



2024  
NORTH COUNTY  
*"Looking Forward"*  
AWARDS DINNER & FUNDRAISER



*Sunday, June 23, 2024*

*3 pm. - 6 pm.*

RADISSON HOTEL  
3455 SKYWAY DRIVE, SANTA MARIA

*presented by*  
*Santa Barbara County Action Network*



**The Land Trust**  
For Santa Barbara County

[sblandtrust.org](http://sblandtrust.org) 805.966.4520

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County protects natural resources, agricultural land and open spaces for the benefit of present and future generations.

Thank you, SBCAN, and congratulations to our fellow 2024 honorees!



**CAUSE is a base-building organization committed to social, economic, and environmental justice.**

**Learn more at [causenow.org](http://causenow.org)!**



**Congrats SBCAN awardees, including CAUSE Organizer Daniel Segura for receiving the Youth Activist Award!**

## THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

*California Condor*

DICK & MARILYN MAZESS

UFCW LOCAL 770

*Red-tailed Hawk*

ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE

SANTA YNEZ BAND OF CHUMASH INDIANS

GERRY DEWITT

FUND FOR SANTA BARBARA

CAUSE

DICK FLACKS

UDW - AFSCME LOCAL 3930

*California Quail*

COASTHILLS CREDIT UNION

CLIFF SOLOMON & PAM GATES

MCCUNE FOUNDATION

KATHY SHARUM & DAVID DENNIS

VIRGINIA PERRY SOUZA

THE LAND TRUST FOR SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

SEIU LOCAL 721

*Anna's Hummingbird*

MARC CHYTILO & NANCY WEISS

MARY ROSE & ASSOCIATES

JANET BLEVINS & GARY SMITH

SUPERVISOR DAS WILLIAMS

ASSEMBLYMEMBER GREGG HART

SUPERVISOR LAURA CAPPS

SANTA BARBARA FOUNDATION

DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF SANTA MARIA VALLEY

SANTA MARIA-LOMPOC BRANCH OF NAACP

LISA THORNHILL



# HANCOCK PROMISE 2



It's now **TWO YEARS FREE** at AHC for high school students within the Allan Hancock Joint Community College District who enroll immediately after graduation.



Learn more about the Hancock Promise at [hancockcollege.edu/promise](http://hancockcollege.edu/promise).



## PROGRAM

SOCIAL & CALL FOR DINNER

OPENING REMARKS

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS & SONGS

HONOREES

*Youth Activist Award*  
DANIEL SEGURA-ESQUIVEL

*Environmental Award*  
LAND TRUST FOR SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

*Working Families Award*  
NOEMI VELASQUEZ

*Giving Back Award*  
LUCY THOMS-HARRINGTON &  
LOMPOC-VANDENBERG CHAPTER OF AAUW

*Social Justice Award*  
STEVE MOLINA

*"Looking Forward" Award*  
CLIFF LAMBERT

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CLOSING REMARKS

WITH  
*gratitude*  
AND  
*admiration*  
FOR OUR  
*honorees*

*Carry it on!*

THE FLACKS FAMILY

*Congratulations*

to all the outstanding community  
leaders being honored tonight  
and to SBCAN for your efforts  
to promote social justice in  
Santa Barbara County

**McCune**  
FOUNDATION

[www.mccunefoundation.org](http://www.mccunefoundation.org)

## *Youth Activist Award*

For actively inspiring youth to become leaders in our community through work for social justice

### DANIEL SEGURA-ESQUIVEL



Daniel Segura-Esquivel was born and raised in Santa Maria, the oldest of four sons, to immigrant parents from Michoacan, Mexico.

A first generation and Latino student, he graduated from Pioneer Valley High School in 2017 and from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2021, majoring in Sociology with double minors in Education and Feminist Studies.

Throughout his time at UCSB he became a part of student-led efforts to advocate for LGBTQIA+ rights, mental health, racial equity, SVSH survivors, access to basic needs, and First-Generation students in his college community and beyond.

Daniel joined CAUSE in May 2021, serving as the Youth & Young Adult Community Organizer in Santa Maria. He continues to be a dedicated advocate for equity and social justice for historically underrepresented communities with a focus on environmental justice. He strongly believes in the power of younger generations to enact vital change in their communities and loves organizing alongside his youth leaders.

Some of his committee's campaigns have included advocating for the expansion of the Santa Maria River Trail, involvement with local redistricting processes, and supporting the Farmworker Living Wage campaign. Most recently, Daniel and his youth have focused on a Pesticide Reform Campaign, working to raise awareness about the dangers of pesticide exposure to farmworkers, students, and community health at-large.

