

**Marsha Vucovich,
Chair**

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Shannon Birkner

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Alcidia Freitas
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Lauri L. King

Beth Kuhn

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Dana Souza

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Mai Vang

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In Partnership

With

California
Agricultural
Leadership
Foundation

California State
University,
Fresno

Ag One
Foundation

Jordan College
of Agricultural
Sciences and
Technology



Dear Friends,

It is my honor to serve as Chair of the 2027 Central Valley Common Threads Award Luncheon. As a farm girl and a past Award recipient, I am amazed by the constant evolving tapestry of our valley farms and the number of Ag women working to keep America growing. The Jordan College of Agriculture, Science and Technology, CSU Fresno, Ag One Foundation, and California Agricultural Leadership Foundation have partnered since 1997 and celebrated 160 amazing agricultural women in Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, and Tulare Counties.

On March 10, 2027, Common Threads will again recognize women who have chosen to selflessly make a difference in their communities and our world through philanthropy and service. It honors those individuals with deep roots in agriculture whose extraordinary contributions of time, energy, and spirit have made a far-reaching impact in their community, advocating for agriculture and enhancing the lives of all around them.

*"Behind every field that grows and every farm that thrives are many hands,
and many of those hands belong to women carrying generations of farming
wisdom."
- Agricultural Heritage*

Please consider nominating a deserving woman who has made a difference promoting agriculture through their time, talent, and treasure, and join me on March 10, 2027, to celebrate our Central Valley Common Threads Awards. The Deadline for 2027 Nominations is December 1, 2026, and may be submitted by mail to CALF @ 80 Garden Court, Suite 270, Monterey, CA 939940 (Attention: Mia Mirassou) or emailed to: mmirassou@agleaders.org.

Growing the Best,

Karen Musson

Karen Musson, Chair
2027 Common Threads Committee

P.S. For more information and sponsorship details, call Mia Mirassou at 1-831-585-1030
or Visit: agleaders.org/events/2027-common-threads-central-valley.



COMMON THREADS AWARD INFORMATION

The Common Threads Award honors women with past or present roots in agriculture who have made remarkable and visible contributions to both the agricultural industry and their communities. Each year, recipients are selected from the nominations submitted, recognizing women who have made a lasting impact through their careers, service, time, talent, or treasure.

Submission Details

Completed nomination packets must be received by the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation (CALF) no later than midnight on **Tuesday, December 1, 2026**. Submissions may be sent electronically or by standard mail.

2027 Award Criteria

- Nominees must have roots and have made a significant contribution in one of the following counties: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, or Tulare.
- Nominees must have past and/or present connections to agriculture and demonstrate outstanding involvement in both the agricultural industry and their community. This may include meaningful contributions through philanthropic giving, volunteer service, or other impactful support.
- Nominations must be submitted by someone who personally knows the nominee. *Self-nominations will not be accepted.*

Important Notes

- Please do not inform your nominee of the submission.
- The Common Threads Selection Committee will notify nominators and honorees of final decisions by December 14, 2026.
- If a nominee is not selected this year, her application will remain active and eligible for consideration for the following two years.

All nomination packets must include the following to be considered:

- ☐ Letter of introduction
- ☐ Nomination form & responses to questions
- ☐ Color photo of the nominee

Optional: Up to three letters of recommendation may be included, though they are not required for consideration. If submitted, recommendation letters should come from individuals with a personal and direct understanding of the nominee's qualifications, rather than from casual acquaintances.

Please submit applications to the following mailing address:

California Agricultural Leadership Foundation
Attention: Mia Mirassou
80 Garden Ct, Suite 270
Monterey, CA 93940

Or email to: mmirassou@agleaders.org

For questions, please call: 831-585-1030



COMMON THREADS AWARD - NOMINATION FORM

APPLICATION MUST BE FILLED OUT COMPLETELY FOR CONSIDERATION.
All nomination packets are due no later than midnight **Tuesday, December 1, 2026.**

Nominator Information

Full Name	
Relationship to Nominee	
Phone	
Email	
County	
Mailing Address	

Nominee Information

Full Name	
Current Occupation	
Phone	
Email	
County	
Mailing Address	

Provide detailed responses to the following questions:

- Provide a brief history of the nominee's background in agriculture.
- Describe the nominee's core values and what you believe drives the nominee to make her contributions to the extent that she has demonstrated.
- List the nominee's community, philanthropic, and volunteer activities that have impacted her community and contributed to agriculture. Indicate all awards and special recognition she has received.
- List the nominee's contributions to agriculture through her professional career, if applicable.
- Provide one prime example of how the nominee's involvement with an organization or activity has made an outstanding or far-reaching impact on her community.
- What might set your nominee apart from the other exceptional nominees involved in agriculture and their community?

You have now completed the nomination form for consideration by the Common Threads Selection Committee. Before submitting, please reflect: *If I did not personally know this nominee, would this form tell her full story?* If not, we encourage you to enhance your submission to ensure your nominee receives the recognition she deserves.

Thank you for completing this nomination. We look forward to celebrating the honorees with you at the luncheon, on March 10, 2027 at C.P.D.E.S. Portuguese Hall in Fresno.