CLASS 46 NATIONAL SEMINAR

Lessons Learned in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.
CHAIR MESSAGE

LEADERSHIP IS ABOUT COMMITMENT

BY JEFF ELDER

For those of us who have our hearts and minds on the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation and its program, we are greatly indebted to our recently retired board members. Pierre Tada, Rod Stark, Mary-Ann Warnerdam and John Colbert have termed out of their board positions and Joe MacIlvaine has stepped down due to scheduling conflicts.

Both Pierre and Mary-Ann began their tenure on the board in January 2004. John joined the board in 2007 and Rod in 2008, after his service on the Alumni Council. They witnessed firsthand the trials and tribulations of the program during the first decade of the new century. All four made the commitment in 2010 to remain on the board through the implementation of our five-year strategic plan. Because of their dedication and commitment, the program, the foundation and our finances are in a much better place than when they took their board positions.

Joe MacIlvaine began his tenure on the board in April 2012, replacing fellow Wonderful employee, David Krause. Joe brought great insight as a non-alumni director and quickly became a fan of the program. I was honored last year when he agreed to serve as vice chair of the foundation.

Recently, the board held a two day retreat with the help of Dr. Patrick Lattore to share in the experiences of the outgoing board members and to “on board” the new directors (read about the new board members on page 3). The meeting was very successful and I am confident in our ability to provide a smooth transition between the old and new board.

On behalf of all of the stakeholders to CALF, thank you to our outgoing board members for all the time, hard work and success that the board has enjoyed during their tenure. Thank you to the new members and the commitment they have now made to the betterment of the program. And thank you to all who have given time, talent and treasure to ensure the future success of the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation.

CALF STAFF
President and CEO / Bob Gray
Director of Education / Dr. Michael Thomas
Program Advisor / Dr. Charlie Crabb
Finance & Human Resources / Teresa Straub
Program Coordinator / Judy Sparacino
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For staff email addresses, visit www.agleaders.org/about/foundation_staff
AGRICULTURAL & GOVERNMENT LEADERS RECEPTION

California government leaders, agricultural industry leaders, Ag Leadership alumni and current program fellows enjoyed the annual Agricultural & Government Leaders Reception in Sacramento on March 1. CDFA Secretary Karen Ross was in attendance and addressed the group about current ag issues. As part of the event, 1,105 pounds of fresh California produce was donated to the River City Food Bank.

Ross also presented Bob Gray with a proclamation honoring him for his exemplary service to the agricultural community.

“Bob Gray’s career has come full-circle from his early plans to become an educator, through a fully challenging series of both professional and volunteer positions in agriculture, to his current tenure with the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation, imparting wisdom to the next crop of farming and ranching leaders. Bob’s career took an auspicious turn for the good of the larger agricultural community in 2009, when he embarked upon a new venture as CEO of the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation, where he has overseen improvements including increased industry support, rising application rates, and the solidification of a reliable, permanent endowment,” excerpt from the proclamation presented by Ross to Gray.

CLASS 47 UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that there is another excellent pool of candidates for the next Ag Leadership class. Applicant screening committees will meet on eight days in July to interview candidates who advanced to phase two. If you are interested in being added to our list of potential screeners (for this year and following years), contact Judy Sparacino at JSubacino@agleaders.org or (831) 585-1030.

CLASS 45 FOOD TRUCK UPDATE

In February, Class 45 presented Fresno’s Poverello House with a $100,000 donation. The money is being used to purchase and operate a food truck which will provide hot meals and fresh produce to rural communities in the San Joaquin Valley. The truck has been built and fitted with stainless steel walls, floors and appliances to make it food-service ready. In May, the truck was delivered and is on schedule to be operational this summer.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Rick Burnes has spent more than 18 years working for the Wonderful Company in the almond, pistachio, citrus, pomegranate, wine and grapevine sectors. He is currently president of one of Wonderful’s most recent purchases, Vintage Nurseries, based in Wasco. Prior to Wonderful, Burnes worked for Bolthouse Farms in various management roles for five years. Burnes is an alumnus of Ag Leadership’s Class 41 and served as president for his class.

