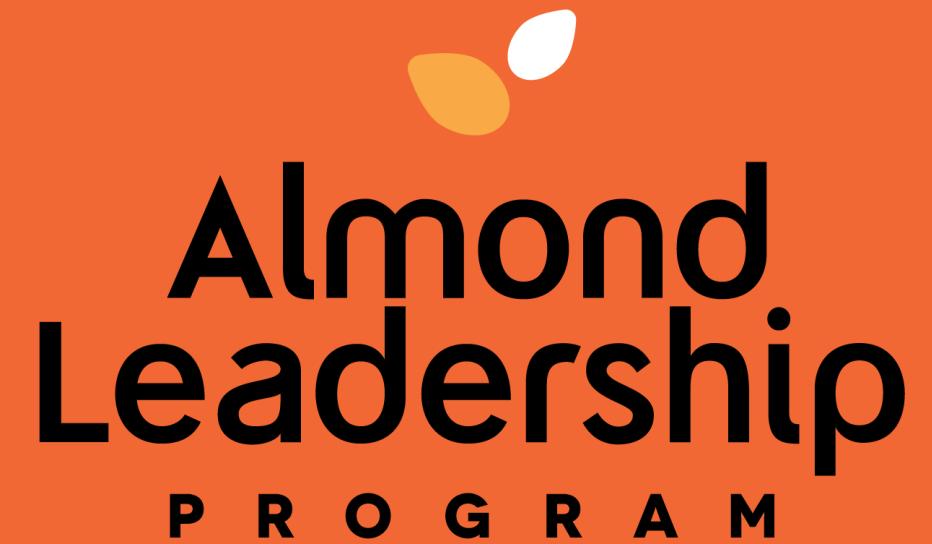
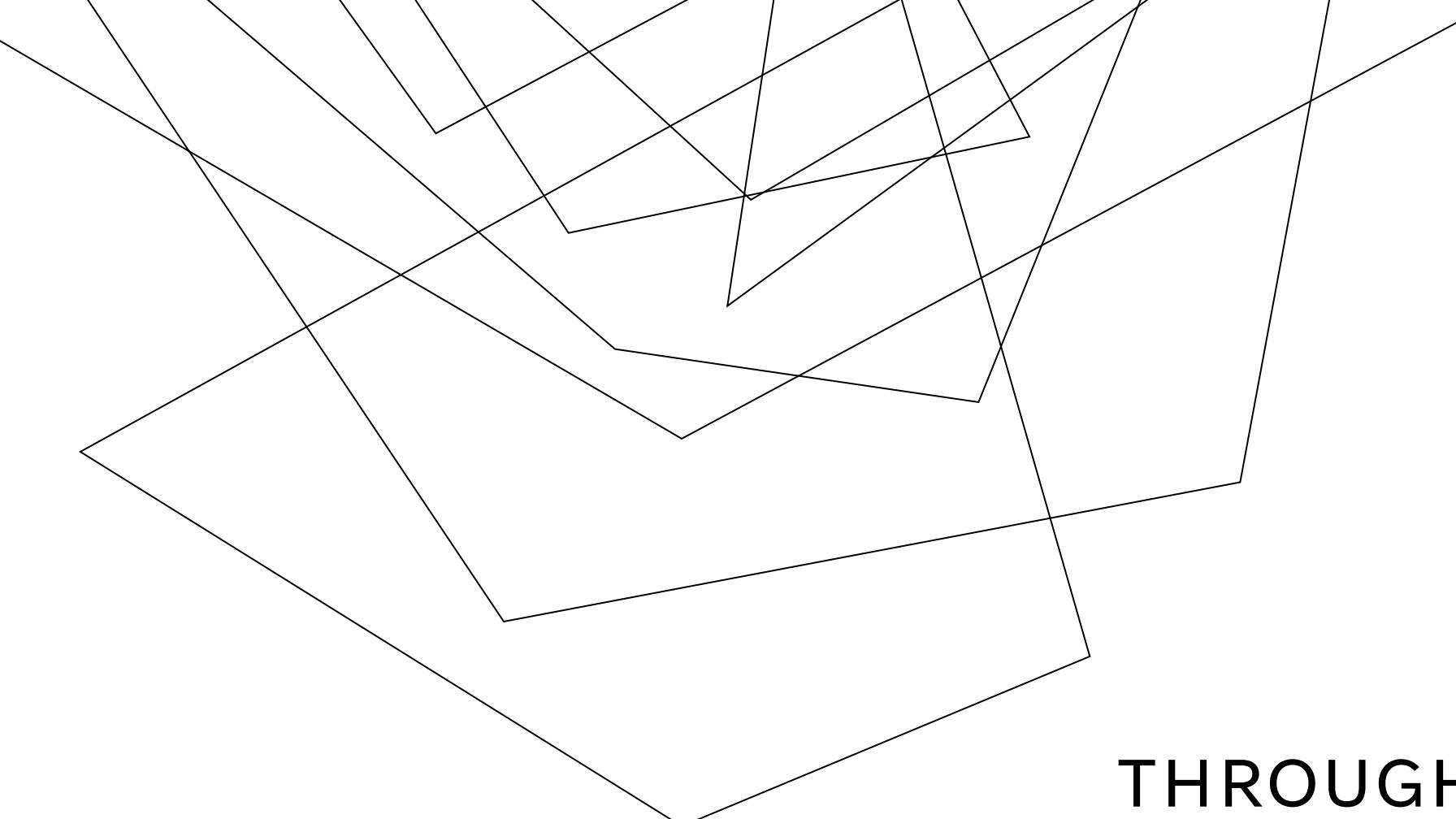


A white line drawing of several almonds and their leaves, arranged in a cluster, is positioned in the lower-left corner of the orange background.

SHAPING THE **FUTURE**



An abstract geometric line drawing in black ink on a white background. It features several intersecting lines that create a complex, overlapping pattern of triangles and polygons. The lines are thin and black, forming a web-like structure.

