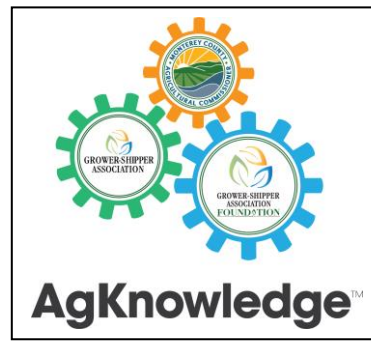


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grower-Shipper Association Foundation Announces AgKnowledge Program Class XV 2023

Salinas, CA (February 2023) — 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 2023 **AgKnowledge Program Class XV** Fellows. These 23 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.

2023 AgKnowledge Class XV - Fellows

- **Antonio Camacho**, Business Agent, Teamsters 890
- **Jennifer Dacquisto**, President, Bank of America, Monterey Bay
- **Julianna De La Paz**, Administrative Secretary, Monterey County Ag Commissioners Office
- **Henry Esler**, Finance Manager, Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
- **Carmen Gil**, Director of Community Engagement, City of Gonzales
- **Kim Harley**, Associate Professor & Associate Director of the Center for Environmental Research and Children's Health, UC Berkeley School of Health
- **Miguel Gomez**, Internal Quality Assurance Auditor, Driscoll's of the Americas
- **Michael Gutierrez**, President, Hartnell College
- **Marisa Hernandez**, Field Representative, State Senator Anna Caballero's Office
- **Arun Jani**, Assistant Professor of Crop Management, CSUMB – College of Science
- **Jasmine Mejia**, Executive Assistant, Monterey County Supervisor Luis Alejo's office
- **Jazmine Mejia-Muñoz**, Water Quality Program Coordinator, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
- **Clement Miller**, Chief Operating Officer, Salinas Valley Memorial Health Care System (SVMH)
- **Kayla Nelson**, Associate Planner, Monterey County Housing & Community Development
- **Kirsten Pearsons**, Farm Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE)
- **Alejandro Ramos**, Grower/Production, Gerd Schneider Nursery
- **Joel Ryman**, Associate Professor of Management/Capstone Director, CSUMB College of Business
- **Mark Silberstein**, Executive Director, Elkhorn Slough Foundation
- **Andrea Tinajero**, Programs Coordinator/Reports Manager, Center for Community Advocacy (CCA)
- **Leeset Torres**, Senior Equal Opportunity Analyst, Monterey County Civil Rights Office
- **Paul Tran**, Senior Project Manager, Community Housing Improvement Systems and Planning Association (CHISPA)
- **Yu-Chen Wang**, Plant Pathology Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE)
- **Donald Wilcox**, Public Works Director/City Engineer, City of Soledad

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.



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