Dr. Helene Dillard was appointed dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at UC Davis in January 2014. Dillard has national and international leadership experience, and has worked extensively with U.S. Department of Agriculture programs, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the National Research Initiative. Prior to her appointment at UC Davis, Dillard was on the faculty at Cornell University since 1984 as a plant pathology professor.

Michael Hollister is the senior vice president of the market group for the Americas for Driscoll Strawberry Associates. He oversees sales, category development, marketing and product business management and global expansion. Hollister has been with Driscoll’s for more than 30 years. He is currently a director on the California Strawberry Commission’s board, serving since 1999, and also serves on multiple government affairs committees and working groups in the produce industry.

David Martella owns and operates Martella Farming Company and is an independent grower for Tanimura and Antle as well as a consultant for Ippolito International. Previously, Martella worked for Duda Farm Fresh Foods as a production manager for the Salinas and Huron Districts. Martella is a Class 22 alumnus; a former president of the Alumni Council (known then as the Ag Leadership Alumni, or ALA) and a former CALF board member.

Eugene Peterson is a senior vice president and the division manager for the National Food & Agribusiness Division of Wells Fargo & Company. Peterson oversees operations in California’s Inland Empire and Central Valley, as well as locations across the United States. He is also leading the group’s expansion to untapped markets in the Midwest and on the East Coast. A 28-year financial services veteran, Peterson began his career in 1985 with the USDA, extending and administrating loan programs.

UPDATE ON THE EXECUTIVE SEARCH

The search for the foundation’s new president is nearing a conclusion. We expect a commitment from the finalist candidate by June 30, at which time a press release will be issued and more information will be shared.
For many years, the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation has preached its mission of “we grow leaders who make a difference.” From 2009 to 2016, we were extremely fortunate to have a board chair and president/CEO who practiced what we preach and set an extraordinary example of leadership.

When they began their tenure in 2009, there were many unique and challenging issues to tackle. The foundation needed stability, which it had not had in many years. It needed effective leadership and management. It needed financial support. Loren and Bob set the tone for excellence and positive transformation in order to strengthen the foundation and the program.

Together – and with the dedicated involvement of board members, core faculty and staff – Loren and Bob spearheaded numerous projects to renew CALF: strategic planning, communications overhaul, five-year program review, fundraising challenges and capital planning.

With purpose and personal commitment, they pushed, encouraged, motivated and guided during these projects. Loren’s overwhelming financial generosity was crucial in helping sustain Ag Leadership.

Loren’s goals were strategic, but also very personal. A Class 27 graduate and longtime CALF board member, she continually shared her feelings about how the program changed her life in powerful ways and taught her many life and leadership lessons. Loren was always grateful and intensely proud to be a part of Ag Leadership. She wanted the program to endure and to continue developing leaders for the agricultural industry.

In 2013, Deanna van Klaveren (32) wrote, “Loren is the epitome of time, talent and treasure. She has given her treasure in order for the foundation to keep its doors open as we restructured and aligned our strategic plan and as we kick off our capital campaign and continue to give opportunities to our fellows and alumni. And then she gave her time: traveling to countless meetings, doing one-on-one visits, setting up events, leading the board of directors, showing up to foundation gatherings, giving her support, sharing the foundation’s vision, and being the head cheerleader for CALF. And if that wasn’t enough, she shared her talent: her leadership, her enthusiasm (which is contagious) and her grace.”

Bob had a list of ambitious goals and aspirations for Ag Leadership when he came on board: to maintain and enhance program excellence, with respect to relevant content and the changing methods of delivering higher education; re-engage and reconnect with alumni; work toward financial stability for the foundation; and deliver services as effectively and efficiently as possible.

"After a distinguished 29-year career working for a major produce company, Bob transitioned to successfully lead our nonprofit educational organization,” said Jeff Elder (35). “He was instrumental in steering the foundation with vision, wisdom, business acumen and patience. He was a non-alumnus who cared about and believed in Ag Leadership and wanted it to succeed for future generations. He definitely accomplished the goals he established seven years ago."

We don’t want to think about the path that the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation would have taken without Loren and Bob. We appreciate that they never gave up on Ag Leadership. They made a transformative and positive impact that will always be remembered.