# THROUGH THE ALMOND LENS

BY CRISTAL DA SILVEIRA

# THROUGH THE ALMOND LENS

An Almond-Inspired Art Auction

Almond Leadership Program-2025

Cristal Da Silveira

# INTRODUCTION/ BACKGROUND:



- the almond industry is a vital part of California's agricultural identity.
- Art has the power to elevate awareness, spark creativity, and connect people to the value behind everyday crops.
- This project blends agriculture and art to create community engagement through a unique lens- The Almond Lense.

- I want to encourage creative interpretations of almonds by artist.
- I want to engage the community in supporting youth in agriculture.
- I want to raise funds to empower future leaders in farming and agriculture.

## WHY IS THIS PROJECT NECESSARY?:

- Encourages appreciation of almonds beyond consumption.
- Offers a fresh perspective on the industry through visual storytelling.
- Supports local artists and connects them with the agricultural community.
- Helps spread awareness of almond sustainability and innovation in a creative format.



## WHY I'M INTERESTED IN THIS PROJECT

- Passionate about both the almond industry and artistic expression.
- Want to foster stronger connections between growers, families, and creatives.
- Inspired by the beauty of almonds, not just as a crop, but as a cultural symbol.

# PROJECT OUTCOME/WHAT I HOPE TO LEARN

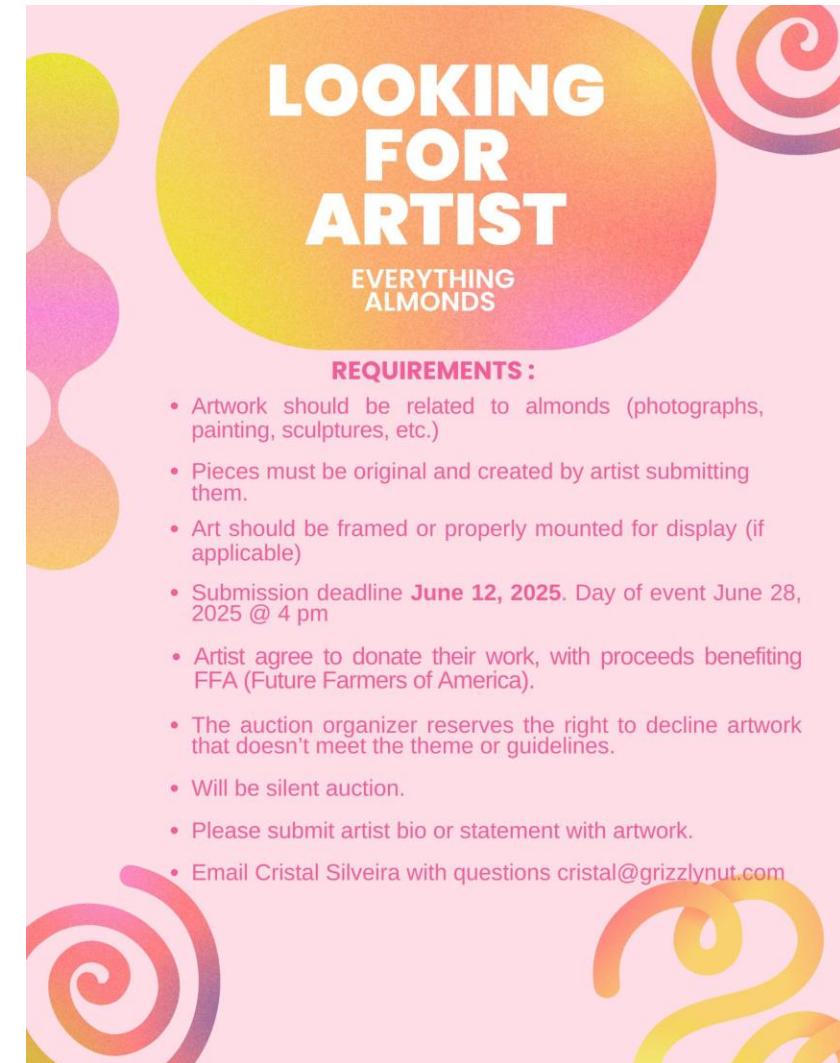
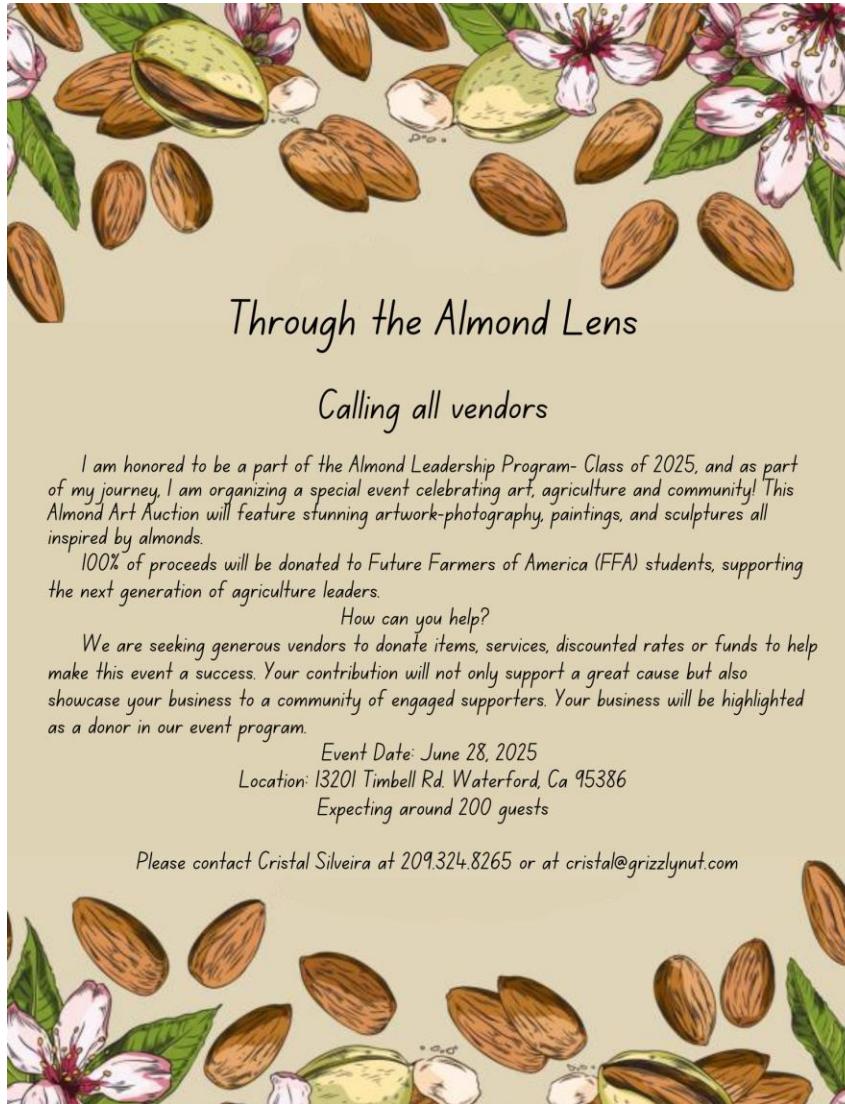
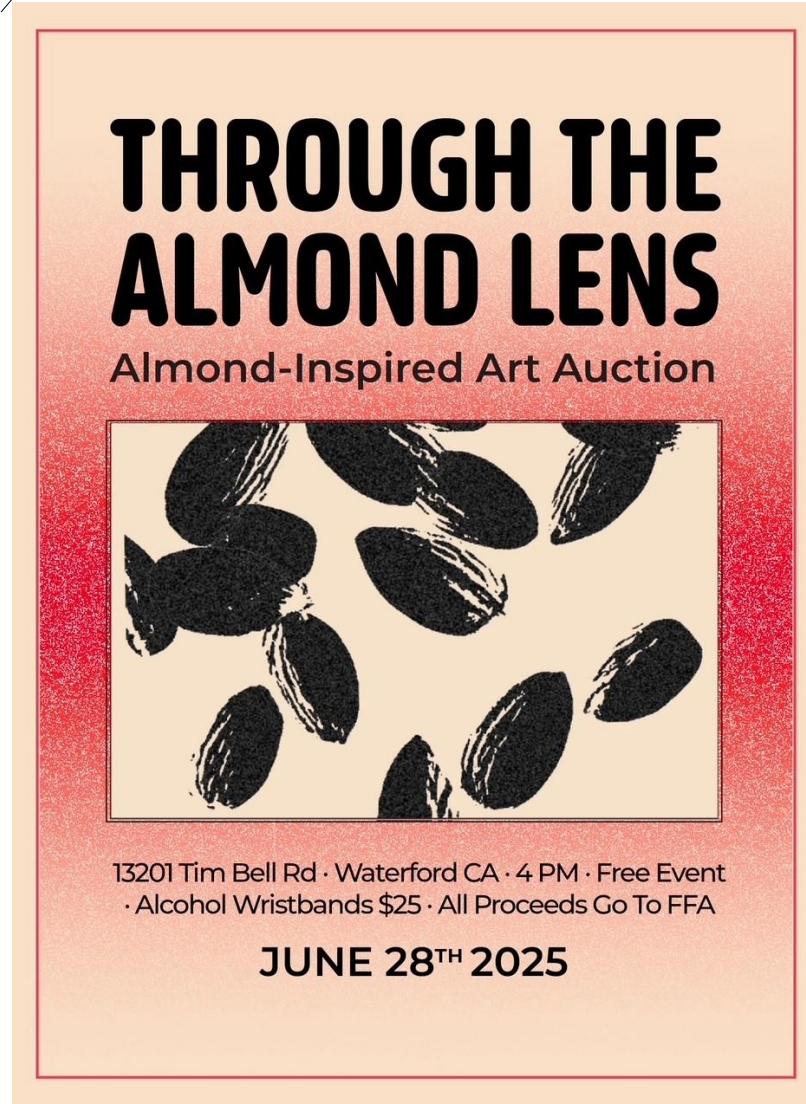
## **Anticipated Outcome:**

