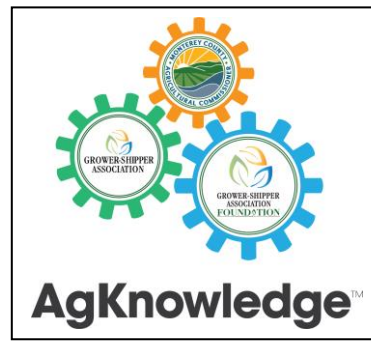


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grower-Shipper Association Foundation Announces AgKnowledge Program Class XIV 2022

Salinas, CA (April 2022) — The **Grower-Shipper Association Foundation** and their co-sponsoring partners, the Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner and the Grower-Shipper Association of Central California is pleased to announce the 2022 **AgKnowledge Program** Class XIV Fellows. These 20 community members have been accepted into the program and will participate in a nine-month executive educational program. AgKnowledge provides participating fellows a deeper understanding about the heritage, diversity, stewardship and complexity of Monterey County agriculture and the interdependencies of agriculture, local government and the community.

2022 AgKnowledge Class XIV - Fellows

- **Ritchie Andazola**, Business Agent, Teamsters Union Local 890
- **Melanie Beretti**, Principal Planner-Advanced Planning, County of Monterey Housing & Community Development
- **Dan Brumbaugh**, Director, Coastal Training Program, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
- **Susie Brusa**, U.S. House of Representatives, District Director, Congressman Jimmy Panetta
- **Jose Chang**, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner, Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
- **Susan Courtney**, Senior Audit Manager, Hayashi Wayland
- **Cheryl DeMars**, Director of Conservation, Ag Land Trust Monterey County
- **Nadia Garcia**, Ag Resource and Policy Manager, Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
- **Dr. Babita Gupta**, Professor of Information Systems, California State University Monterey Bay
- **Monica S. Hale**, Policy Analyst, Office of Supervisor Chris Lopez
- **Natalie Herendeen**, Executive Director Center for Community Advocacy (CCA)
- **Ana Ibarra-Castro**, Project Manager, Hartnell College Foundation
- **Celia Jimenez**, Staff Writer, Monterey County Weekly
- **Robin Kimball**, Management Analyst II, Monterey County Environmental Health Bureau
- **Andrew Lawson**, Dean-College of Science, California State University Monterey Bay
- **Danny Little**, Attorney, Noland, Hamerly, Etienne & Hoss
- **Jagjinder Sahota**, Worker Health & Safety Branch Chief, California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)
- **Karen Smith**, Public Information Officer, Monterey County Health Department
- **Deidre Sullivan**, Educational Consultant Monterey Peninsula College & Monterey County Water Resource Agency/Board of Directors/Chair of Planning
- **Hillary Theyer**, Library Director, Monterey County Free Libraries

The **AgKnowledge Program** focuses on issues and public policies affecting and influencing the local Monterey County agricultural industry. The issues include but are not limited to food safety, food security, labor, immigration, technology, agri-marketing, conservation and the environment, urban-agriculture interface, air, and water.

The Fellows will spend nine (9) Fridays between March and November attending scientific and policy forums, visiting farms and processing facilities along with meeting key leaders and innovators within the fresh produce industry. One of the program's most popular facets is the "Boots on the Ground Day," spending time with a local grower becoming immersed in agriculture from a hands-on perspective.

The **AgKnowledge Program** is co-sponsored by the Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's office and the Grower-Shipper Association. The program is supported by many agricultural industry partners.



www.growershipperfoundation.org

The **Grower-Shipper Association Foundation** is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote and educate about the health, social and cultural benefits of agriculture to the community and society as a whole.