



"WE ARE ALL BLESSED BY DEANNA'S SELFLESS ACTS AND HER SERVANT'S HEART IN MAKING THIS ORGANIZATION ONE OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD."

-Michael Young (35)

## RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

# 2016 AG LEADERSHIP AWARD

BY LIZA TEIXEIRA ROBERTSON

The California Agricultural Leadership Foundation and the Alumni Council presented the 2016 Profiles in Leadership Award to Deanna van Klaveren (32) on Oct. 6, in conjunction with Class 47's inauguration.

"I've been so fortunate because Ag Leadership has been a part of my life since the day I got the call letting me know I had been accepted," said Deanna. "It has been a continual life-long leadership learning opportunity of adding to my toolbox because of opportunities through the board and the Alumni Council and participating in different foundation events and opportunities."

The Profiles in Leadership Award recognizes Ag Leadership alumni for their leadership actions resulting in the betterment of industry, community, business, government, education and/or the environment.

"Deanna is the true definition of a servant leader," said Michael Young (35). "She has put the Alumni Council on her back and carried it to a place where it is about to flourish into something great."

"Deanna has tirelessly worked for the benefit of the alumni of Ag Leadership—as well as all leaders in our industry—to make our organization the premier leadership

organization in the world," said Young. "I truly believe that if it wasn't for Deanna's leadership and her heartfelt blood, sweat and tears, Ag Leadership would not be where it is today."

Outside of CALF, Deanna is also very active in her community. She is heavily involved in Hart-Ransom Elementary School, where her children, Abigail and Micah, attend school. Her involvement in the agriculture community includes the California Association for Nurseries & Garden Centers; agriculture advisory member for the California State Fair; horticulture advisory member for California Community Colleges and an advisory member for Cal Poly's Agricultural Education and Communication Department.

"Deanna is the ultimate example of a servant leader," said Matt Fisher (41). "She is an exceptional team player and her humility and hard work to the task at hand is what drives me so much in wanting to work with her. She is a very special person whom I'm honored to have been able to work alongside of."

Deanna says Ag Leadership has had an immense impact on her life and she's grateful for the opportunities she has been given through the program.

"What you get initially are the teachings and the self-growth and self-awareness," said Deanna. "Secondary to that are the

relationships and the opportunities to meet people and interact with people on a deeper level that allows you access to resources and great friends. You get to learn from all these amazing people and create really deep friends as well—I don't think you can get that anywhere else."

Deanna and her husband, Roger are co-owners of Generation Growers, Inc., in Modesto. The company is in its 60th year of growing plants in containers for retail garden centers in northern California. In her role, Deanna manages sales, marketing, inventory and financial responsibilities for the company. Before Generation Growers, Deanna was a teacher, FFA advisor and coach at Merrill F. West High School in Tracy, Calif.

"I'M REALLY HUMBLLED AND OVERWHELMED BECAUSE I FEEL LIKE EVERY LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY I'VE BEEN GIVEN HAS BEEN POSSIBLE THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF A LOT OF PEOPLE—IT'S HUMBLING TO BE HONORED AT THIS LEVEL."

-Deanna van Klaveren (32)



# EVENT RECAP: CLASS 47 INAUGURATION AND AG LEADERSHIP AWARD

BY LIZA TEIXEIRA ROBERTSON

Class 47 was inaugurated into the California Agricultural Leadership Program on Oct. 6, at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District. The event, which marks the beginning of the leadership journey for a new group of talented agriculturalists, was attended by 140 family, friends, alumni and industry supporters. Special guests included Dean Sandra Witte from Fresno State and Dean Andy Thulin from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

“We could not be more pleased to report that the inaugural activities for Class 47 were so productive in a multitude of ways,” said CALF president Barry Bedwell. “Not only did the class quickly bond together in a cohesive manner during their inaugural seminar, but they also began their leadership development journey in an impressive fashion with exceptional instruction from the core faculty.”

The evening began with a welcome reception hosted by the alumni council and was followed by dinner; the inauguration of Class 47 and Profiles in Leadership award ceremony honoring Deanna van Klaveren (32). *Read more about the Profiles in Leadership award on page 8.*

The event also included a special recognition of Dr. Annie King’s contributions to Ag Leadership as an outgoing member of the

core faculty. Dr. Peggy Perry spoke about King’s service to the program. *Read more about the core faculty transition on page 6.*

“Annie is a collaborator—she always refers to ‘we’ when discussing accomplishments, said Perry. “She develops a vision for what can happen, plans for needed resources and then lets others pursue goals according to their own gifts and abilities.”

**Thank you!**

- Event Sponsor: Rabobank
- Wine: Allied Grape Growers
- Floral Centerpieces: Generation Growers

“THE INAUGURATION ALLOWED ALUMNI AND INDUSTRY SUPPORTERS THE CHANCE TO RECONNECT AT EVENTS AND MEETINGS THAT HIGHLIGHTED THE VALUE AND ONGOING BENEFITS OF THE CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM.”

-Barry Bedwell, CALF President