to prevent heart attacks and strokes. In 2019, Dr. Cummings also won the Silvia Moss Brown Award for demonstrating excellence in the improvement of patient care outcomes as part of her research on reducing antibiotic-inappropriate prescribing in community urgent care centers.

Before coming to Eisenhower, in 2015, Dr. Cummings developed and led the Built Environment & Health Impact Assessment Unit at Harris County Public Health in Houston, Texas. It was the first unit of its kind in Texas, and she was subsequently selected by the CDC and the National Association of County and City Health Officials to be a mentor to other health departments across the U.S. to implement similar models as part of their Health Impact Assessment Demonstration Sites.

From 2008 to 2014, Dr. Cummings worked for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and was involved in a number of high-profile, public health policy evaluation efforts, such as menu-labeling, the County of Los Angeles' Healthy Food Procurement Board Motion and 100% Healthy Vending Machine Policy. In 2009, she received an award from the City of Los Angeles for her research on age-related diseases, and in 2014 was invited to speak at the prestigious CDC Public Health Grand Rounds in Atlanta, GA on "Preventing A Million Heart Attacks and Strokes."

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Emelda Pasco, RN

California's network of over 400,000 registered nurses have been serving patients of all ages across a wide range of settings from the smallest rural clinics to some of the nation's largest hospitals. Always on the frontlines of any healthcare emergency, registered nurses rose to the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic. These essential providers have been working tirelessly over the past year to care for millions of Californians every day.

Among the mighty coalition of nurses serving in settings across California, Emelda Pasco of Glendale stands out for her steadfast dedication to her patients and community.

Emelda is a registered nurse with 32 years of experience and has been with Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center in Burbank for 30 years. She shares how nursing brings her hope and gratitude to be able to help take care of others the way everyone deserves to be. Coworkers describe her as a caring and loving person that they can all depend on whenever needed, often calling her "the Mother of Nursing."

The passion for healthcare service runs deep in Emelda's family. Emelda has two adult daughters, one of which is working as an RN at UCLA and the other is going to nursing school to follow in their mother's footsteps. She likes to spend her free time bonding with her family and loved ones.

Now more than ever, California is grateful for the service of healthcare heroes like Emelda Pasco.

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Dr. Irene G. Pinkard

Dr. Irene Pinkard is a community leader, educator, past member of the Oxnard Union High School District Board of Trustees, former Mayor Pro Tem of and Executive Director of Pinkard Youth Institute. She was the first African American female to be elected to the Oxnard City Council. Dr. Pinkard served as Associate Vice Chancellor of Human Resources for Ventura County Community College District as well as Vice President of Administrative Services for Oxnard and Ventura Colleges.

Pinkard is a consultant who conducts self-improvement, career development, stress management, social emotional development, complicit bias/race relations, conflict resolution and motivational workshops/seminars for organizations, youth, educational institutions, and community groups.

Dr. Pinkard graduated from California State University, Long Beach, with a Bachelor's Degree in Business and a Master's Degree in Counseling. She received her Doctoral Degree from Nova University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, in Educational Psychology. She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in 2020 from California State University, Channel Islands and serves on the CSUCI Foundation Board.

Dr. Pinkard co-founded the Ventura County Chapter of BAPAC (Black American Political Association of California) with her husband, Bedford, and has served as Chairperson of the chapter. She has served as past president of the Ventura County Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the nonprofit organization SSAFE (Students Securing and Achieving their Future through Education), and past member of the Oxnard Planning Commission, California Black School Board Members Association and Vice President of the National School Board Association Black Caucus. Dr. Pinkard is a member of NAACP, an associate member of the 20th Century Onyx Club and CEO of Pinkard Innovative Enterprises.

Dr. Pinkard is an active member of Bethel A.M.E. Church where she is an usher, Trustee and Chairperson of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council. She and her husband, former Councilman Bedford Pinkard, have conducted Black College Tours for over 25 years for young people throughout Ventura County. Pinkard has observed that young people in Ventura County are not aware of the opportunities available to them at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). Through her work with young students, she has seen that those who attend historically black colleges are nurtured and gain confidence in themselves and their ability to learn, and the institutions take them from where they are to a level of proficiency that ensures their success.

Dr. Pinkard says her focus is young people and preparing them to be successful community members.

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Lisa Kodimer

Lisa Kodimer is the Co-founder and Executive Director of Connecting a Caring Community (CCC), a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring and mobilizing the community to live a life of giving. CCC grew out of Lisa's long history of changing people's lives by seeing a need in a community and taking action to fill it. Lisa will often say that she is not sure, if she finds the need or if the need finds her.

After almost 20 years of owning a successful gift boutique, Lisa closed shop and began living her real purpose...GIVING BACK! She took what she learned as a businesswoman, trust, loyalty, determination and the ability to connect with others, and applied it to the world of philanthropy.

Lisa was inspired in 2011 by the leader of an educational and spiritual program while visiting Israel. "Inspire a woman, you inspire a family; inspire enough families, you can change a community; inspire enough communities, you can change the world." Connecting a Caring Community started with their first program "Connecting with Moms." It began with 10 moms meeting to learn about philanthropy and filling the needs in their community. Today CCC empowers hundreds of participants and provides opportunities for giving back. Additional CCC programs include two teen groups where participants develop leadership skills and gain confidence while doing good for others, as well as a program where young adults with special needs socialize with other teens. All participants have a common goal to give, love and grow.

Lisa has taken Connecting a Caring Community from a small idea to an organization that has touched thousands of people throughout Southern California. Her dedication has inspired people to initiate new programs within their communities and create their own volunteer opportunities. Lisa's mentoring, infectious energy and passion for giving changes lives. The ripple effect of Lisa's actions is contagious and so many are learning to be givers.

CCC's programs were designed to meet in person at various non-profit organizations throughout Los Angeles County. When the pandemic hit, CCC quickly transitioned all programs to a virtual format. The organization began focusing on a response to the COVID-19 crisis by supporting the morale of front-line hospital workers in Los Angeles, assisting low-income schools and communities with remote learning resources, bringing connection to drug and alcohol recovery center residents, providing food baskets to homeless families in transitional housing, and bringing holiday cheer to hospitalized children fighting life threatening illnesses.

Lisa's passion for giving back began long before she and Brandt Blanken founded Connecting a Caring Community. In 2012, Lisa and her son developed Westhills Champions, a special needs baseball program in West Hills. For 7 years, Champions Baseball engaged over 75 special needs children and inspired over 200 teen volunteers.

Most notably, Lisa went to Las Vegas to honor the 58 people killed at the 2017 music festival by doing a good deed for each victim. Her actions inspired many others who reached out to her and sponsored even more good deeds on their behalf.

Lisa was raised in Woodland Hills and has lived in the area most of her life. She married Kory, the boy next door, who she has known since she was 2 years old. They have two beautiful sons, Kole and Kamden, who were raised with the values of giving. Lisa graduated from Cal State Northridge with a degree in Child Development and an emphasis on Special Education.

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EDUCATION FINANCE
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

Dr. Yen Ang

Dr. Yen Ang is the SNAP-Ed program Assistant Director at the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, where she oversees the largest food assistant education program. She also serves as the Chair of the Department's Anti-Hunger Coalition and Health Equity Committee.

Dr. Ang is the recipient of two NACO (National Association of Counties) achievement awards in recognition of her innovations in public health. In 2019, she led the collaborative effort in getting the first and only city in San Bernardino County to adopt the SB 1192 Healthy-by-Default Kids Meal ordinance ahead of California State law. She also founded the Food Rescue Anti-Hunger Coalition in 2020, which engineers high-level collaborative efforts to reduce hunger and health inequities among vulnerable populations.

Dr. Ang earned her doctoral degree in public health with an emphasis in preventive care from Loma Linda University. She also has two master's degrees—an MSc in exercise science and an MPH in nutrition—and is a Registered Dietitian. Yen's interests lie in the management and prevention of chronic diseases through lifestyle intervention, specifically with obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.

Over the past two decades, Yen has created and achieved a number of highly successful lifestyle intervention programs in both community and clinical settings, helping hundreds of people lose weight, prevent lifestyle-related diseases, and reduce medication reliance. With her strong training in both public health and patient care, Yen was instrumental in making the Penang Adventist Hospital the first and only hospital in Malaysia a Health Promoting Hospital, meeting all 152 indicators set by World Health Organization. Under her belt is also more than a decade of experience in academia teaching undergraduate and graduate courses at universities and colleges in America and Singapore.