Fueled by his own lived experiences and those around him, he will continue to do his best to help achieve a positive livelihood for all, and to create a Santa Maria people are proud to call home.





Congratulations to **The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County!** It has been a pleasure to work together to preserve open space in our County. *D. Williams*

*Congratulations*



*to all the award recipients!*

**Gregg HART**  
FOR ASSEMBLY

Thank you, SBCAN,  
for all you do for our community.  
Congratulations to this year's honorees.



*Congratulations*

To the 2024 SBCAN Looking Forward  
North County honorees.

With appreciation for all that you do to  
strengthen and empower our community.



**SUPERVISOR LAURA CAPPS**  
Second District

## *Environmental Award*

For valuing, protecting and preserving our natural resources and environment

**THE LAND TRUST FOR SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**



Since 1985, The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County has worked with willing landowners, public and private grant agencies and other community organizations to protect, restore and manage open space, wildlife habitat and agricultural land in Santa Barbara County.

The Land Trust envisions a future with conserved lands throughout the county that engage and nourish human, plant, and animal life. These conserved lands include productive family farms and ranches that succeed from generation to generation, healthy habitat to sustain and harbor wildlife and plants, and beautiful trails and open spaces that provide recreational gateways accessible to all.

The Land Trust strives to engage with the multiple communities that make up our county, to adapt to changing conditions, and to maintain our capacity to address all conservation opportunities. It sees the unique value of Santa Barbara County reflected in productive and sustainable food systems; natural habitat areas that harbor a thriving diversity of wildlife and plants; and open spaces and thoughtfully designed trail systems that contribute to healthy air, water, and soil and provide outdoor recreation access for all.

Several years of tremendous growth and achievement have resulted in the successful conservation of over 57,304 acres, 58 conservation easements, and thousands of residents enjoying the outdoors.

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County hosts a series of family-friendly events for the community to explore scenic Santa Barbara County and to meet your local Land Trust.

To all the 2024 SBCAN Award Winners

*Congratulations!*

From Pam Gates and Cliff Solomon

*Thank  
you*

**SBCAN**

**for your work**

and for bringing community leaders  
and organizations forward to celebrate  
community activism  
and encourage collaborations

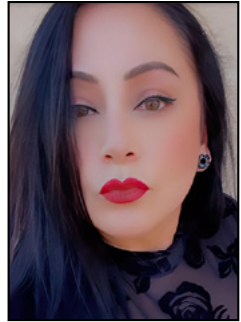
*Virginia Perry Souza*

## *Working Families Award*

For helping underserved families to improve their quality of life

**NOEMI VELASQUEZ**

Noemi's professional trajectory spans nearly two decades within the Community Health Centers of the Central Coast, an institution that emerged from the civil rights movement with a profound commitment to extending healthcare access to marginalized individuals and families entrenched in poverty. Drawing from a lineage steeped in activism and lived experience as a farmworker, Noemi embodies a historical legacy and personal experience that underpins her dedication to this noble cause.



Commencing her work with the CHC farmworker clinic, Noemi initially engaged in pivotal roles focused on facilitating linkages and outreach initiatives tailored to the needs of agricultural laborers along the Central Coast. As an indigenous woman intimately acquainted with the realities confronting local working families, she possesses an understanding of the multifaceted barriers that are associated with social and economic disparities.

Presently, the Community Health Center confronts the realities pervasive within our communities—living in poverty, violence, homelessness, and hunger. In response to community needs, efforts have been made within the Health Center and in collaboration with the local Santa Barbara County food bank to effect systemic change aimed at dismantling barriers to accessing food. The establishment of strategically located distribution sites situated within neighborhoods that are experiencing food insecurity and health disparities has made healthy food more accessible to thousands of households across our region.

Central to this endeavor has been the recognition that "food is medicine," a principle fervently championed in partnership with the local food bank. These collaborative efforts continue to drive meaningful change.



*Thank You*

Jeanne Sparks, Ken Hough and Nancy Avoce  
SBCAN would be nowhere without the three of you!

Janet Blevins and Gary Smith



Congratulations to this year's honorees!  
Thank you all for the work you do on behalf of  
our community.