- A successful community event that showcases almond-themed artwork.
- Stronger local ties and increased public awareness of almond farming.

## **What I hope to learn:**

- How art can be used as a storytelling tool for agriculture.
- Event planning and community engagement skills.
- Insights from artists and attendees on how they view the almond industry.

## EVENT FLYERS



# BUDGET

## Art Show Budget for 200 Guests

Item	Quantity	Estimated Cost	Notes
<b>Venue (farm)</b>	1	\$ 2,000.00	Donated by Falastine Munoz
<b>Certificate of Insurance</b>	1 million dollars	\$100	Donated by Almond Board of California
<b>Restroom Rental</b>	5 stall portable units	\$450	Donated by Almond Board of California
<b>Rectangular Tablecloths</b>	10 table cloth	\$10 each = \$100	Barrow from Christina Staack
<b>Standard Tablecloths (misc.)</b>	14 table cloths	\$10 each = \$140	Barrow from Christina Staack
<b>Cheese</b>	15lbs	\$150	Donated by Fiscalini Farmstead
<b>Cured meats</b>	15 lbs	\$150	
<b>crakers</b>	8-10 boxes	\$40	
<b>olives,pickles</b>	3 jars	\$15	Green vine canning
<b>Dips</b>	4 jars	\$25	J&J and Fruit Barn
<b>Fresh Fruit</b>	10 lbs	\$40	Asalli Hulling & Shelling
<b>Charcuterie Board Supplies</b>	Serves 200	Total \$420	Bulk meats, cheeses, fruit, crackers
<b>Ice</b>	5 large bags	\$5 each = \$25	
<b>Water Bottles</b>	8 cases (24 each)	\$5 each = \$40	Kiwanis of greater Turlock
<b>Wine (red &amp; white)</b>	24 bottles	\$30 each = \$1220	Mike Staack
<b>Beer (cans)</b>	144 cans (6 cases)	\$1.50 each = \$216	Dust Bowl/ The Staacks
<b>Programs/Print Materials</b>	200 prints	\$80	Donated by Grizzly
<b>Wristbands (for 21+)</b>	250 pack	\$15	
<b>Bartenders (2 for 4 hrs)</b>	2 people	\$80 each = \$160	Donated their time Esperanza, Socorro, Veronica
<b>Trash Bags</b>	1-2 boxes	\$15	
<b>Plates (appetizer size)</b>	250 count	\$25	Donated by Yosemite Farm Credit
<b>Napkins</b>	400 count	\$20	Donated by Yosemite Farm Credit
<b>Cups (wine &amp; water)</b>	200 wine + 200 water	\$40	Donated by the Staacks
<b>Cash Box with Lock</b>	1	\$25	
<b>Candy Dishes + Almonds*</b>	10dishes + almonds	\$40	Borrowed from Staacks
<b>Plexiglass Frames for Artist Info</b>	15-20 frames	\$1.25 each = \$18.75-\$25	
Cost of event as of 05/14/2025		Cost of event \$5156	Minus donations \$4415
			Still need for event \$741

# THE PROGRAM

Program designed by Shannon Merritt

## Sponsors

Green Vine Canning  
Home of the Grizzly Pickle Pudding



## Special Thanks



A heartfelt thank you to Grizzly Nut for encouraging me to join the Almond Leadership Program. Being part of this program has been incredibly rewarding, and I'm so grateful to have had Grizzly Nut cheering me on every step of the way. Thank you for helping make this opportunity possible and for standing behind me.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to the Almond Board of California for their incredible support. I'm truly grateful to be part of this year's Almond Leadership Program. It's such an amazing program that not only empowers future leaders but also brings our community together in meaningful ways.

## Through The ALMOND LENS

An art auction benefiting the Future Farmers of America

Discover, bid, and buy a masterpiece!



Shannon Merritt  
Gricelda Torres  
Viviana Caballero  
Amanda Boyce  
Lindsey Jahn  
Jeremy Givens  
Ernesto Hernandez  
Susannah Hall  
Joseph Macmanus  
Mike Staack  
Nicole Slater

Girl Scouts  
Esther  
Danica  
Anna  
Camila  
Idalia  
Lily Ann  
Tavanity Marie  
Jocelyn Aubrey



## Agenda

4:00 PM: Guest check-in; silent auction and bar opens

5:00 PM: Welcome and acknowledgments

5:30 PM: Mingle with artists

6:30 PM: 30-minute call to closing of silent auction

6:45 PM: 15-minute call to closing of silent auction

7:00 PM: Silent auction closed. Bid winners can cash out and collect art at check in booth

7:45 PM: Last call at bar

8:00 PM: This concludes the event.

## Welcome Note

Welcome, and thank you for joining us today. I am thrilled to host this special art show and auction celebrating creativity, community, and the almond industry. Whether you're a grower, an artist, a supporter, or simply here to enjoy art, your presence means so much.

This event was created to bring people together through shared love of almonds, whether we grow them, consume them, or admire the beauty they inspire. Every piece of art in this space tells a unique story, and we are grateful for the talented artists who made this show possible. I want to express deep gratitude to the almond board of California for the honor of being a part of this year's leadership program.

All proceeds from this event support FFA scholarships and student events. Enjoy the evening, the artwork, and the community, and thank you for supporting a cause that cultivates future leaders.