Yen's time in the classroom and clinical experience in the real world have helped her design and implement applied research projects that incorporate the rigors of scientific research as well as the challenges of everyday life. In the past 10 years, Yen has authored and published more than 20 scientific abstracts. She has also presented more than 50 professional presentations at international conferences, business corporations, and medical care institutions that have featured her highly innovative work in wellness and preventive care.

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JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

Christine Knight

Christine “Chris” Knight is a selfless and devoted member of the AD48 community. She is known for her ever-present smile and being the first to step in wherever there is a need. In her many years serving the communities of El Monte and South El Monte, Christine Knight has worked tirelessly to better the lives of students and advocate for small business owners. Her passion is and has been to build up the next generation. She tries to make sure the children she works with feel supported and instilled with a sense of independence overcome any obstacles.

As the President of the Miss Friendly El Monte/South El Monte Pageant Association, she has empowered participants to feel more confident as individuals and in their ability to make a difference. Chris helps them develop platforms and work with community members on issues such as drug awareness, water conservation, anti-bullying campaigns, suicide prevention, and funding for arts education.

Her work with struggling teens can also be seen in her role as Community Liaison for the Homeless to the El Monte Union High School District. Chris created a Homeless Resource Fair where food and hand-sewn quilts were passed out to those most in need. Several previously homeless students attribute her with their graduation and subsequent success as adults.

Additionally, while her own children were in school Chris was PTA President. During this time, she implemented “Plant a Tree” Day, planned numerous school events, and raised thousands of dollars for the students of Arroyo High School.

Currently, Chris is the Director of Membership and Marketing with the El Monte/South El Monte Chamber of Commerce. Under her care and because of her outreach to hear the needs of the business community, there has been an unprecedented increase in membership.

Chris’s faith and family taught her to live a life of service. Today she remains an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints as a Nursery Leader and volunteer for many church projects.

Chris was nominated for District 48 Woman of the Year 2020 by her friends, three children and eight grandchildren. The 48th District cannot thank Chris Knight enough for her work and know that her parents would be very proud of her.

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Rose Matsui Ochi

Rose Takayo Ochi, an attorney, civil rights activist, political strategist and recognized icon in the Asian Pacific Islander (API) community passed away on December 13, 2020 at the age of 81. She shattered numerous glass ceilings becoming the first API woman pointed to numerous national and local positions. This includes President's Carter's Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy, the Associate Director of the President Clinton's National Drug Control Policy, Assistant US Attorney General functioning as the Director Justice Community Relations Service, Los Angeles Police Commissioner, and the first Director of the California Forensic Science Institute.

Ms. Ochi was born on December 15, 1938 in the Boyle Heights community of Los Angeles. At a young age, she faced severe racial and sexual discrimination. During World War II, when President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 which authorized the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans living in the West Coast, she was incarcerated for 4 years at Rohwer War Relocation Authority Camp. During this period, 120,000 Japanese Americans were sent to "relocation" camps.

Once released from Rohwer, Ms. Ochi returned to Boyle Heights and attended Roosevelt high school and UCLA. Following graduation, she initially became a secondary school teacher. When she witnessed the civil rights efforts in the early 60's, she decided to go to law school to put herself in a position to make a greater impact on the underserved. She attended Loyola Law School and upon graduation in 1972, she accepted a Reginald Heber Fellowship at the University of Southern California Western Center on Law and Poverty where she was co-counsel on a landmark education reform case, Serrano vs Priest. This case profoundly changed funding for schools in improvised areas throughout the United States.

The Serrano vs Priest case convinced her to pursue a career in public policy and advocacy. She joined Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley's administration where she became the Director of the City's Criminal Justice Office. In 1973, Ms. Ochi developed the Use of Force Policy after the Eula Love case and advised Mayor Bradley on the Blake consent decree, which resulted increasing the hiring of women and officers of color in Los Angeles Police Department.

On a national level, Ms. Ochi was instrumental in declaring Manzanar Internment Camp as a National Historic Site. She also supported the Redress Bill and was mentioned by President Ronald Reagan in his speech just before he signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. President Bill Clinton appointed Rose to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and subsequently, appointed her to the position of Assistant US Attorney where she was the Director of Community Relations Service. She was the first API woman appointed to Assistant US attorney.

Ms. Ochi returned to Los Angeles, and Mayor James Hahn appointed Ms. Ochi to the Los Angeles Police Commission. Again, she was the first API woman appointed to the Police Commission. Following this assignment, Ms. Ochi became the first Executive Director of the California Forensic Science Institute located at Cal State University Los Angeles. Ms. Ochi retired in 2013 and lived in Monterey Park.

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Betty White

For many people, Betty White might be known best as The Golden Girls' sweet and naive, Rose Nylund, (for which she won an Outstanding Lead Actress Emmy); or as The Mary Tyler Moore Show's saucy, happy home maker, Sue Ann Nivens, (for which she won two Emmy awards as Best Supporting Actress), but throughout the years Betty has proven she is as versatile as she is lovable. A television pioneer, she was one of the first women to hold positions both in front of and behind the camera, and is recognized as the first woman to produce a sitcom, Life with Elizabeth, which brought Betty her first Emmy win in 1952 and also led to her receiving the honorary title Mayor of Hollywood in 1955.

Throughout the next several decades, Betty's career clipped along at a steady pace. White was a regular on Mama's Family as sister Ellen, a role she created on The Carol Burnett Show. She also hosted the game show, Just Men, and received another Emmy for Best Daytime Game Show, the first female game show host to ever receive this honor. Nominated seven times for Best Actress in a Comedy Series for her role as Rose Nylund in The Golden Girls, White won the Emmy for its first season in 1985.

In 2010 Betty joined the cast of TV Land's Hot In Cleveland at the tender age of 88, where she was nominated for an Emmy in 2011. When she hosted NBC's Saturday Night Live in 2010, it was one of the highest-rated episodes in the show's history, and earned her an Emmy Award for Guest Actress in a Comedy Series, bringing White's Emmy total to seven awards.

White is an accomplished author, too. Two of her eight books include "If You Ask Me (And of Course You Won't)," which earned Betty a Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word Album, and "Betty & Friends: My Life at the Zoo," a love letter to the people behind the zoos who work tirelessly for the animals.

A dedicated supporter of animal health and wellness, White is a trustee of the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association and serves as President Emeritus of Morris Animal Foundation, where she has been a trustee since 1971. In 2006, she was honored by the City of Los Angeles at the Los Angeles Zoo as "Ambassador to the Animals." She was proclaimed an honorary forest ranger by the U.S. Forest Service in 2010 and made an honorary zookeeper by the keepers of the Los Angeles Zoo, two occupations she considered as a child and before becoming an actress.

Combining the things she loves most: animals, friends and entertainment, her most passionate project came years earlier after she and her beloved husband, Allen Ludden, created their own production company and launched the syndicated series The Pet Set. Premiering in 1971 and Executive Produced by Allen, The Pet Set featured Betty welcoming celebrity friends with their dogs, cats, birds and horses – in addition to a wide range of wild animals – both in the studio and on location.

White's awards are numerous, and in addition to multiple Emmys including a Lifetime Achievement Award in Daytime, her accolades include the Career Achievement Award in 2009 from the Television Critics Association and the Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award in 2010. She was added to the Guinness World Records under the title, "Longest TV Career for an Entertainer (Female)" and has also been named the world's "Most Trusted Celebrity" by Reuters.

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Sandra Figueroa-Villa

Sandra Figueroa-Villa was born and raised in South Los Angeles and attended local public schools. She began her community activism at Huntington Park High School and graduated from Roosevelt High School in Boyle Heights. She continued her activism as a student at California State University, Los Angeles.

Figueroa-Villa has over 47 years of experience working in the non-profit sector. She was appointed as the Executive Director of El Centro del Pueblo in 1980. At that time it only had 2 part time staff and an operating deficit of \$25,000. Today the organization has an \$8 million dollar annual operating budget to service children, youth, and families in Los Angeles with the support of over 130 professional and paraprofessional employees.

In 2003, Figueroa-Villa led the agency in a \$4.5 million dollar capital campaign to purchase and renovate a 30,000 sq. ft. facility that includes an outdoor playground to complement an indoor youth center that offers recreation to the families that El Centro del Pueblo serves. In 2005, the organization also purchased an 8,000 sq. ft. building to house the Echo Park Family Source Center and the Gang Reduction and Youth Development Program.