With great respect and admiration, we say farewell. We celebrate their legacy of leadership and thank them for all that they have done to preserve the excellence and value of Ag Leadership for future fellows and the agricultural industry. The foundation and program are better because of you.

Thank you for keeping the dream of our founders alive!
Class 46 fellows were in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. from March 2 - 10 for their national travel seminar. During the seminar, the class had many high-impact moments that provided meaningful leadership lessons and deepened their understanding of government, national issues and the impacts of leadership decisions.

As they left Davis for their early morning flight to Washington, D.C., the fellows recall being motivated by the opportunity to travel to our nation’s capital for their seminar.

- “As we prepare for our next day in our national trip, we can't say thank you enough to the foundation, the donors and all of our families. This opportunity means so much for us as we continue on our leadership journey,” excerpted from travel blog by Drew Becker, Heather Jackson and Tony Ortiz.

On their first full day on the East Coast, the class began at meetings with Congressmen John Garamendi and Jeff Denham at the Capitol.

- “Coming from opposite sides of the aisle, it was interesting for our group to hear different perspectives on how to make progress on complex national issues requiring both collaboration and compromise,” excerpted from travel blog by Sarah Hovinga, Adam Secondo and Zach Bagley.

In keeping with Ag Leadership tradition, fellows spent time at the Supreme Court for a meeting with a current justice. This year, the meeting was with Justice Anthony Kennedy who spoke to the group about his childhood, growing up in Sacramento and his current service at the Supreme Court.

- “Being incredibly generous with his time, [Justice Kennedy] engaged us from the minute he walked in the room. He left us with a challenge—reminding us of the significance of agriculture and what’s at stake if we, as agriculturalists, are not vocal about the work that we do—holding us accountable for the very reason we came to D.C.,” excerpted from travel blog by Sarah Hovinga, Adam Secondo and Zach Bagley.

In Baltimore, fellows spent time learning about the Black Lives Matter movement. This part of the seminar took the class to many significant places in Baltimore, including the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African-American History and Culture; Intersection of Change and the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood.

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“OUR NATIONAL SEMINAR REAFFIRMED TO ME WHY CALP IS SO VITAL TO BUILDING AND DEVELOPING LEADERS IN THE AG INDUSTRY. I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS IN OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM AND ASK QUESTIONS THAT ARE CRITICAL TO OUR INDUSTRY. IT WAS VERY CLEAR THAT OUR VOICES NEED TO BE HEARD NOT ONLY AT A LOCAL LEVEL BUT AT A NATIONAL LEVEL.”

JOHNN HEPNER
We were sobered by the seemingly intractable realities, including the death of Freddie Gray, which exist in Baltimore,” excerpted from travel blog by Sarah Hovinga, Adam Secondo and Zach Bagley.

While in Baltimore, the class visited an urban farm in the heart of Sandtown-Winchester which grows leafy greens in hoop houses owned by the city and rented to Strength to Love II (S2L2) for $1 per year. S2L2 is in partnership with a wholesale produce company which sells to food service customers and farmers markets. The ultimate goal of the farm is to provide food to the residents of the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood.

At a meeting with Lt. Col. Melvin Russell of the Baltimore Police Department, fellows learned about the unrest in Baltimore following the death of Freddie Gray. Russell also discussed the effectiveness of personally implementing strong relationships between the police force and the community.

After Baltimore, Class 46 traveled to Pennsylvania where they spent time learning about the Battle of Gettysburg with a licensed battlefield guide who shared his knowledge of the area’s history with the group in preparation for a re-enactment of the leadership decision-making processes that took place between key generals at Gettysburg.

“This program teaches skills for creating alignment and agreement by fostering open dialogue around high-stakes, emotional, or risky topics. The teaching of crucial conversations focuses on how to speak and be heard. Looking back on the Battle of Gettysburg, there are many examples of conversations gone wrong. Our class explored four major examples of conversations gone wrong with generals in the Confederate and Union armies,” excerpted from travel blog by Erin Amaral, Shaun Ramirez and Domenick Buck.

On Sunday morning, Class 46 attended a service of the African Methodist Episcopal Church—the oldest church of its denomination.