Much love from Marc Chytilo and Nancy Weiss

LAW OFFICE OF MARC CHYTILO, APC  
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW



**CoastHills.**  
CREDIT UNION  
Banking the Central Coast Way

**CONGRATULATIONS 2024 AWARD WINNERS!**

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR WORLD!**

DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF SANTA MARIA VALLEY  
327 E PLAZA DR, STE 2, SANTA MARIA, CA 93454

805-349-2708 • DCSMV@DCSMV.NET • SANTAMARIADEMOCRATS.INFO

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## *Giving Back Award*

For selflessly giving back to the community through volunteer activities and community projects

**LUCY THOMS-HARRINGTON &  
LOMPOC-VANDENBERG CHAPTER OF AAUW**



The American Association of University Women Lompoc-Vandenberg branch, a nonpartisan organization open to all genders, is committed to its vision of Equity for All.

AAUW advocates for legislation for gender equity: equal pay, reproductive rights, rights for pregnant workers, affordable childcare and more. AAUW funds educational research. It creates access to high paying careers in science, technology, engineering, and math where women (particularly women of color) are underrepresented. It advocates for strong enforcement of Title IX ensuring equal opportunity in education.

Locally, the Lompoc-Vandenberg branch positively impacts the lives of youth in the community through three primary programs: Tech Trek, a week long program held on a university campus, introduces rising 8th-grade girls to STEM pathways taught largely by female subject matter experts; Gov Trek, a six-week virtual program, encourages females in high school to consider running for elected offices or public service where women are underrepresented; and Speech Trek, which gives high school students the tools to use their voices on issues important in their lives.

For 60 years, AAUW has hosted vital nonpartisan candidate forums as a service to the community. Expanding access to these forums has been a strong focus of the organization. With community collaborators, AAUW hosts forums in dual languages with live interpretation and simulcasting on multiple platforms thereby eliminating the barriers to access and participation.

The AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg branch members are ChangeMakers in the community since 1964 and welcome advocates, members and supporters. For information, contact [lompocvandenberg-ca@aauw.net](mailto:lompocvandenberg-ca@aauw.net).

*Congratulations to all Honorees!*

Kathy Sharum & David Dennis

Nancy K Johnson and Franca Bongi Lockart

"The Fearless Duo"

Two ladies who live on through the actions of others.

*Lisa Thorndill*



**Proud to support  
SBCAN's North County  
Looking Forward  
Awards dinner**

Bringing people and  
resources together to  
build stronger  
communities across  
Santa Barbara County  
for 95 years

LEARN MORE AT  
SBFOUNDATION.ORG  
OR SCAN BELOW



The FUND congratulates the  
2024 SBCAN "Looking  
Forward" Dinner awardees.  
Thank you for all you do!



The FUND advances progressive  
change by strengthening movements  
for Economic, Environmental,  
Political, Racial, and Social Justice.

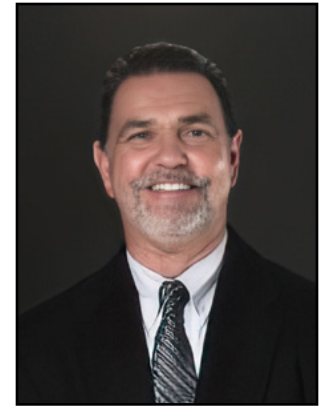
Visit our website: <https://fundforsantabarbara.org/>

## *Social Justice Award*

For promoting fairness, tolerance, respect and compassion for all people in the community

### STEVE MOLINA

Steve Molina has been a driving force for positive change in the Santa Maria community, particularly within the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District. His work with the Parent Advisory Committee to develop the Local Control Accountability Community stands out as a testament to his dedication to advocating for the community's needs.



Steve acknowledges the invaluable guidance and support provided by the parents and guardians of the high school district, who served as mentors and coaches, instilling in him the confidence and perseverance to effect change. Together, they identified the crucial need for school-based mental health services for students, especially those facing societal barriers and limited access to support.

Despite initial resistance, Steve spearheaded the proposal for school-based mental health services, collaborating with Community Health Centers to provide essential support to vulnerable student populations, including homeless youth, foster children, low-income families, teenage parents, and LGBTQ+ students. Through his efforts, these services have become an integral part of the school system, sustaining a full-time position to ensure continued support.

In partnership with organizations like One Community Action and Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley, Steve helped implement culturally responsive programs like POR VIDA, catering to specific needs of students and parents. Additionally, his collaboration with nonprofit organizations led to the establishing of the district's Intervention/Prevention Committee, ensuring comprehensive support for students through partnerships with organizations such as Chumash Tribal Clinic, Pacific Pride Foundation, and SBC BWell.

Throughout his journey, Steve has remained committed to advancing social justice and an inclusive environment for the students and community of Santa Maria. His unwavering dedication, collaborative spirit, and commitment to social justice have undoubtedly left a lasting impact on the Santa Maria community.