Figueroa-Villa has been appointed to a number of boards and commissions including the Children, Youth and Family Commission for the City of LA, the Redistricting Commission and Superintendent Search Committee for LAUSD, and has provided capacity building training to other nonprofits and volunteers on community advocacy campaigns.

Figueroa-Villa was appointed to the Board of Police Commissioners by Mayor Eric Garcetti in August of 2013. Sandra Figueroa-Villa is married to Jesus Villa, a retired educator. Her daughter Xochitl Villa attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and received her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science.

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Sarah Crane

Sarah was born and raised in California however has family roots in Jamaica, The Bahamas, Germany, Spain and Ireland. As a young child, Sarah experienced an environment filled with violence, addiction, and trauma. Despite losing her mother, younger brother, and the man that she called her father as a child; she remained determined to make a difference. Education has always been important to Sarah. Her journey has had many challenges and rewards. Sarah says the key to success is to stay focused and to not give up. It all starts with a vision and setting some goals. As she worked on accomplishing her educational goals, she says that she had many counselors that inspired her. Sarah is a prime example of how a counselor or mentor can play a vital role in a person's career path. It is for this reason that Sarah has in turn become a role model and mentor to others. In her current work, she works at Goodwill of Southern California as a case manager and career advisor.

Her belief in the role our communities play in all our lives and Goodwill's guiding principles of transforming lives through the power of work inspired her to join the organization. As a former participant in Goodwill's program LA RISE, she was inspired to become an agent of change in the community. She has established many strong community partnerships.

She works directly with Pomona Unified School District, Mt. San Antonio College, DPSS Pomona GAIN Sub-Office, PCS Family Services, PATH, Union Station, LAHSA, Hope 4 Home, SBWIB, God's Pantry and Tri-City Mental Health. These agencies refer clients that are at risk of being homeless or homeless for employment services. Sarah supports her program participants with job placements, resume building, job readiness skills and provides supportive services and linkage to community resources. When Sarah is not working, she is engaged in family research. She enjoys assisting people find their family through DNA testing. She also has an online business ruhatiga.com where she sells her unique creations. She is also a current PUSD PTA board member.

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Trinity Tran

Trinity Tran is the co-founder and lead organizer of California Public Banking Alliance, Public Bank LA, and Divest LA. She is the volunteer Executive Director of Urban Partners Los Angeles (UPLA), overseeing one of the largest walk-up food banks in Southern California. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UPLA food bank have distributed over 126,000 grocery boxes to individuals and families in need. Trinity is devoted to helping underserved populations and transforming the financial system to advance social and economic justice.

In February 2017, Trinity created Divest LA which successfully mobilized activists behind the campaign to move the City of Los Angeles' public funds from Wells Fargo. In June 2017, she co-founded Public Bank LA, which led the Measure B ballot initiative to create a city-owned bank in Los Angeles. In June 2018, she became a founding member of the California Public Banking Alliance (CPBA) and lead organizer for the statewide coalition of grassroots groups which conceived of and sponsored State Legislative bill AB 857 to create local public banks in California. The 'Public Banking Act' was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom in October 2019. In 2021, Trinity is simultaneously working with LA City Council to establish the Los Angeles public bank and on state legislation to create the California State Public Bank.

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Rabbi Sharon Brous

Rabbi Sharon Brous is a leading voice in reanimating religious life in America, working to develop a spiritual roadmap for a soulful, justice-driven, multi-faith ethos in Los Angeles and around the country.

Brous is the senior and founding rabbi of IKAR, a Jewish community that launched in 2004 to reinvigorate Jewish practice and inspire people of faith to reclaim a moral and prophetic voice. IKAR quickly became one of the most influential Jewish congregations in the country, and is credited with sparking a rethinking of religious life in a time of unprecedented disaffection and declining affiliation.

Brous's 2016 TED talk, "Reclaiming Religion," has been viewed by more than 1.4 million people and translated into 23 languages. In 2013, she blessed President Obama and Vice President Biden at the Inaugural National Prayer Service, and returned in 2021 to bless President Biden and Vice President Harris. She spoke at the Women's March in Washington, DC in 2017 and at the opening of the National Memorial for Peace and Justice the following year. Brous was named #1 on the Newsweek/The Daily Beast list of the most influential Rabbis in America, and has been recognized by The Forward and the Jerusalem Post as one of the fifty most influential Jews. She was featured on the cover of TIME magazine in 2018 based on Norman Rockwell's Four Freedoms.

Brous is in the inaugural cohort of Auburn Seminary's Senior Fellows program, which unites top faith leaders working on the frontlines for justice. She also sits on the faculty of the Shalom Hartman Institute-North America and REBOOT, and serves on the International Council of the New Israel Fund and the national steering committee for the Poor People's Campaign.

She is a graduate of Columbia University, was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary, and lives in Los Angeles with her husband and three children.

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Nell Chen

Nell Chen was born and raised in the rural, countryside of Taoyuan on the East Asian island of Taiwan. She grew up as the daughter of a Traditional Chinese Medicine doctor and a loving stay-at-home mother. Her father cared for and treated patients in the countryside, often for no fee in a community where many were financially challenged. Her father had such a reputable name for helping others that some patients would travel a long distance to the countryside to seek medical care from him. Nell's parents would often offer the elderly or indigent patients to stay at their home to nurse them back to health or to provide them with temporary housing. Nell grew up seeing her parents exemplify what it meant to contribute to the community, including witnessing her dad contribute to the construction of many Buddhist temples and roads in their countryside neighborhoods. As a result, at a young age, she learned to be generous to others by sharing with them what she had.

From a young age, Nell dreamed of great opportunities and personal growth in her future too. She believed that one way to follow her dreams was to attain a better education. As the educational opportunities in the countryside were limited, she took a bus every day for thirty minutes to a place where she would need to walk an additional thirty minutes to attend a better high school out of the countryside. When it came time for higher education, her parents supported her to expand her horizons to attend college overseas. She had a choice to go to either Japan or the U.S., and she chose the path to the land of great opportunities, the United States of America. She went to California State University, Los Angeles, where she studied and excelled in Finance.

After graduating from college, Nell immediately entered the work force in California, where she began a career that would later grow into opportunities in small business operations. Having a strong work ethic and ambitious goals, she worked very hard at her places of employment. Her hard work paid off when she gained valuable work experience and business skills that would lead her to become settled in Los Angeles permanently.

Twenty years ago, she started to work for Condor Outdoor Products, Inc., a company that had started with humble beginnings in the 1980s. For the past several years, Nell has helped to grow Condor into a multi-million-dollar company, which has earned a well-respected reputation in its industry. As the current General Manager of Condor, Nell's everyday passion and purpose is to help carry out the mission of the company to produce quality tactical gear for members of law enforcement, military, paramilitary, and first responders. Nell takes great pride in the company's focus on producing competitively priced products without sacrificing stellar workmanship. By always aspiring to high standards in their business and searching for innovative ways to meet market demands, Condor and Nell continuously strive to perform their best to support and contribute to the needs of the brave men and women, who serve to protect others.

Nell feels extremely privileged to work for a boss and a company that promotes generosity and giving back to members who provide us security and safety. She is grateful for the strong relationships she has built with the law enforcement and military community. Most of all, she has felt rewarded in having the opportunity to help make a difference by supporting first responders in such hard times as post 9/11 attacks, domestic riots, and the most recent COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, when PPE equipment was still scarce, Nell helped Condor donate over one million masks to first responders all over the nation to support their safety and well-being. Being able to make a charitable donation of masks to our first responders truly defines Nell's success and career. She will continue to seek charitable opportunities to help others or support good causes.

Nell is a strong leader who cares about her work force and the loyal customers who support Condor's business. Her example of contribution and generosity have earned her a deserving honor and title of California Legislative Women's Caucus Woman of the Year 2021.

Nell is honored to be recognized for her work and passion. She attributes where she is today to her upbringing by her parents, and to a company that believes in giving back to others. She is humbled by this recognition and hopes that she can help encourage other women to pursue their ambitions to impact others in meaningful ways.

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Theresa Mike

Theresa Mike also known by her traditional Coast Salish name "Si Mi Ihot" (pronounced see-me-laht), is a Lummi Tribal Member. Theresa graduated from Ferndale High School, went on to Whatcom Community College, and earned her Associate of Applied Arts degree in Aquaculture at the Lummi Indian School of Aquaculture in 1977.

Theresa's early years of employment were at Lummi Indian Business Council, Bellingham National Bank, FRK Values Project, and Lummi Casino. Theresa held many different positions while at Lummi Casino, such as a blackjack and poker dealer, cash cage, main bank, hard/soft count, surveillance, and human resources.