Cristal Silveira



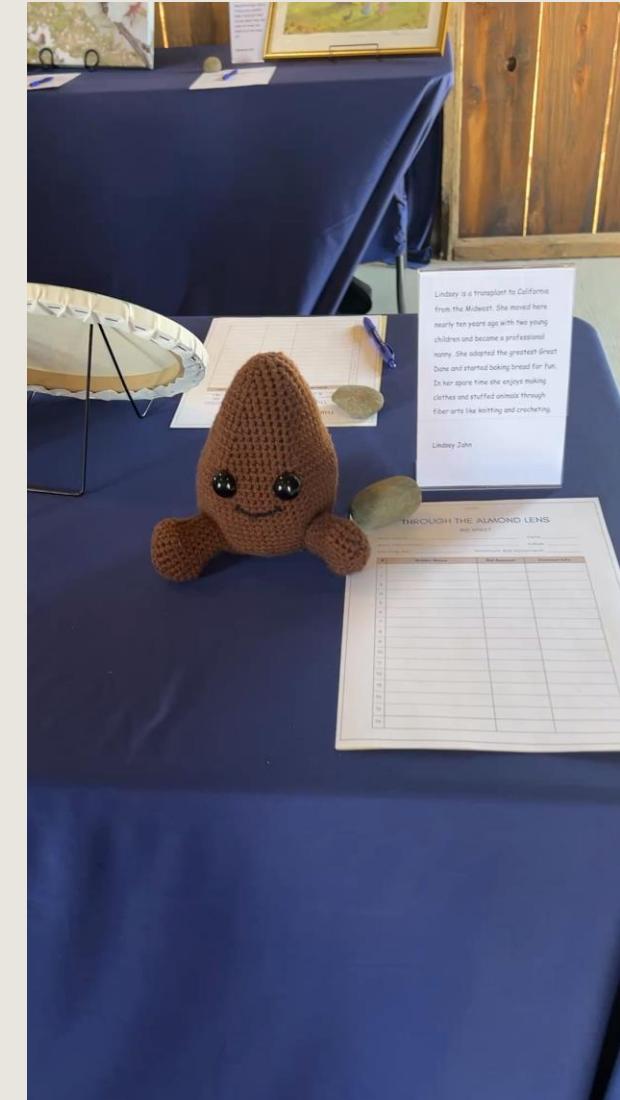
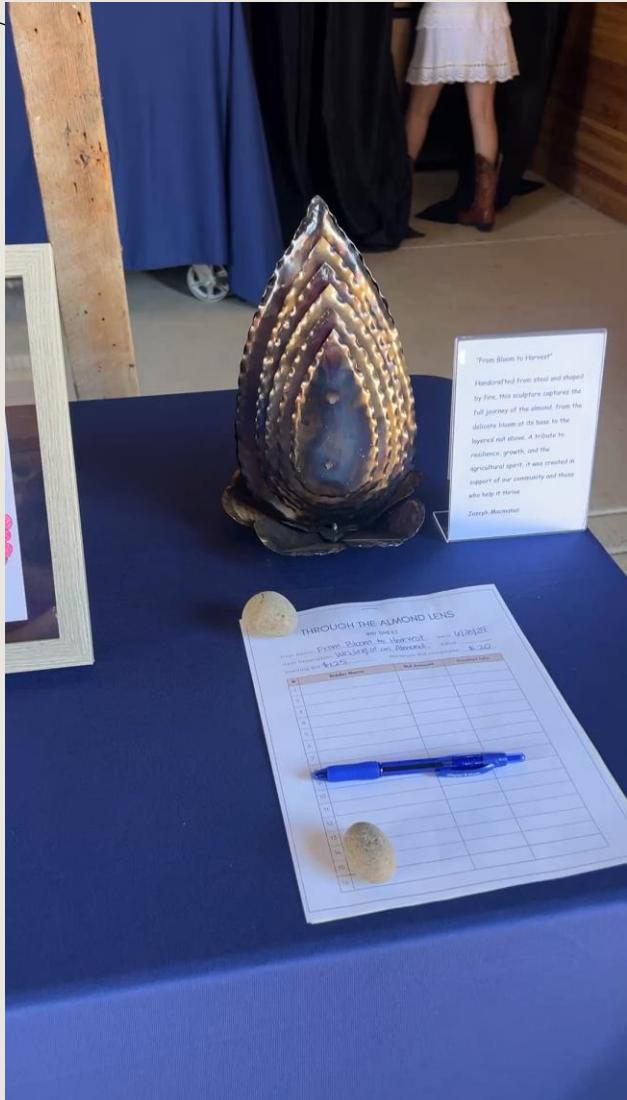
# THE ART/ARTISTS

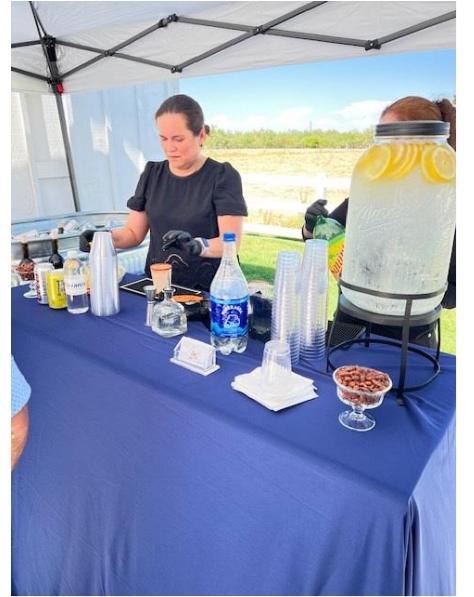


# A r T I S T S



I was honored to have local artists donate their beautiful work, and thrilled to welcome Girl Scouts from three different troops who participated in the event and earned their Art Gallery badge!

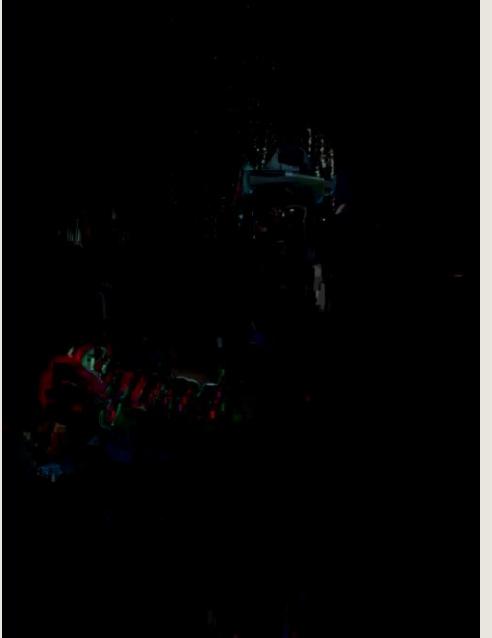


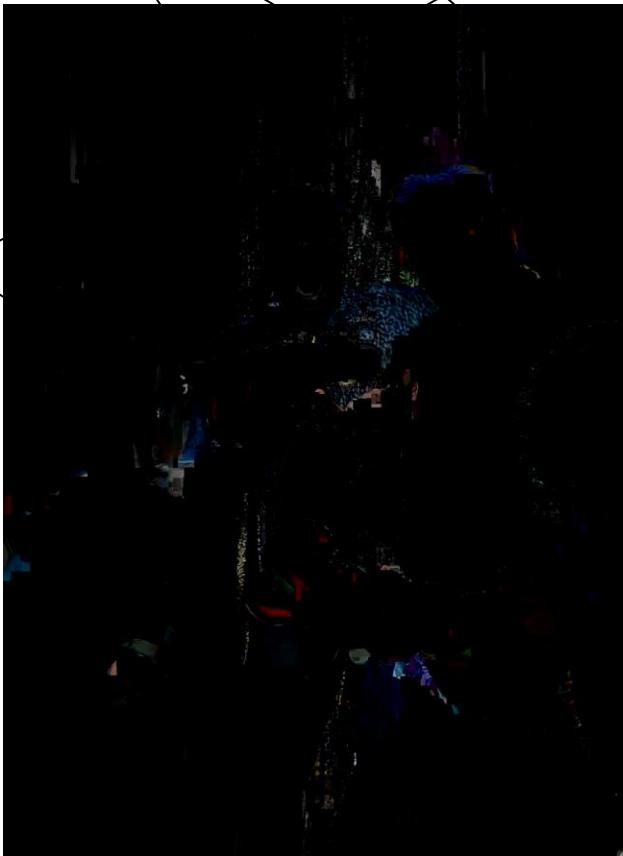






# PHOTOBOOTH:





# FOOD AND BEVERAGE SET UP



# FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA (FFA) WATERFORD HIGH SCHOOL



**Students from the FFA Waterford Chapter, helped with set-up, parking, checking guests in, and cleaning.**

# COMMUNITY FEED BACK

Darell and Norma Cordova, such incredible individuals who continually show up and support their community in meaningful ways. Grateful for their kindness and generosity!