“The pastor’s sermon—titled ‘On Lying Down with Dogs and Catching Fleas’—enlightened our group on the balance between opening ourselves up to all people, while acknowledging that we are heavily influenced by who we hang out with. This can be important in our leadership training as we have many potential avenues to travel, but need to make certain that we maintain our correct path by being firmly and ethically grounded,” excerpted from travel blog by Josh Davy, Beau Howard and Blake Vann.

Back in D.C., the class met with Dr. Susan Martin, the Donald G. Herzberg professor of international migration and director of the Institute for the Study of International Migration in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Martin helped prepare Class 46 fellows for their international seminar by discussing the crisis of Syrian refugees and the hurdles faced by those working towards a solution.

The class also enjoyed visits with area lobbyists who shared their experiences on current water, GMO labeling, immigration and the Trans-Pacific Partnership; briefings at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building by White House legislative liaisons and a reception with Ag Leadership alumni and distinguished guests.

“We are grateful for the insights we received during our travels as our leadership training has taught us that the skills we are building on having crucial conversations will have a lasting effect,” excerpted from travel blog by Erin Amaral, Shaun Ramirez and Domenick Buck.

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“The History we learned and the skills we continue to build on having crucial conversations will have a lasting effect.”
-EXCERPTED FROM TRAVEL BLOG BY ERIN AMARAL, SHAUN RAMIREZ AND DOMENICK BUCK
outside of agriculture,” excerpted from travel blog by Shannon Douglass, Marc Metzer and Denise Moore.

At the Longworth House Building, fellows met with several individuals in the House Agriculture Committee’s hearing room. Presentations were made and discussions were had with the deputy general counsel for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and several legislative directors.

“Each speaker generously provided an honest and open-ended question and answer session. We felt fortunate to have been afforded an opportunity to have shared the afternoon learning from them,” excerpted from travel blog by Gayle Holman, Sal Parra, Jr. and Christian Vellano weth.

During a meeting with Sen. Dianne Feinstein, fellows discussed drought legislation and the devastating impact the drought has had on a member of Class 46. Feinstein responded by asking for the class to submit their personal drought stories to her in writing so she could share them with other members of Congress.

The last full day of the national seminar began with Col. Stephen Randolph, historian for the Department of State. Randolph shared key leadership skills that he has defined from his experiences.

“Among those [heuristics] that stuck with us were ‘people aren’t the only thing, but they are the most important thing.’ These resonated with us because in our own lives, personal and professional, we see how important it is to build and nurture positive relationships,” excerpted from travel blog by Dominic Bruno, Johnna Hepner and Randy Hopkins.

The final day also included meetings at the USDA with the undersecretary of the Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services; undersecretary of Research, Education and Economics and the administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Services.

“The briefings we received provided us with a good understanding of the breadth of the USDA and just how much U.S. agriculture, especially California agriculture, impacts the world,” excerpted from travel blog by Erin Amaral, Beau Howard and Jorge Inestroza.

Fellows shared their personal takeaways as they related to leadership and the importance of engaging in the governmental process at the national level.

“Thank you to the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation for giving us this opportunity to experience leadership and personal growth through the lens of our nation’s great history. This experience has left many impacts on our hearts and in our minds. We are all grateful to be coming home to our families where we will continue to process the lessons learned on this trip,” excerpted from travel blog by Erin Amaral, Beau Howard and Jorge Inestroza.

See Class 46’s full travel blog at www.calfclass46.blogspot.com
Citizenship and Leon Panetta – A Singular Ag Leadership Opportunity

BY DR. MICHAEL THOMAS, CALF DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND FRESNO STATE CORE FACULTY MEMBER

Leon Panetta has been described as the most respected bipartisan leader in recent history. In a career of service to the American people that spanned four decades, he was praised for his honesty, integrity and character.

Due to the support of Driscoll’s and Bob Gray’s persistence in setting up the occasion, Ag Leadership alumni, fellows and industry friends had the opportunity to listen to an impressive speech and participate in a thorough question and answer session at April’s Life-Long Leadership Learning (L4) seminar (read more about the L4 seminar on page 11). But, as alumni of fairly recent classes know, this is not our first opportunity to learn from this great American statesman.