Theresa was one of many founding Lummi Tribal members who helped create the Northwest Indian College that is thriving on the Lummi Reservation to date. Theresa remained a Board Member of the Northwest Indian College long after she moved to Palm Springs, California in 1994.

In 1995, Theresa moved to the Coachella Valley to support her husband and the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians in the start-up of Spotlight 29 Casino where she became the Human Resources Director. Theresa then started a GED program that graduated more than 200 employees over a 3-year period. During that time, Theresa attended Chapman University in Palm Desert, California. Theresa went on to become the Community Affairs Director for Spotlight 29 Casino and created Spotlight Cares. Additionally, Theresa created Native Plus Health Consulting during her time employed at Spotlight 29 Casino.

In 1997-1998, with the help of the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, Theresa was one of the founding members of the Native American Land Conservancy (NALC), whose mission is to protect and preserve. The conservancy holds 2,500 acres in the Old Woman Mountain Preserve and recently acquired a 32-acre parcel in Joshua Tree, California called Coyote Hole.

In 1998, Dean and Theresa established The Theresa A. Mike Scholarship Foundation in memory of their daughter. Theresa is an active board member consistently looking for ways to reach more students through the scholarship program. To date, this foundation has assisted over 800 native and non-native students with financial resources that aided in achieving their academic goals.

In 2018, Theresa was a founding member of the California Indian Nations College (CINC) located in Palm Desert, California. Theresa was inspired to establish the CINC to meet the need for a Tribal College in the State of California that had become evident to Theresa over several decades and help close the disparity in education for tribal members. It was clear to Theresa that California Indian Nations College would help Native American Students feel more comfortable by surrounding them with peers of the same ethnicity. Theresa knew that the creation of the CINC would provide access to education for many tribal students of all ages, regardless if they are enrolling right out of high school, or are adults returning to education. Seeing the initial success of the CINC Theresa is eager for the continued growth of the college.

Theresa's memberships include American Bankers Association, American Legion Auxiliary Post 33 Lummi, Northwest Indian College Foundation, and CINC Foundation.

"Whether you take one class or a full course load as a full-time student; you will earn your degree in time. Once you have your Education - No one can take that from you, education is a great equalizer." **Theresa Mike**

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CHAIR: HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE
APPROPRIATIONS
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT AND RETIREMENT

Ms. Isabel Garcia

Ms. Isabel Garcia is a long time resident of Whittier and an Activities Director at Whittier Hills Healthcare Center-Skilled Nursing Facility. As an Activities Director, she has hosted several community outreach events, such as sharing letters and gifts to families with newborns at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and hosts Rock for Project of Kindness where residents paint rocks and type uplifting messages for the surrounding community to find.

During the pandemic, her dedication to her patient's quality of life and passion to continue inspiring her community persisted. Ms. Garcia worked long hours to ensure families continued communicating with their loved ones and made a difference by providing comfort and companionship to residents during these unprecedented times. Selfless in her actions, she has been a true inspiration throughout the 57th Assembly District and State of California.

Ms. Garcia has dedicated her career to empowering older adults by producing several community outreach events and collaborating with her surrounding community of Whittier. She established a Community Halloween Maze, a summer Carnival, and Promenade Dance, amongst others.

In her youth, she attended school at the San Gabriel Mission and the Dominican Sister of Mission San Jose with the ambition of becoming a nun. During her studies, Ms. Garcia assisted in the nursing home and was so inspired by her work with older adults that she returned home to Whittier to pursue this passion. She enrolled in the Tri-Cities Regional Occupational Program and pursued a Certified Nursing Assistant degree.

Upon completing her high school degree, she attended American Career College for Vocational Nursing. During an internship, she met a case manager who assisted her in becoming a Marketer for Western Convalescent in Los Angeles. Within a year, she was offered a position as the Regional Admissions Director at Rio Hondo Subacute and Convalescent in Montebello.

After five years of working to assist families and older adults in this setting, she was extended the opportunity to work and serve in the community she lives in. She became the Admissions Director for Whittier Hills Healthcare Center and has served at this site for over 11 years. Now, the Activities Director at this site, she has continued her passion to provide companionship and an improved quality of life to all.

Ms. Garcia's strong work ethic, passion, commitment, and dedication has allowed her to excel and be successful throughout her career and in her community. Throughout the past 17 years, she has received outstanding community commendations for her selfless work.

Ms. Isabel Garcia shares her success with her three daughters, fiancé Frank, and loving parents Maria and John Garcia.

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Guadalupe Diaz

Guadalupe Diaz is a proud 35 year resident of Pico Rivera, California within the 58th Assembly District. Guadalupe, fondly known as Lupe, has committed her life to being of service to others in many capacities.

She worked as registered nurse for the County of Los Angeles for 42 years from 1970 to 2012. In 1999, Lupe met with President Bill Clinton at Harbor UCLA Medical Center to discuss the Patient's Bill of Rights and address case management access to specialty services. In 2000, the White House invited Lupe to meet with the then Vice President, Al Gore, to introduce the Chiefs of Specialty Services at LAC-USC Medical Center for the Healthy Families Bill signing. Later in 2003, Lupe received the Nurse Merit Award and in 2004, she received the Nurse of the Year recognition for Ambulatory Care. Lupe was a member of SEIU Local 660 for 30 years and served as Vice President for 14 years.

Guadalupe retired from her nursing profession on December 31, 2012, but continued to be of service to others in her community. Lupe joined the Pio Pico Woman's Club in 2012 and served four years as President of the Club from 2013 to 2017. Under her leadership, she saw the opportunity to expand the club's relationships and carved their presence at the San Gabriel Valley District Women's Clubs meetings and at the General Federation of Women's Clubs conventions for greater visibility and partnerships. Guadalupe proudly represented the Pio Pico Women's Club at the 2020 Rose Parade, portraying the suffragists' voting rights activism.

Lupe volunteered regularly for the Red Cross and donated platelets every opportunity she had, she housed eight children from San Luis Potosi, Mexico through Pico Rivera's sister city program, played in a local co-ed softball team for ten years, regularly donated money to organizations for women and children's causes, and helped fundraise for scholarships in the community. Guadalupe also finds the time to remain civically engaged by attending City of Pico Rivera council meetings regularly and sharing updates with her club members.

In between all of her service over the years, Lupe also stepped into the role of foster parenting in 2002. In 2007, as a single parent, she adopted three children, ages two, six, and seven, and raised them with the most care.

Guadalupe Diaz is an admirable and determined leader, whose humanitarian aid and tenacity have proven beneficial to those around her and beyond. Lupe's passion to educate, empower and engage her community is unyielding and I know she will accomplish more for others in the years to come.

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Norma Diaz

Norma Diaz is a resident of Walnut Park where she currently offers bilingual DMV classes, etiquette classes, self-defense classes, and anti-bullying workshops to the community. She serves as treasurer for the Walnut Park Civic Engagement Project an organization targeting key issues in their community and find solutions on how to improve the livelihood of all residents.

Throughout her life, Norma has excelled in anything she has set her mind to. Norma attended culinary art school where she studied a variety of culinary cuisines, which led to her involvement in the collaboration of the world's largest cake that was inducted into the Guinness Book of World Records. Norma's active involvement has also allowed her to be a computer programmer at an industrial clothing pattern company. Norma is also an active member of the SELA collaborative which focuses on the betterment of public and charter schools in South-East Los Angeles. Norma Diaz has been a devoted wife to Salvador Diaz, mother to daughters Diana and Karen, and community leader who selflessly put the interest of others before her own.

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Fauzia Rizvi

Fauzia Rizvi is an engineer, a business owner, and a community advocate. She is a long-time resident of the City of Corona, where she lives with her husband and three children.

Fauzia was born and raised in Karachi, Pakistan. In 1992, she sought the American dream and immigrated to the United States to attain her Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information. Five years later, after having two children and earning her degree, she settled in Corona, CA.

While raising her family, Fauzia furthered her career in Engineering, specializing in Water and Sewer technologies. This allowed her to learn about the importance of clean water infrastructure and begin advocating for her community.

In 2015, Fauzia started working at Hydranautics, a supplier of membranes to the Poseidon Water Desalination plant, as a Consultant. Her responsibilities have included managing engineering and operations records, including vital system maps, water supply statistics, and water flow records.