## Shannon Merritt

We are honored to have had our event program beautifully designed by Shannon Merritt, a talented local artist based in Fresno. Shannon is the creative force behind *Artfully Yours by Shannon*, where she shares her passion for painting through engaging paint-and-sip classes. In addition to her incredible design work, Shannon generously donated several stunning pieces of her art to our event. We are truly grateful for her creativity, kindness, and support.



# MONEY RAISED

<b>EVENT PROFIT</b>		<b>CASH DONATIONS</b>		<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Cash	\$1,440	Susana	\$100	Costco	\$358
Venmo	\$380	Regina	\$100	Pizza	\$50
Zelle	\$315	Petra	\$40	Ice	\$82.82
Square	\$73.35	SKS	\$200	Money Order	\$20.00
Checks	\$1,025			Wrist Bands	\$45.91
				Cashbox	\$25
				Plexi glass/eisles	\$82.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,235</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$440</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$665</b>

Total earnings for FFA \$3010

# THE BIG CHECK

FFA Waterford Chapter





# CONCLUSION

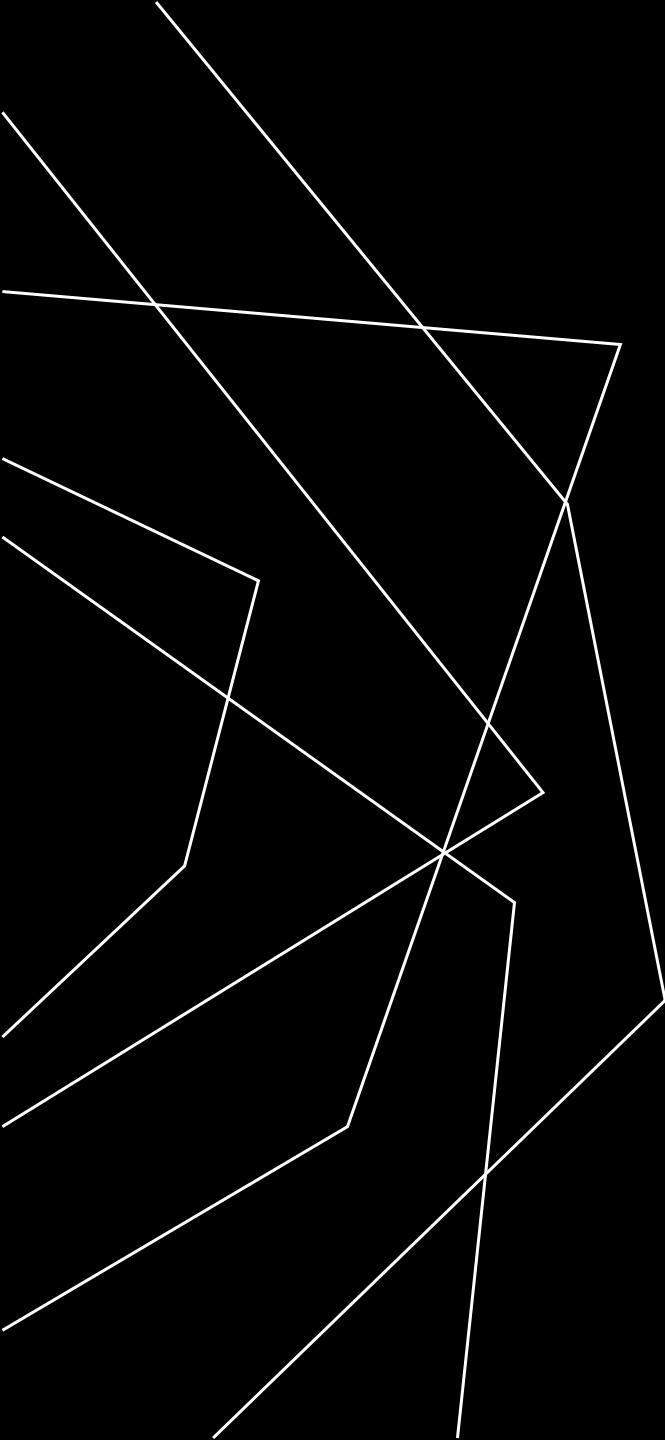
The *Through the Almond Lens* project successfully highlighted the generosity and community spirit that exists within our local area. Throughout the event, it became evident that people are not only willing but eager to support and uplift one another. The project demonstrated that something as simple as the almond symbolizing growth, nourishment, and connection. Can serve as a meaningful bridge that brings people together.

# FINDINGS AND RESULTS

A key finding from this project was the remarkable willingness of community members to contribute their time, resources, and positive energy. Many participants and attendees expressed genuine enthusiasm for the event and inquired whether it would become an annual tradition, indicating strong community engagement and sustained interest. Overall, the event fostered a sense of unity, belonging, and shared purpose among participants.

# REFLECTION

Looking back on the project, I'm honestly so proud of how smoothly everything came together and how much people loved it. We didn't just meet expectations; we totally crushed them! The community vibe was amazing. If I could change one thing, it'd probably be the weather. I'd set it to a perfect 70 degrees with a light breeze, please and thank you! Other than that, everything went just the way we hoped, and it ended up being such a fun and rewarding experience.