NORTH COUNTY  
*Looking Forward*  
AWARDS DINNER & FUNDRAISER



**The members, officers, and staff of  
UFCW 770 are proud to honor and  
support the SBCAN North County  
Awards Dinner**

**Scan the QR code to join the fight to stop  
the devastating merger between Kroger &  
Albertsons**

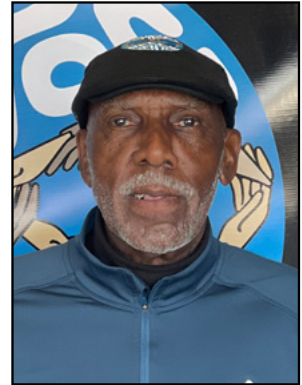


## "Looking Forward" Award

For strong leadership and vision in community building, civic engagement  
and improving the quality of life in our community

### CLIFF LAMBERT

Cliff says: "I want to give an honor to God, Family, our board members and the abundance of support we have received from our funders that have been steadfast in believing in the vision and the need. Thanks to SBCAN for helping recognize individuals and organizations for their efforts to enhance the quality of life for others."



"The establishment of Lompoc Teen Center has been a collective effort in working towards sustainability. This grassroots organization has so far defied all odds. The Lompoc Teen Center established In 2022 opened its doors with the mission of serving solely teens residing in Lompoc. We are the only agency in Lompoc that exclusively serves teens and has its own facility in Lompoc. We wanted to establish an agency that provided first a 'Safe Space for Teens' and second, a place 'where teens can flourish and maximize their potential in education and other pursuits in life in an environment that is conducive to their learning and growth.'"

"Our agency's highest priority is to prepare our students that are enrolled in our Yes I Can-Si Se Puede College Readiness Program and to provide 7th-9th grade students with after school tutoring through individual and group sessions to meet the minimum requirements to be CSU and UC eligible. Upon successful completion of the established criteria for the program, students are guaranteed a \$3,000 post-secondary scholarship award. Our partnership with Lompoc Unified School District, Allan Hancock Community College, Loyal Teach Common Good, Goodwill Workforce Connection Center and others have afforded us to provide added resources to enhance the education of our students."

"This fall, a Career Path Workshop will be conducted for Teen Center members and other students identified by Lompoc United School District. Summer session are also offered for expanding learning as well as array of field trips/excursions."





FIGHTING FOR  
WORKERS AND  
OUR COMMUNITIES



## UDW IS PROUD TO SUPPORT SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ACTION NETWORK

***We are care workers.***

We are dedicated to fighting for the rights of  
workers, seniors, and people with disabilities.



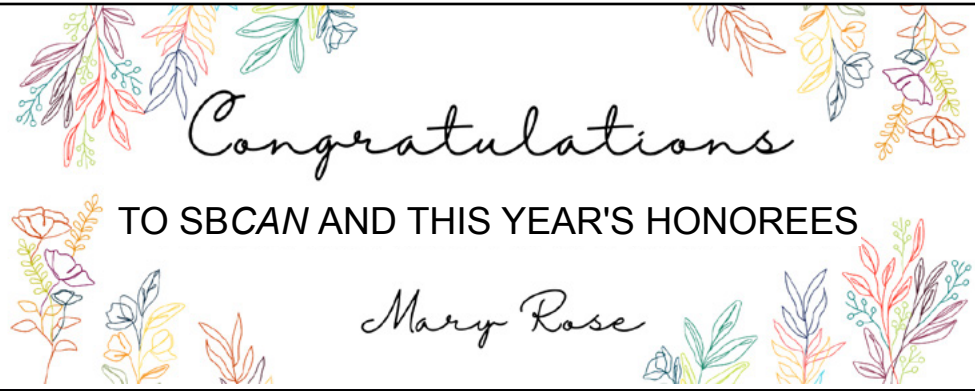
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## CONGRATULATIONS!

SEIU Local 721 is proud to support  
**Santa Barbara County Action Network.**

Congratulations to all the  
**Looking Forward** Award Recipients.

[www.seiu721.org](http://www.seiu721.org)

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## Santa Barbara County Action Network

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P.O. Box 6174, Santa Maria, CA 93456 • 805.563.0463



HOLDING ON TO  
TRADITION BY SHARING  
*'amuyich.*

IT'S A CHUMASH  
TRADITION  
TO REACH OUT TO OUR  
NEIGHBORS AND CARE  
FOR OUR COMMUNITY.  
WE CALL IT 'AMUYICH.



SANTA YNEZ BAND OF CHUMASH INDIANS FOUNDATION  
[www.chumash.gov](http://www.chumash.gov)