Fauzia also helped establish an IT company where she served as a board member. Having over 10 years of proven expertise working as a professional in water management consulting, she started another company, S-Cube Technologies, to provide consultation to the stakeholders in the water and sewage-related sector. She is currently pursuing her "Master Water Specialist" certificate from the Water Quality Association.

In 2020, Fauzia made history in her election to the Western Municipal Water District, becoming the first Muslim-identified person to be elected to public office in the Inland Empire.

A committed public servant, Fauzia has been heavily involved in improving the quality of life for her community—from being a PTA mom, to working with the Interfaith Coalition, and numerous volunteer organizations, including City of Corona's Homeless Task Force, Corona Norco Interfaith Association, Beloved Corona, and Cops & Clergy, and more.

During the pandemic, Fauzia co-founded For the People Task Force, a community-based nonprofit. For the People Task Force has provided essential workers with over 20,000 homemade hand sewn masks and has assisted community members with food insecurity and utility debt by hosting over 50 food-drives and raising money to assist in paying their bills. Her efforts have helped thousands of families throughout the Inland Empire.

Fauzia was the first woman elected to the executive board of the Islamic Society of Corona-Norco in 30 years. She currently serves as a Board member and Interfaith Chair for the Board of the Shura Council of Southern California, an organization that consists of 70 non-profits. She has previously served the Chair for the Muslim Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census. In addition to her roles serving the Muslim community both at a national and regional scale, Fauzia is also ensuring the fiscal stability and security of the Riverside Community College District (RCCD), as a member of the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee.

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Susan Straight

Susan Straight is the author of ten books, a finalist for the National Book Award, winner of the Edgar Prize for Best Mystery Story, and a distinguished professor of creative writing at the University of California, Riverside.

Susan's new memoir, *In the Country of Women*, was named a Best Book of 2019 by National Public Radio, by NPR Code Switch, Real Simple, and others. She has published eight novels, including *Between Heaven and Here*, *Take One Candle Light a Room*, and *A Million Nightingales* – finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize in 2006. *Highwire Moon* was a finalist for the 2001 National Book Award.

Her stories and essays have appeared in O. Henry Prize Stories, Best American Short Stories, Best American Essays, The New York Times, The New Yorker, The Los Angeles Times, Granta, Harpers, and elsewhere. Her awards include the Kirsch Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Los Angeles Times, the Lannan Prize for Fiction, the Edgar Award for Best Mystery Story, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Gold Medal for Fiction from the Commonwealth Club of California.

She was born in Riverside, California, where she lives with her family.

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Dionne Faulk

Dionne Faulk is the first African-American woman to be elected and the second woman seated on the Inglewood City Council.

She is committed to this great City of Inglewood that is cutting-edge, resilient, and progressive. It is the City of Champions! As Councilwoman, she will fight for sustainable jobs, affordable housing, a balanced budget, and make decisions that are responsive to the needs of Inglewood residents.

Councilwoman Faulk is a lifelong public servant and has worked for the State of California as a Civil Servant for over 15 years. Before being elected to the Inglewood City Council, she started her public service career as a Commissioner appointed to the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs by the Honorable Yvonne Brathwaite-Burke. At the State level, Councilwoman Faulk served as Regional Representative for the Association of California State Supervisors Union. For over five years, she has served on the State of California State Employee Association Foundation Board representing SEIU and concurrently as an elected Assembly Delegate for the 62nd Assembly District representing Inglewood.

Joining the ranks of Inglewood leadership, Councilwoman Faulk was elected to the Inglewood Unified School Board in 2017 and served as a member of the Board of Education for almost four years.

An active member of the community, Councilwoman Faulk holds membership in her beloved Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and Jack and Jill of America Inc. She is also a member of the Los Angeles African-American Women's Public Policy Institute.

Councilwoman Faulk was educated right here in Southern California South bay at California State University Dominguez Hills and University of West Los Angeles School of Law.

Councilwoman Faulk resides in the Renaissance Community adjacent to the historic SoFi Stadium in District 4 with her husband Shannon Faulk and their two sons, Fitzgerald and Sebastian.

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Audrey Casas

Audrey was raised in Lynwood, California and attended Lynwood public schools. Perfect attendance, exemplary grades and participation in most academic extracurricular activities helped her become Wilson Elementary School's 6th grade valedictorian. Unfortunately, she faced many adversities beginning in middle school and High School including gangs, gang violence and drug abuse. However, Audrey is a fierce and determined woman. She kept shining forward with the support and love of her family, husband Saul, her two sons Bruno and Zeus, friends and the community that remains behind her to this day.

After many years of sustained recovery, she completed Cal State Dominguez Hills' Drug and Alcohol Certification Program. She obtained an Associate's degree from El Camino College. She was chosen as 2017's graduating class speaker for the Compton College campus. In June 2019, she graduated from UC Irvine, highlighted as "Top 19 of 2019" Humanities students. She obtained an English degree minoring in Civic and Community Engagement with a specialization in Poverty. She was also chosen to represent UC Irvine at the 2019 Philanthropy Lab in Dallas, Texas. Audrey is currently pursuing a master's degree in Educational Policy and Administration at Loyola Marymount College. This year, Audrey celebrates her 20-year anniversary of employment with Lynwood Unified School District (LUSD) and currently teaches 9th grade English at Lynwood High School. In May 2020, she was chosen as employee of the Year by LUSD.

Beginning in April 2020, during the onset of the pandemic, Audrey was able to fundraise over \$80,000 to donate to families experiencing tragedy and economic difficulty during the mandatory lockdown in Los Angeles County. Because of her caring and trusting leadership, she was able to reach out to Lynwood residents, businesses, churches, and elected offices to obtain funds for the community. She organized a team that included her family, fellow educators and hospital administrators, which she called "The Dream Team". Together, they distributed over 800-grocery gift cards first beginning by dropping off cards personally to families' homes, and then organized almost 20 large free food distributions and events throughout Lynwood. In the process, her "Dream Team" became an official organization called "Mastering Hope" that now had distributed over 20,000 care packages. Audrey has frequently stated, "Although we may not be individually wealthy, together we are rich" and "Sustainable change is possible using everyone's spare change, little by little...a little becomes a lot."

Promoting resilience, perseverance and triumph by any means necessary has been Audrey's message and goal for her community that she loves and supports. However, for Audrey this is not work when you enjoy doing it. Above all, she states, "We must have fun getting it done", she explains, "the heaviest times call for hard work and lightheartedness - dark moments must be met with fierce light and positivity". The message that she would like everyone to know is that scars can create stars – what you consider a flaw or impediment could be your biggest asset in making a positive impact."

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Candace Leos

Candace Leos was raised in the City of Compton. Growing up, she witnessed the devastating impact that drugs and gangs had in and around her neighborhood. In 2019, she realized that to affect change, she needed to get involved in her community. She began holding community forums, studying local government, attending council meetings, and made it a priority to get to know the elected officials. Eventually those small community meetings evolved into the launch of her nonprofit - the Compton Advocates Coalition, a 501(c)(3) organization. Compton Advocates' mission is to engage, educate, and empower Compton residents. They hold regular community roundtables, empowerment workshops, and beautification events for the City of Compton. Candace is the mother of two sons and grandmother to a beautiful girl. She is also a student at Pacific Oaks University, majoring in Community Psychology and an employee for the City of Compton.

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Theresa Harvey

Theresa Harvey has served as President and CEO of North Orange County Chamber (NOCC) since 2005. Throughout her tenure, Harvey has guided the organization's strategic direction by developing core programs focused on providing resources to help businesses grow and create jobs, and play a role in training and retraining the local and regional workforce. The Chamber prioritizes issues and policies that affect businesses at the local level becoming a proactive force in the legislative and policy-making arena and a valuable resource for businesses.

She has partnered with numerous organizations developing relationships with business, educators and government officials. Her efforts have also connected individuals and small businesses with global markets and the international business community by highlighting opportunities made possible through trade and global markets. Harvey serves as an advisor to Upskill OC, workforce development initiative sponsored by Orange County United Way, and the Community Engagement Subcommittee of the California College Guidance Initiative. She previously served on North Orange County Community College District's Bond Oversight Committee and has served on Committees and Commissions for the City of Fullerton.

A graduate of California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), Harvey has been inducted into the CSFU's Department of Communications Wall of Fame and she has twice served as president of the CSUF Alumni Association. She currently serves as Vice President of CSUF's Auxiliary Services Corporation Board and was recognized as one of the university's 50 Women of Distinction.