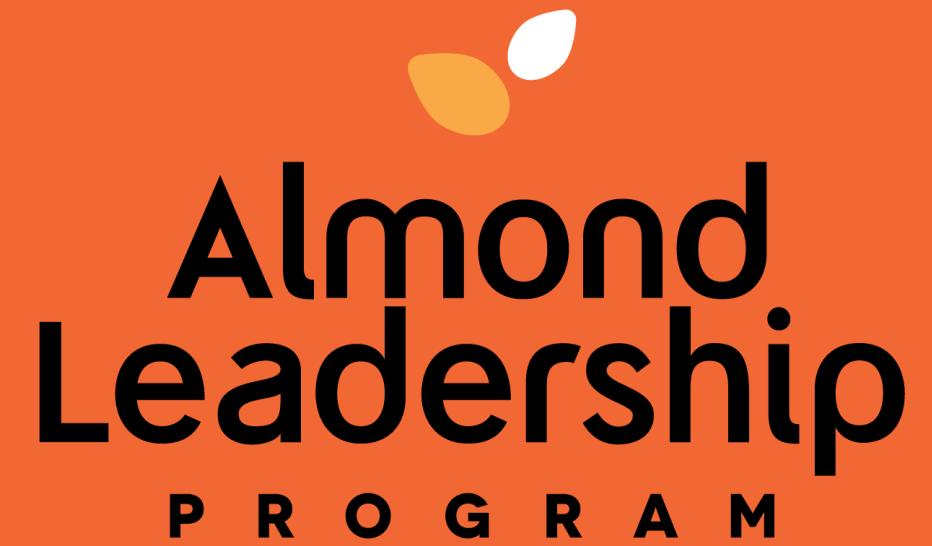
# THANK YOU

Thank you for your support and encouragement!

Any questions or feedback?

A white line drawing of several almonds and their leaves, arranged in a cluster, is positioned in the lower-left corner of the orange background.

