



Event: Nine Kern County Professionals Honored at Kern Leaders Academy 2022 Commencement (see class photo)

For Immediate Release: Thursday, November 17, 2022

Contact: Marlene Heise, 661.323.8594, marlene@heisemedia.com

2022 Kern Leaders Academy Commencement Nine Aspiring Leaders Graduate from 72-Hour, Rigorous training Program

More than ever, our community is in need of visionary community leaders to address vital issues facing our county. Nine (9) Kern County residents who demonstrated great interest in creating an impact in our region stepped up to the plate and completed 72 hours of rigorous training that enhanced their skills to gain a better understanding of themselves and the communities they serve. After the completion of the 11-week course, Kern Leaders Academy (KLA) is pleased to present the Class of 2022.

The recent graduates who come from a variety of business and service backgrounds were prepared to elevate their leadership skills for the greater good of the community. KLA is designed to assist in the development of visionary community leaders who recognize that a healthy business climate leads to a strong economy, which is necessary for a vibrant community. The program is conducted by the Kern County Taxpayers Education Fund.

“Every year, prominent faculty and staff from major companies and industries in Kern County come together to train the cohort and advance the level of discussion on issues that affect our region. Students were able to access first-hand knowledge and have important discussions about the current challenges our county is facing today. In turn, Kern County’s future business and civic progress will be greatly enhanced by these up-and-coming visionary leaders. On behalf of the faculty and staff at Kern Leaders Academy, we congratulate the resilience and achievements demonstrated by each class member and look forward to seeing the impacts they create in our community,” commented Mike Turnipseed, Academy Director and Executive Director of Kern County Taxpayers Association.

The KLA Class of 2022 honored its graduates at a dinner at Bakersfield Country Club on Wednesday, November 9, 2022. Graduates are:

- **Shane Cox**, Operations and Finance Officer for Adventist Health Kern County Network
- **Leon Delouth**, Founding Member and Senior Organizer for All Of Us Or None Bakersfield
- **Brian Holt**, Business Manager and Financial Secretary of IBEW Local 428
- **Christine Lollar**, Regional Direct of Grants for Adventist Health
- **Jonathan Medina**, District Fiscal Analyst for the Kern County Superintendent of Schools

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- **Bill Mell**, Owner of Bill Mell & Associates
- **Annamarie Oddo**, Marketing and Promotions Associate for Kern County's Office of Countywide Communications
- **Isarel Perez-Hernandez**, Finance Director for the City of Wasco
- **Salvador Solorio-Ruiz**, Delano City Council Member

Academy has exceeded expectations as an innovative educational program. Graduates studied topics in ethics, critical thinking, the economy, education, healthcare, public relations, social issues, communication, leadership, the electoral process and became well versed on important topics in federal, state, regional and local governance.

Sponsors of the 2022 Kern Leaders Academy included Adventist Health Bakersfield, Chevron, Heise Media Group, Kern County Taxpayers Association, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Wonderful Orchards, WZI, Inc.

If you are interested in applying for the 2023 Kern Leaders Academy or wish to become a sponsor, please contact: Michael Turnipseed: 661-322-2973 / email: Kerntax@kerntaxpayers.org



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