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Prior to his return to Washington to serve in the Obama administration in 2008, Panetta was a featured speaker to each class for a period of five years. He was a part of the program for each of those fortunate classes, primarily to help the class get into the mindset of the workings of Washington, D.C. prior to their national seminar—what an opportunity! His ability to tie his life experience to meaningful leadership development was one of the finest leadership experiences of our program during those years.

He often started his presentation with the life lessons he learned working in his father’s walnut orchard on California’s Central Coast. We always loved the advice his father gave when he was first elected as a Congressman, which he also shared at the L4 event in Salinas, “Son, you are well prepared to serve as a politician—you have been dodging nuts your whole life!”

He then would share a leadership journey based on not fighting, but working with colleagues who agreed with his politics and also those who did not. His candid explanations of what it was like to serve directly and personally with President Clinton were insightful, interesting and instructive. Those classes had an inside look at the White House—including the personalities, leadership abilities, leadership flaws, good decisions and bad decisions. We learned citizenship from his honest portrayals of reality.

If you are an Ag Leadership alumni, think back on what you learned about leadership during the program, at an L4 event or from a more routine leadership presentation or conversation in your community. The leadership lesson may be from a prominent and well-known leader or it may be from someone more obscure. It is nice if the lesson is from a White House chief of staff or secretary of defense, but sometimes the lesson is either from a lesser-known individual or from the part of the story before anybody knew the emerging celebrity.

Recently, I had a conversation with a great alumnus from several years ago. She mentioned her singular opportunities to meet prominent leaders such as Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and a few others. She also said, “But they were no less instructive than what I called the everyday heroes, individuals who took action.”

In Ag Leadership, we have many opportunities to learn from everyday heroes and sometimes we have the added bonus of exposure to a prominent leader. Let us take the opportunity to learn from prominent leaders we have met, but let us also learn from the everyday heroes. Then, let’s all go out and make our world a bit better.
“Leadership by crisis is no way to deal with a troubled world.”

-Leon Panetta

On April 15, the California Ag Leadership Foundation hosted former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta at the Salinas City Center (National Steinbeck Center) for a Life-Long Leadership Learning (L4) seminar. Through his presentation—“Governing by Leadership or Crisis”—Panetta offered his thoughts about leadership decisions and their effect on our country’s future.

“I’ve had a close relationship with this group for some time,” said Panetta. “I’m honored to have the chance to come before you and share some thoughts and address issues during this serious time—a time that will tell us where our country will go.”

Panetta began by talking about his personal experiences, childhood, immigrant parents and the hard work and values on which he was raised.

“Agriculture is a very important industry in our state and country,” said Panetta. “Having been raised on a farm, I know what it takes and I appreciate what you all work for and for your leadership.”

Panetta then discussed the two paths he believes the U.S. could take after November’s election. He referred to the first path as an “American renaissance” that would lead to the “American Century.” In this option, Panetta believes America would be in decline.

“We would be in crisis after crisis, gridlocked and divided by our fears and prejudices and in a downward spiral of disfunction that is the story of failed empires throughout history,” said Panetta.

The choice, said Panetta, will be made through the leadership of the American people and will be determined by how we decide to govern ourselves—or how we fail to govern ourselves.

“If the leadership is there and willing to take the risks associated with leadership, you can avoid and contain the crisis,” said Panetta. “If there is no leadership, we’ll govern by crisis—wait for things to get so bad and then, rather than solve the problem, they kick the can down the road.”

Panetta cautioned the audience to listen carefully to what the presidential candidates are saying and not to buy into promises that can’t be kept.

“Can a candidate really deliver?” asked Panetta. “Why aren’t people asking that of themselves? The last thing we need are more promises that won’t be delivered and that will have an impact on our future.”

Panetta then offered a historical perspective on what he’s witnessed through his career.

“In my 50 years, I’ve seen Washington at its best and Washington at its worst,” said Panetta. “In the past, when it came to major issues for this country, they worked together. Of course they had their political differences, but that was the tradition I knew. You always worked with your counterpart.”

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Panetta also discussed the current status of U.S. politics and how things have changed from the process he knew.

“Governing was good politics,” said Panetta. “I’m not so sure they think governing is good politics anymore. They think conflict is good politics. You don’t walk away from the process because you don’t like the people you’re working with.”