Harvey was recognized by Fullerton College receiving the President's Award as Business Woman of the Year, was honored by YWCA of North Orange County as Business Woman of the Year, and in 2015 was distinguished among Women to Watch by California Women's Leadership Association. She has served on the board of the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) and the Southern California Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

An active performer, Harvey plays bassoon in the Fullerton Community Band, Symphony Irvine, So Cal Philharmonic, and Golden West Pops. She resides in the City of Fullerton where she raised her two children.

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AL MURATSUCHI

CHAIR, JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SIXTY-SIXTH DISTRICT

Joeann Valle

Joeann Valle was born on January 31, 1939, and grew up in Inglewood. She graduated from Inglewood High and attended El Camino College, near Torrance. She received a bachelor's degree from Cal State Long Beach. When she moved to Harbor City, those who knew her say, she quickly became active in the community. And during her decades in the Harbor Area, Valle became one of the most recognizable figures in the community. Valle, who lived in Harbor City and managed its chamber of commerce was the "go-to" person for government officials, reporters and residents for anything involving the Harbor City and Harbor Gateway areas of Los Angeles. Former L.A. City Councilman Rudy Svorinich Jr. called her an icon and an "irreplaceable force". "She not only placed these two communities on the map in the eyes of all levels of government," he said in a written comment, "she kept them there for over four decades."

Nikki Brown Tennant, who knew Valle for 30 years through their mutual work in public and community service, said, "Valle was the epitome of a community activist in the most positive sense," Tennant said. "She was a fierce advocate for the people and businesses of Harbor City and Harbor Gateway," she added, "before, during and after her time with the chamber of commerce." She was instrumental in the name designation of Harbor Gateway, which had long been referred to simply as the "city strip" because it connected downtown L.A. to the communities of Harbor City, Wilmington and San Pedro to the south.

"Joeann Valle was more than just a dear friend," L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn said, "She was a leader and matriarch of the Harbor Gateway Community." Hahn credited her for working with local youth and establishing the Harbor City Cheryl Green Boys & Girls Clubs, where she also served as a board member. Valle also was a founding member of the Harbor City Winter Wonderland Committee that brought in "snow" and winter activities each year during the holidays. Valle was instrumental in helping Hahn bring together the Harbor City Neighborhood Council, who previously served on the L.A. City Council. "She fought hard for quality of life improvements to the city, such as the Harbor City Library and the restoration of the Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park," Hahn said. "She had such a huge heart for the community and she will be missed." Valle was a Harbor Area planning commissioner, founder of the Harbor City Neighborhood Council, chair of the Harbor Regional Park advisory board, and was on the boards of several other community organizations. She was also the executive director of the L.A. Gateway Chamber, as well as its predecessor, the Harbor City/Harbor Gateway Chamber of Commerce. Valle, who died Jan. 4, after a short battle with lung and bone cancer. She was 81 and is survived by her three children, Gary Bennett Jr. of Oxnard, Julie Bastian of Harbor City and Mark Bennett of Lomita; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren (with one more on the way).

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LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT AND RETIREMENT
PUBLIC SAFETY
REVENUE AND TAXATION

Kimberley Summers

Kimberley Summers has dedicated herself to the local government profession for over 20 years. Kim currently serves as the City Manager for the City of Murrieta, California, a position she has held since 2017. She came to the role with extensive and diverse municipal government experience, which includes 15 years with the City of Hesperia as Deputy City Manager, Assistant to the City Manager and Public Information Officer.

Summers has guided the City of Murrieta through a major sales tax initiative, led emergency operations for two wildfires, and helped build a culture of transparency by implementing programs that enhance access to City information and amplify community engagement. She implemented organizational values and other employee programs such as a management and mentorship-training program for employees.

An engaged leader with a hands-on approach, Summers has played key roles in budget preparation, strategic planning, community outreach, policy formation, labor relations, employee development, and customer service initiatives throughout her career in local government.

Her leadership has touched every City department and strengthened programs in Legislative Affairs and Environmental Programs, Parks and Recreation, Library Services, Development Services, Economic Development, City Clerk and IT.

Summers is an ICMA Credentialed City Manager and holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor's Degree in Communications. She was recently elected to the League of California Cities City Managers Department At-Large representative and was awarded the Ethical Hero award from Cal-ICMA. She has proven herself exemplary in demonstrating the ICMA Code of Ethics through her leadership, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her commitment to following this Code of Ethics is clearly exemplified in her actions and the culture that of the City of Murrieta. The first thing that you see when entering Ms. Summers' office is a framed copy of the ICMA Code of Ethics hanging on her wall. She has made it a discussion topic when on-boarding new employees.

STATE CAPITOL – ROOM 2016

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HUMAN SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

Carolyn Cavecche

Carolyn Cavecche has served as President and CEO of the Orange County Taxpayers Association since 2012. She came to OCTax with over a decade of public policy experience gained from serving on numerous city, county and regional governing boards. This experience has given her insight into how government can and should keep taxes “fair, understandable, cost effective, and good for business.” Carolyn has grown OCTax into Orange County’s leading taxpayer advocate association that continually polls as one of the county’s most trusted voices.

Prior to joining the Orange County Taxpayers Association, Carolyn served 6 years as the directly elected Mayor of the City of Orange in addition to serving almost 6 years as a member of the Orange City Council. During her close to 12 years in office, she sat on the boards of several regional agencies including: the Orange County Transportation Authority, the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink), the Orange County Sanitation District, and the Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency.

She has been honored many times. In 2006 Carolyn was awarded the Elected Official Ruby Slipper Award by the Orange County Building Industry Association. She was named the 2007 Woman of the Year by the Orange County Women in Transportation Seminar and the 2007 Elected Official of the Year for the State of California by the California Transportation Foundation. In 2008, Carolyn was named one of 20 Women to Watch in Orange County by OC Metro Business Magazine. Mobility 21, the leading Southern California transportation coalition named Carolyn the 2009 Transportation Leader of the Year and she was named 2011 Elected Official of the Year by the American Council of Engineering Companies. She received the Orange Chamber of Commerce’s award for exceptional economic development results twice, in 2007 and in 2012.

Carolyn is a graduate of California State University, Long Beach with a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology. She and her husband Rick are parents of three grown children and have two granddaughters.

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Valerie Amezcua

Valerie Amezcua has served our community, not only as a parent, but also as an education advocate, Santa Ana City Commissioner, and Supervising Probation Officer.

She retired on September 1, 2017 as a Supervising Probation Officer for the Orange County Probation Department where she started her career in January 1987. During her public service career of 30 years, she has had an array of assignments that included Gang Suppression, Tri-Agency Regional Gang Enforcement, Gang Prevention / Intervention for the County Islands Program, and Supervisor for the Youth Reporting Center in Santa Ana, which partnered with the Department of Education and numerous non-profit agencies.

As a Board Member, she played a key role in the expansion of Mental Health services throughout the district and recognized the need for additional training for SAUSD Police Officers so that they could work with students and community members in a positive community-based approach. She has worked tirelessly to address school safety issues and supports providing each school site with the necessary tools to ensure our student's success.

She remains active within the community, previously serving on numerous boards and commissions, including the Human Relations Commission and the Early Prevention & Intervention Commission (EPIC) for the City of Santa Ana. She attended California State University, Long Beach and is the proud mother of Mickel Melendrez.

Valerie was recognized by the Orange County Register as one of the Top 100 Most Influential People of 2017 for her work on the Santa Ana Unified School Board of Education. She has received numerous recognitions for her work and dedication for the community, including LULAC Woman of the Year, Congressional Recognition and Women of Distinction award.

Valerie was elected to the Santa Ana Unified School District's Board of Education on November 4, 2014.

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Martha Deichler

Martha Deichler came to Borrego Springs 16 years ago to be the elementary school principal. Her plans were to stay two years but she fell in love with the place - the people, the Park, the town - so she stayed! Borrego is good for Martha and Martha is good for Borrego.

Martha is retired from the Borrego Springs Unified School District but is still on the board. She is on several boards in the valley and is the first one to raise her hand to give someone a ride to get a vaccine, test, feed a cat or whatever. She is a woman about town and always raising money for different causes. Martha is always willing to jump in and get things done.

Martha volunteers her time with the following boards and associations, which is what keeps her so very busy and involved:

Borrego Springs Rotary
Borrego Springs Civic Foundation
Boys and Girls Club of Greater San Diego
BASIC (Basic Assistance to Students in the Community)
COVID 19 Task Force
Borrego Valley Stewardship Council
Borrego Ministers' Association
Borrego Art Institute
Water Master Board (alternate)
Borrego Health
California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom
California Women for Agriculture

The 71st Assembly District as well as the community of Borrego Springs are very lucky to have someone like Martha in their midst, since she is a wonderful example of selflessness and community.