SHAPING THE **FUTURE**



# 2025 Mentors – Thank You!



Jaspaul  
Bains



Jose  
Borrell



Stan  
Chance



Gaby  
Chavarria



Megan  
Chicoine



Jereme  
Fromm



Christine  
Gemperle



Ladd  
Hackler



Donny  
Hicks



Michael  
Marsh



April  
Nuckles



Joe  
Palomino



Brandon  
Rebiero



Michael  
Roots



Lucas  
Schmidt



Scott  
Severson



Manny  
Sousa



Chandler  
Wilson

# 2025 Mentors – Thank You!

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April  
Taffera



Gaby  
Chavarria



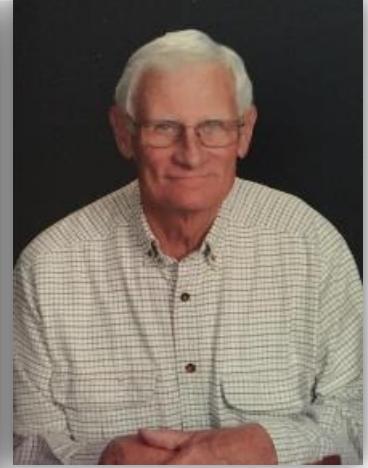
Michael  
Roots



Christine  
Gemperle

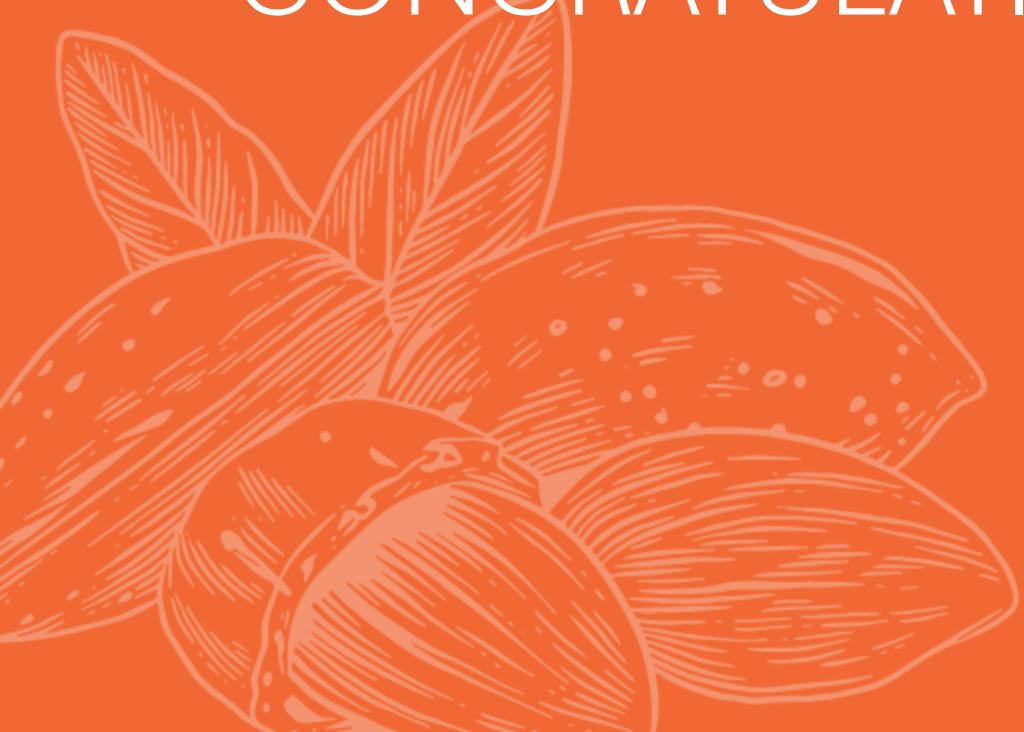


Scott  
Severson



Ladd  
Hackler

CONGRATULATIONS **CLASS OF 2025**



**SHAPING THE FUTURE**

CLASS OF 2025

# Arik Bains

## Wilbur Ellis



**SHAPING THE FUTURE**

CLASS OF 2025

# Cristal Da Silveira

Grizzly Nut, LLC



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CLASS OF 2025

# Katie Driver

## Syngenta

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CLASS OF 2025

# Raquel Gomez

## Brandt



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CLASS OF 2025

# Zach Harcksen

Mid Valley Agricultural Services



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CLASS OF 2025

# Evan Koftinow

## RPAC, LLC



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CLASS OF 2025

# Laine LaGrande

John Deere



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# Brenden Lusk

## Real Broker



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# Joseph McManus

## Wilson Ag



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CLASS OF 2025

# Luis Mendoza

Syngenta

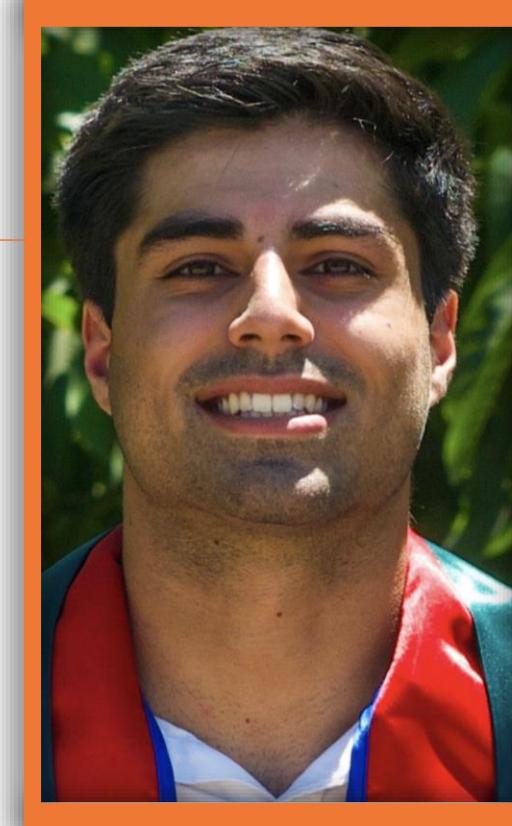


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CLASS OF 2025

# Rajan Nagra

Flory Industries/COE Orchard Equipment



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CLASS OF 2025

# Crystal Nay

## Modern Ag Media



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CLASS OF 2025

# Ricky Robledo

TRECE Inc.

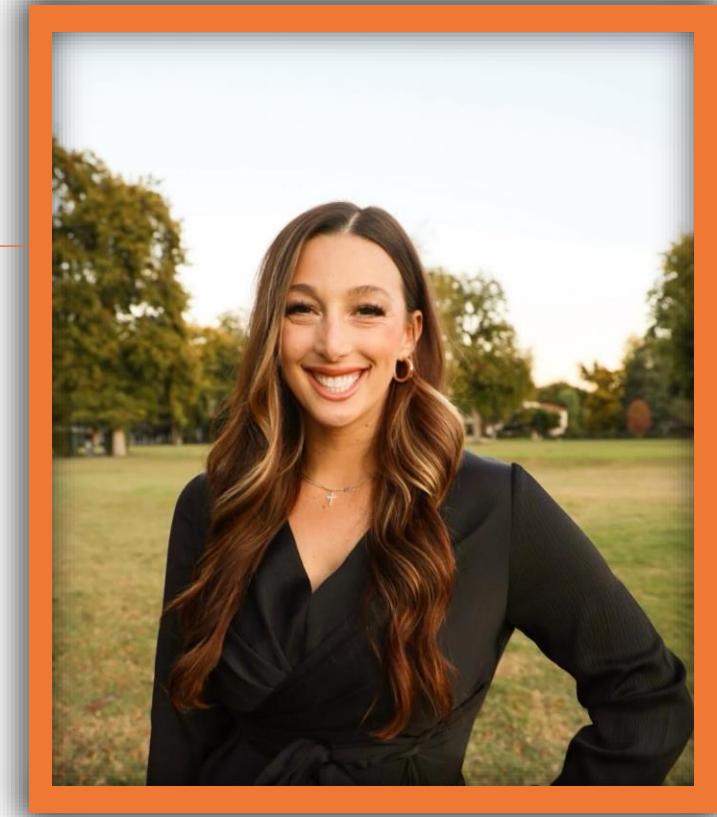


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# Kiki Sandrini

## Chandler Automation



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# Ranvir Tung

## Tung Corporation



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# Elizabeth Vander Weide

Blue Diamond Growers



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CLASS OF 2025

# Jake Wiley

ProFarm Group (Marrone Bio)



**SHAPING THE FUTURE**

CLASS OF 2025

# **Bobbie Williams**

Memorial Medical Center, WMD Farms





**CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025**

# Welcome – 2026 ALP Class

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Orientation kicks off January 21 + 22

- **Rebekah Burrows**, GGI Farms + Advancing Edo Agriculture
- **Grace Fales**, Baugher Ranch Organics
- **Daniel Frea**, Frea Farms + Wanger Jones Helsely PC
- **Austin Jackson**, Blue Diamond Growers
- **Andrew Jensen**, Crop Syndicate
- **Julian Jimenez**, Pomona Farming LLC
- **Natalie Kidd**, Kidd Farms
- **Catherine Machado**, Manulife Farmland Management Services
- **Prabh Monder**, Monder Farms
- **Madison Martella**, Campos Brothers Farms
- **Connor Pate**, Belkorp Ag, LLC
- **Alexus Powell-Crow**, Grow West
- **Noah Riley**, Kula Bio
- **Hyeong Shin**, HS Ventures
- **Orlando Tapia**, Corteva Agriscience
- **John Unzueta**, Cache Creek Foods LLC
- **Alyssa Valdez**, RPAC
- **James Williamson**, PGIM Real Estate



# THANK YOU