He also said that there are many important issues—the budget, immigration, the Supreme Court vacancy, infrastructure and the war authority—that leaders are not dealing with.

“I’ve never seen Washington as bad as it is today,” said Panetta. “The partisan gridlock has made them give up on the major issues facing this country.”

Panetta ended his presentation with a call to action for those in attendance.

“The call of the trumpet calls all of us—citizen and soldier—all of us have to respond to the call to fight and never give up to have a government of the people, by the people and for the people.”

The seminar concluded with Panetta answering several questions from the audience and then visiting with Ag Leadership alumni, current fellows, board members, industry leaders and other guests after the event.

“GOVERNING IS NOT AN EASY BUSINESS, BUT THAT’S HOW YOU GET STUFF DONE.”
-LEON PANETTA
“MR. PANETTA KNOWS HOW TO COMMUNICATE HIS MESSAGE THOROUGHLY AND HAS A CALM DEMEANOR. HE IS AN EXCITING LEADER TO LEARN FROM SINCE HE HAS SERVED IN VARIOUS HIGH-LEVEL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS REPRESENTING VARIOUS AUDIENCES. SIMILARLY IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY, WE OFTEN HAVE MULTIPLE AUDIENCES WITH VARYING BUT IMPORTANT NEEDS THAT WE HAVE TO WORK WITH AND HELP.”

-RAJAY TERAIA, SUPPLY CHAIN CUSTOMER SERVICE PROFESSIONAL, EARTHBOUND FARM

Thank you to Driscoll’s, The Panetta Institute for Public Policy and California State University, Monterey Bay at Salinas City Center for their support of this L4 seminar.
March 12
Region 10 Recruitment Event
Bob (17) and Anne Atkins
Bryan Foley (39)
Liz Silva (41)

March 21
Region 4 Recruitment Event
Bob Cherenson (29)
Robin Flournoy (29)
Chase Hurley (35)
Paul Parreira (44)
Yvonne Sams (45)

March 23
Region 1 Recruitment Event
Manpreet Bains (43)
Sarah DeForest (39)
John Weller (22)

March 29
Region 5 Recruitment Event
Danielle Dupree (43)
Abby Taylor-Silva (45)

March 31
Region 9 Recruitment Event
Yissel Barajas (40)

April 3
Region 3 Recruitment Event
Mike Campbell (3)
Mica Heilmann (40)

April 7
Region 2 Recruitment Event
Andrea Card (38)
Steve Knudsen (41)

April 15
L4 Seminar
California State University,
Monterey Bay
Driscolls
The Panetta Institute for Public Policy

April 16
Region 8 Recruitment Event
Jensen Devours (43)
Bill Van Skike (32)
Todd Snider (41)

May 12
Region 7 Recruitment Event
Lisa Bodrogi (39)
Dan Sutton (40)
Talley Family

June 29
Common Threads North
Nicole Bert (37)
Manpreet Bains (43)
Colleen Cecil
Judy Culbertson
Sarah DeForest (39)
Stephanie Etcheverria (43)
Heidi Harris (43)
Annie King (30)
Emily Lazzerini
 Lynn Martindale (31)
Deanne Meyer
Kathryn Raley

RECENT EVENTS

THANK YOU
ALUMNI COUNCIL TO HOST ANNUAL D.C. EXCHANGE
SEPTEMBER 10-17, 2016

The Washington, D.C. Educational Fellowship Program (D.C. Exchange) is organized and hosted by Ag Leadership’s Alumni Council. It brings together government representatives—from congressional staff to federal agency employees—for an in-depth and significant learning opportunity.

The goal is to educate D.C.-based decision makers about current issues and complex challenges facing California’s farmers and ranchers, as well as foster open communication between agricultrists and federal entities. More than 400 individuals have participated since the D.C. Exchange began in 1982.

Participants in this program will spend one week in regions 3, 4 and 5 to take part in issues-based activities and hands-on agricultural experiences. One-on-one talks, small group discussions, expert panels and site visits will enhance their learning of topics including water, crop protection, trade, environment, inspection and surveillance, farm worker housing, food safety, immigration, imports/exports and transportation. In addition, participants will get a valuable personal view of farming and ranching by staying with farm families.