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Monique Huong Lê, M.D.

Monique Huong Lê, M.D., is a physician, board certified in anesthesiology and internal medicine. For the past decade, her passion has been the Vietnamese Physician Association of Southern California (VPASC). She helped VPASC grow from a social professional group into a charitable foundation. VPASC and its foundation have given close to \$100,000 in scholarships to deserving college students, has organized annual free health fairs that were attended by hundreds of Orange County residents, and has organized mock interviews for hundreds of pre-health students. VPASC foundation holds an annual Lunar New Year Gala that typically is attended by hundreds of physicians and family members. VPASC foundation also collaborates with many other foundations to better the well-being of Orange County residents. Dr. Lê has mentored many college students pursuing careers in the healthcare field.

Dr. Lê experienced major challenges growing up in, and fleeing from, war-torn South Vietnam and arriving in California when she was 14 years old. Growing up in Southern California not knowing the English language presented a significant challenge that she overcame. Dr. Lê excelled in high school by looking up every word in the dictionary! She matriculated to the University of California, Irvine, where she graduated magna cum laude. Dr. Lê attended medical school at University of California, Irvine. She currently works at surgery centers in Orange County. Dr. Lê was formerly on staff at Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena and Orange Coast Medical Center in Fountain Valley.

Dr. Lê raised two successful children. Her daughter Angela graduates from Chapman University in 2021 and seeks a career in optometry. Her son Nicolas graduated Dartmouth College in computer sciences and now works at Facebook. Dr. Lê lives in Newport Beach with her family and is blessed to be close to her parents and brothers. She attributes her success to her close-knit family who is always there for her.

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Sherri Lex

Sherri Lex grew up in the Mission Viejo area and has lived in Rancho Santa Margarita since 1993. While raising her children, Sherri began her very successful real estate business which has served the South Orange County area for the last 14 years. In 2014, Sherri joined RSM Cares as a board member and has been president of the organization since 2017. Sherri also created the RSM Arts Program, worked with the 2/5 Marine Battalion out of Camp Pendleton and works with seniors in her community. She also spearheaded the Brick Legacy-Gift a Brick Fundraiser at the RSM Bell Tower foundation and has helped with funding for the Boys and Girls Club of Rancho Santa Margarita.

As COVID-19 evolved and became an ongoing pandemic, Sherri refocused her energies on the RSM Cares Food Pantry, which began to see significant increased demands. Soon after COVID-19 hit, over 130 food pantries closed in Orange County. The RSM Cares Food Pantry quickly recognized the increased demand and took the initiative to adapt and grow their presence. Additional grants for food and supplies were quickly applied for and secured by Sherri. The food pantry client base nearly tripled during the ongoing months of COVID-19 from approximately 125 to 350 families served.

Sherri has an enormous heart and is always ready to act for her community. After a long day at her real estate office, Sherri is then out in her community working for her local food bank. There are daily pick-ups of food at Starbucks and various grocery stores that quickly need to be refrigerated and stored for their bi-monthly food distributions. Sherri's door is always open and will often use her own garage, real estate office or personal refrigerator to store the overflow of food and supplies.

Sherri always leads by example and is never afraid to get her hands dirty or put in the extra hours at night or during the weekend. Sherri Lex's years of volunteerism and hours of dedication to her community should be admired and celebrated. The entire community of South Orange County is indebted to her and her many causes.

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COTTIE PETRIE-NORRIS
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, SEVENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

Barbara Finlayson-Pitts

Professor Finlayson-Pitts is an inspiring leader, who has organized major research initiatives at the University of California, Irvine. She has formed and served as a director of the AirUCI Institute, the mission of which is to "address urgent challenges we face in air and water quality, human health, climate change, and green technology through the integration of research, education, and outreach". In addition to its cutting-edge research activities, AirUCI has conducted under her leadership significant outreach activities to the community in the form of "Community Day" showcases of the research activities, as well as an annual teacher training program, which consists of a two-week educational experience during which middle and high school teachers gain hands-on education and laboratory training in advanced subjects in atmospheric and environmental chemistry. The teacher program, which has trained 200 high-school and middle-school teachers since 2005, was highlighted as one of the top outreach efforts by the National Academies' Chemical Sciences Roundtable (CSR) workshop "Strengthening High School Chemistry Education through Teacher Outreach Programs."

Professor Finlayson-Pitts is a great mentor, and a strong proponent of the education and professional preparation of women at all levels. During her career, she has trained more than 30 graduate students, over 40 postdoctoral researchers, and 30 undergraduate students, including more than 40 women. Her former trainees include faculty members, government officials, and famous astronaut Tracy Caldwell Dyson.

Selected Honors and Awards:

Governor General's Medal, Trent University, 1970
Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, 1970
National Research Council of Canada Science Scholarship in 1970 and a Postgraduate Scholarship in 1974
Outstanding Young Women of America, 1979
Meritorious Performance and Professional Promise Awards (1984, 1986 and 1988) at California State University, Fullerton
Honorary Member into the Golden Key National Honor Society
Distinguished Faculty Member/Faculty Marshal, School of Natural Science and Mathematics, California State University, Fullerton, 1990
Alumni Lecturer, Trent University, Peterborough, Canada, 1990-91
J. Diefenderfer Award for Outstanding Contributions to Students, California State University, Fullerton, 1991
State of California Governor's Employee Safety Award, 1991
Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1993
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Fellowship, 1994
UCI School of Physical Sciences Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education, 1996-1997
Orange County ACS Service Through Chemistry Award, 1999
UCI Graduate Voice Faculty Mentor Award, 2000
Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, 2002
American Chemical Society Award for Creative Advances in Environmental Science and Technology, 2004
American Academy of Arts & Sciences, 2006
National Academy of Sciences, 2006
UCI Distinguished Professor, 2006
ACS Tolman Medal, 2008
Coalition for Clean Air's Carl Moyer Award for Scientific Leadership and Technical Excellence for body of work in restoring clean air to California, 2009

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Lila MacDonald

Lila is a local girl who grew up in Fallbrook and graduated from Fallbrook High School. Even in her youth, she was very involved in school and in her community, and won the title of Miss Friendly Village in 1988. She has four children and one grandson.

She has served as PTA president of several local schools, helping charter the PTA at WH Frazier Elementary, and served on the citizen's oversight committee to oversee the bond for the Elementary School District. She has served as president of the Fallbrook youth baseball league, was a part of National Charity League with her daughter, and is a current member of Rotary International.

She has served on many nonprofit committees, including the board of the Fallbrook Food Pantry and the Fallbrook Chamber Board of Directors, as well as served as an ambassador for the Chamber. She was Honorary Mayor in 2011 and is passionate about serving her community.

Lila was hired as the CEO of the Fallbrook Chamber in June of 2014. She currently works with San Diego County on their revitalization committees, which include everything from transportation to the homeless, law enforcement to code & ordinance updates, infrastructure to economic development. She leads the Public Safety Committees and is co-chair of the Children's Public Health/Safety Committee.

She values and nurtures relationships with local and state representatives, community organizations, and businesses. She is helping to shape the community through collaborate relationships with nonprofits and community members to bring awareness, as well as working with her amazing staff to create more networking events, educational seminars, and community/cultural events including the Avocado Festival and Artisan Faire.

Lila works daily to help build a better community, while supporting local businesses.

I am so very honored to select Lila MacDonald to be the 75th Assembly District Woman of the Year. She is truly deserving of this honor!

Marie Waldron
Assemblymember, 75th District

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Jacqueline “Kiki” Bispo

Jacqueline “Kiki” Bispo is the Family Engagement Network Lead at Vista Unified School District, a nationally and internationally-recognized program that she designed herself. She leads a team of Community Liaisons focused on bridging relationships between families, schools, and community, ensuring that all stakeholders in education, work collaboratively to support student success. This network focuses on building unity, dismantling inequality, injustice, academic and social barriers, student achievement gaps, and empowers parents.

Kiki’s passion in life is being a social justice activist through education, love, and community building. Throughout her education career, she has steadily focused on elevating the positive conditions in which students can thrive. Her hope for families and community remains steadfast; to learn to live sustainably so that future generations have the resources they need; that all children will have the equitable opportunities in life and grow up in healthy communities; that all children know their unique gifts and abilities, and meet their personal goals and dreams.

Kiki has worked in underserved communities as a high school basketball coach, science teacher who taught A.P. Environmental Science, Biology, Environmental Technology, and 9th grade Integrated Coordinated Science. She has taught student leadership, was a student council advisor, and has been a career technical education teacher mentor. She has designed environmental technology curriculum and previously has worked in K-12 independent studies.

A graduate of UCLA, Kiki received her B.S. in Psychobiology, Minor in Education, and a Master’s in Social Justice and Secondary Science. She is currently at UC San Diego-CSU San Marcos to receive her Ed.D.

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Valerie Brown

Valerie Brown is a resident of Rancho Bernardo, a suburb of the City of San Diego, where she has lived with her husband Vince Jolley and daughters Amanda, Jessica, and Olivia for nearly twenty years. Since moving to San Diego, she has been serving Rancho Bernardo and San Diego County faithfully as a volunteer with Girl Scouts, Neighborhood Watch, San Diego's Aging in Place Chapter, RB Hall of Fame, Spirit of the Fourth, Poway Unified School District PTA, Ed Brown Center for Active Adults, City of San Diego CERT, Red Cross, and many other community endeavors.

Valerie coordinated the community's long term disaster recovery efforts in the aftermath of the October 2007 Witch Creek Wildfire, which destroyed over 1,500 homes. When her friends and neighbors lost their homes, she organized the local community response, later working with the countywide Regional Recovery Group while directly serving 500 families in Rancho Bernardo, Poway, Escondido, and Rancho Santa Fe for over three years. Since the Witch Creek Wildfire, Valerie has been an active contributor to subsequent disasters in San Diego County through the efforts of San Diego County's Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and the Community Recovery Team. This year, she serves as San Diego VOAD's president and works with this nonprofit collaboration to meet the county's current COVID-19 and Lake Fire needs.

A nonprofit professional for over thirty years, Valerie previously worked in San Diego for Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego, serving youth at 13 locations across San Diego County, and Interfaith Community Services, where she most recently served as Chief Quality Assurance and Compliance Officer, supporting quality service delivery to tens of thousands of San Diego County's most vulnerable residents with over 50 programs.

Valerie currently works as the senior program officer for United Policyholders, a national nonprofit whose mission is to be a trustworthy and useful information resource and an effective voice for consumers of all types of insurance. Her extensive background in disaster recovery experience helps her support United Policyholders' Roadmap to Recovery™ program, which provides support and guidance on insurance, restoring assets and getting back home after a catastrophic loss, for the 2018 Camp and Woolsey Fires, 2019 SoCal Wildfires, 2020 California Fires, 2020 Colorado Wildfires, 2020 Oregon Wildfires, 2020 Washington Wildfires, 2020 Tennessee Tornadoes, and 2020 Iowa Derecho. She also serves on the Disaster Leadership Team board, which provides seasoned community disaster leaders to support new community leaders working through the disaster recovery process.

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Patty Maysent

Patty Maysent is chief executive officer of UC San Diego Health, the region's only academic health system, comprising UC San Diego Medical Center, Jacobs Medical Center, Shiley Eye Institute and Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center, as well as other primary and specialty practices located throughout Southern California. Appointed CEO in 2016, she oversees a \$2 billion annual operating budget and more than 9,000 employees.

Bringing a wealth of experience in leadership and strategic planning to her role, Maysent has focused on growth and expansion — enhancing UC San Diego Health's reputation as a health care destination for complex specialty care and local, community-based care. She has been instrumental in building an award-winning hospital, outpatient pavilion and multiple community clinics, including Rancho Bernardo, Encinitas and the newest location, Eastlake in Chula Vista.

Maysent has elevated UC San Diego Health services and programs to enhance the lives of patients and residents of the community. In 2018, UC San Diego Health provided \$423.7 million in community benefits, including uncompensated and government-sponsored care, charity care and other health services.

Under her leadership, the organization continues to earn top honors. UC San Diego Health maintains Magnet status from the American Nurses Credentialing Center for nursing excellence. The health system was named one of the top ten academic medical centers for patient care by Vizient, Inc. and The Joint Commission and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid also bestowed recognition for providing high-quality hospital care. The prestigious The Leapfrog Group gave a coveted “A” rating to both the La Jolla and Hillcrest hospitals and named the Hillcrest facility as a top teaching hospital. Additionally, the nation's largest LGBTQ civil rights organization awarded UC San Diego Health a perfect score on its Healthcare Equality Index.

Maysent was appointed CEO in 2016 after serving as chief of staff and chief strategy officer. In addition, she serves on the board of the California Hospital Association.

Previously, she was CEO of St. Jude Medical Center and served as a consultant for University of Southern California's Keck Medical Center and Alliance Healthcare Services. She holds a bachelor's degree in human biology from Stanford University and a master's in business administration and public health from UCLA.

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Francine Antoinette Maigue

Named “The Face of Global Pinay Power” and “1 of the 100 Most Influential Filipinas in the World,” Francine Maigue actively advances the fight for equitable resources and opportunities, especially for youth, women, and communities of color, working to ensure cultural competence and accurate representation on both a local and global level.

For over seven years, Francine has served as district director for Assemblywoman Gonzalez, producing many innovative programs and resources for diverse communities. She spearheaded, for example, multiple safe distributions of essential resources for thousands of constituents during the pandemic. She’s also created robust leadership development programs that empower youth, engage and uplift their families through a strong understanding of our legislative system, and helps students from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds succeed in the higher education application process and beyond.

Born in Cavite City, Philippines, Francine was raised in Chula Vista, California. She graduated with her master’s degree in management from Harvard University, where she received the prestigious Harvard Commencement Speaker Prize, hosted the Philippine Presidential Debate at Harvard Law School, and founded Harvard’s Women’s Empowerment Convention and Network (WECAN). Francine served as Director of Operations for Harvard’s “Innovation in Challenging Times” Business Conference and as Diversity Ambassador for Women Entrepreneurs for the business society.

Francine graduated with her bachelor’s degree in world arts & cultures from UCLA, where she founded and led a college bound program and multiple student organizations, was a member and leader of eight honor societies, peer-elected Commencement Speaker, Homecoming Queen, and received numerous honors, including the Distinguished Bruin Award, Outstanding Senior Award, Chancellor’s Service Award, Woman for Change Award, and Young Humanitarian Award. While at UCLA, Francine performed with the legendary Mikhail Baryshnikov and appeared in television shows for ABC and ABC Family.

Francine was selected as an inaugural delegate to the Filipino American Young Leaders Program, recognized and mentored by His Excellency Ambassador Jose Cuisia and the Philippine Diplomatic Corps. Francine serves as a special advisor to the Philippine Consuls. In 2012, Francine was honored with the Filipino-American History Award for achievement in the areas of Arts, Humanitarianism, and Community Service. In 2015, Francine was recognized with the BAYANI (Hero) Award. In 1999, Francine was crowned Miss Philippines of San Diego County. She has served as President of the Filipino-American Chamber of Commerce of San Diego County, International Friendship Commissioner for the City of Chula Vista, and Board Member for the Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center Foundation. Francine is an accomplished writer and is the Poet-in-Residence for New Americans Museum. Francine authored a chapter in the Filipina Women’s Network book, DISRUPT: Daring to Lead. For over 11 years, she has penned a popular weekly column in The Filipino Press, which is distributed throughout Southern California.

Having trained in multiple dance genres since the age of three, Francine received High Honors from the Royal Academy of Dancing and made history, winning the Pacific Coast Talent Champion title for eight consecutive years. Francine’s artistic work has been showcased around the world, in venues including The Kennedy Center, The Lincoln Center, and Seoul Olympic Stadium. She’s contributed to multiple Emmy Award-winning TV shows and successful theatrical productions and international concert tours. Her students have won national championships and garnered acceptance into prestigious universities and programs, like that of the Joffrey Ballet. This past year, Francine directed and choreographed the world premiere, award-winning theatrical production of Disney’s MOANA.

Francine is a Stage IV lung cancer warrior and survivor. For her work as a vocal advocate to increase awareness and raise funding for advancements in the fight against lung cancer, the #1 cancer killer of women and men worldwide, Francine has been named a Lung Force Hero by the American Lung Association. TEAM FRANCINE, one of the largest teams in the Southern California Lung Force Walk’s history, was recognized as a 2020 TOP TEAM.

In 2020, Francine was honored as a “Chula Vista Champion” and one of San Diego Metro Magazine’s “Top 40 Under 40.”