OUTGOING ALUMNI COUNCIL: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Yissel Barajas (40) - Region 9 Director
Scott Beylik (40) - Region 9 Director
Michael Campbell (3) - Region 3 Director
Andrea Card (38) - Region 2 Director
Noelle Cremers (35) - Director at Large
Mandy Critchley (37) - Director at Large
Jensen Devaurs (43) - Region 8 Director
Gerald DiBuduo (31) - Director at Large
Darlene Din (35) - CALF Support Staff
Melissa Duflock (40) - Alumni Council Chairperson, Region 5 Director
Matthew Fisher (41) - Director at Large
Robin Flournoy (29) - Region 4 Director
Bryan Foley (39) - Region 10 Director
Rob Geis (35) - Past Chair
Mica Heilmann (40) - Region 3 Director
Chase Hurley (35) - Region 4 Director
Steve Knudsen (41) - Region 2 Director
Alexander Ott (37) - Director at Large
Elisabeth Silva (41) - Region 10 Director
Todd Snider (41) - Region 8 Director
Jose Arriaga (44)

NEW REGIONAL DIRECTORS

In May, a new group of regional directors was elected by Ag Leadership alumni. The group attended an on-boarding retreat in June and they will now begin the process of creating their team of volunteers to support the activities and events of their region. The major areas of support needed will be for recruiting, fundraising, alumni events, external activities and communications with alumni, industry and foundation supporters.

Region 1 - Christine Ivory (41)
Region 2 - Vacant
Region 3 - Manpreet Bains (43)
Region 4 - Rachelle Antinetti (42)
Region 5 - Erik Jerberg (40)
Region 6 - Vernon Peterson (41)
Region 7 - Dan Sutton (40)
Region 8 - Bill Van Skike (32)
Region 9 - Jason Cole (42)
Region 10 - Jose Arriaga (44)
Region 11 - Vacant

2016 D.C. Exchange Participants
Lauren Becker - Office of the General Counsel, USDA
Jennifer Bell-Wagner - Office of Management and Budget
Heidi Blanck - Center for Disease Control
Charisse Cleare - Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service, USDA
Bryan Combs - National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA
Alexander Domeslea - Agricultural Research Service, USDA
Mike Eberle - U.S. Forest Service
Lynn Evans Goldner - Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service, USDA
Angela Fields - CORE U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Matthew Filsinger - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kristin Garcia - Food and Nutrition Service, USDA
Cynthia Guven - Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA
Ann Heilman-Dahl - U.S. Trade Representative
Megan McPhaden - Office of Management and Budget
Clayton Myers - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Sabina Neumann - U.S. International Trade Commission
Mark Petry - Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA
Juan Roman - Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service, USDA
Carolyn Schroeder - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Parveen Setia - Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service, USDA
Hema Subramanian - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Chris Trent - U.S. Geological Survey
Christina Viegli - Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service, USDA
Tom Wall - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Jill Wallace - Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service, USDA
Arma White - U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Th a n k Y o u F o r Y o u r S e r v i c e!
Outgoing Alumni Council:
Region 9 Director
Region 2 Director
Region 8 Director
Director at Large
CALF Support Staff
Alumni Council Chairperson, Region 5 Director
Director at Large
Region 4 Director
Past Chair
Region 3 Director
Region 4 Director
Region 2 Director
Director at Large
Region 10 Director
Director at Large
Region 7 Director
Region 6 Director
Region 1 Director
Board Liaison

Alumni Council Regions
Arma White
Jill Wallace
Tom Wall
Chris Trent
Carolyn Schroeder
Juan Roman
Mark Petry
Sabina Neumann
Clayton Myers
Cynthia Guven
Matthew Filsinger
Lynn Evans Goldner
Mike Eberle
Alexander Domesle
Bryan Combs
Jennifer Bell-Wagner
Lauren Becker

Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service, USDA
Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service, USDA
- Office of the General Counsel, USDA
Center for Disease Control
CORE U.S. Food and Drug Administration
National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA
Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service, USDA
- Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service, USDA
U.S. International Trade Commission
Office of Management and Budget
Agricultural Research Service, USDA
U.S. Trade Representative
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service, USDA
Office of Management and Budget

other natural resource issues.
legislative advocate for its governmental affairs
Rural County Representatives of California as a
16-acre organic vertical farm that uses patented
techology.

in a significant and highly visible way to the
honors individuals who have contributed
chapter of the American Society of Farm
Agriculturalist Award from the California
received the 2016 Distinguished California

division seat on the Yuba County Water Agency.
rice farmer, is seeking election to the northern
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Paul Martin (10) was honored with the 2016 California Cultivator Award by the Ag Council of California. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to agriculture or have demonstrated leadership and personal commitment to the industry.

Ed McLaughlin (11) was reappointed to the 3rd District Agricultural Association, Silver Dollar Fair board of directors.

Cal Dooley (13) was the featured subject in an Environment & Energy Publishing article, “Former farmer molds nation’s chemical law behind the scenes.”

Lynnel Pollock (14) was elected to the Yolo Land Trust board of directors.

Jim Rickert (16) and his wife, Mary, received the 2016 Distinguished California Agriculturalist Award from the California chapter of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers. The award honors individuals who have contributed in a significant and highly visible way to the betterment of California agriculture.

Mary-Ann Warmerdam (17) rejoined the Rural County Representatives of California as a legislative advocate for its governmental affairs team. She will represent agriculture, water and other natural resource issues.

A.G. Kawamura (20) was appointed to board of Irvine-based Urban Produce, which has a 16-acre organic vertical farm that uses patented high-density growing technology.

Randy Fiorini (21) has been appointed to the Delta Stewardship Council, where he has been chair since 2014 and has served since 2010.

Cynthia Cory (23) was one of four Californians to be appointed to USDA’s Agricultural Air Quality Task Force. She will serve a two-year term.

Sarbjet Johl (23) was honored with the 2016 Agriculturalist of the Year from the California State Fair, presented to an individual who has moved the state’s agricultural industry in a positive direction through demonstrated leadership. Awardees must have represented the industry in one or more of the following: finance, government, production agriculture, education, labor, research, communications, trade and public service.

Doug Dickson (24) was appointed to the 52nd District Agricultural Association, Sacramento County Fair board of directors.

Glenda Humiston (25) was a speaker at the 25th annual California Water Policy Conference at UC Davis on April 21, with a presentation titled "A Million More Acre-Feet of Water.”

Joe Pezzini (28), president and CEO of Ocean Mist Farms, was the featured subject of a five-page article – "Joe Pezzini: Quiet Ambition” – in the April issue of The Snack Magazine.

Glenn Proctor (29) gave the “State of the Lake County Wine Industry” presentation at Momentum 2016, Lake County’s annual wine industry seminar.

Annie King (30) was honored with the Sacramento Kings 2016 Dream All-Star Award for her exemplary leadership.

Steve Rothenberg (30) was hired as a sales manager and sales rep at Dave Wilson Nursery’s Reedley sales office, where he will represent the nursery’s commercial pistachios and almonds. He has worked in the almond industry for more than 30 years, previously for Blue Diamond.

Mat Conant (31), fifth generation farmer and small business owner, is running for Sutter County Board of Supervisors district 5 (website is nutsforconant.com).

Lowell Zelinski (33) was elected president of the Independent Grape Growers of the Paso Robles Area.

Alex Ott (37) is running for Fresno County supervisor (website is alexott.org). He serves as the executive director of the California Apple Commission, California Blueberry Commission, California Olive Committee and California Blueberry Association.

Abby Taylor-Silva (45), vice president of policy and communications for the Grower-Shippers’ Association of Central California, received the Ag Leadership Award from the Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Tony Ortiz (46), operations manager at Joseph and Sons, was appointed to the California Exposition and State Fair board of directors.

At Sunkist Growers’ annual meeting, alumni were acknowledged for the following: Richard Pidduck (21), outgoing director; Kevin Riddle (23), enduring member of 2016-17 board; Jim Finch (28), elected to vice chairmanship for 2016-17; and Robert Grether (42), incoming director.

Steven Knudsen (41) and Cameron Mauriston (45) were honored with the 2016 Forty Under 40 Award by the North Bay Business Journal. Winners were selected on the basis of their leadership in companies and organizations across the North Bay.

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Kevin Steward: $885
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World Ag Expo Ag Leadership Alumni Breakfast: $99,042.50

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