

SHAPING THE **FUTURE**



**Almond
Leadership**
P R O G R A M

Abstract geometric lines in black on a white background, forming various overlapping polygons and shapes, primarily concentrated on the left side of the page.

THROUGH THE ALMOND LENS

BY CRISTAL DA SILVEIRA

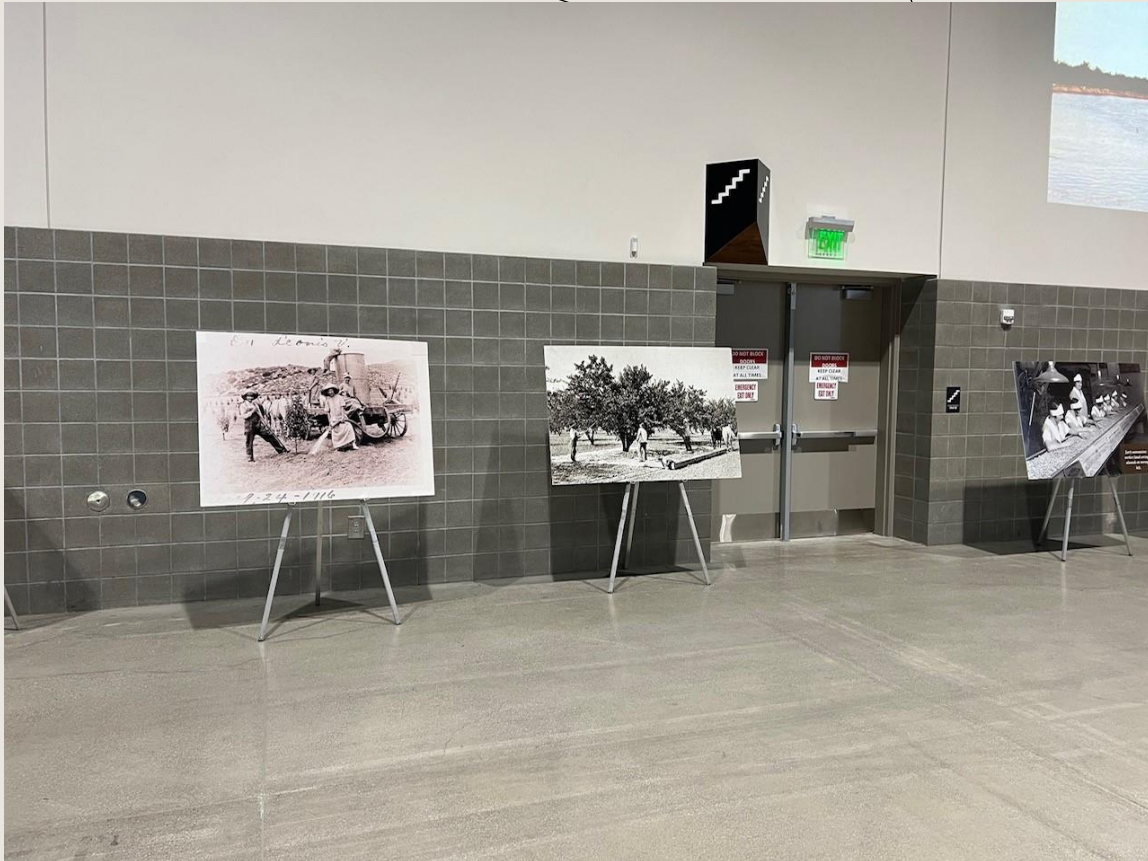
THROUGH THE ALMOND LENS

An Almond-Inspired Art Auction

Almond Leadership Program-2025

Cristal Da Silva

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.

A series of thin, black, intersecting lines forming an abstract geometric pattern in the top-left corner of the slide.

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

THROUGH THE ALMOND LENS

Almond-Inspired Art Auction



13201 Tim Bell Rd • Waterford CA • 4 PM • Free Event
• Alcohol Wristbands \$25 • All Proceeds Go To FFA

JUNE 28TH 2025



Through the Almond Lens

Calling all vendors

I am honored to be a part of the Almond Leadership Program- Class of 2025, and as part of my journey, I am organizing a special event celebrating art, agriculture and community! This Almond Art Auction will feature stunning artwork-photography, paintings, and sculptures all inspired by almonds.

100% of proceeds will be donated to Future Farmers of America (FFA) students, supporting the next generation of agriculture leaders.

How can you help?

We are seeking generous vendors to donate items, services, discounted rates or funds to help make this event a success. Your contribution will not only support a great cause but also showcase your business to a community of engaged supporters. Your business will be highlighted as a donor in our event program.

Event Date: June 28, 2025

Location: 13201 Timbell Rd. Waterford, Ca 95386

Expecting around 200 guests

Please contact Cristal Silveira at 209.324.8265 or at cristal@grizzlynut.com



LOOKING FOR ARTIST

EVERYTHING ALMONDS

REQUIREMENTS :

- Artwork should be related to almonds (photographs, painting, sculptures, etc.)
- Pieces must be original and created by artist submitting them.
- Art should be framed or properly mounted for display (if applicable)
- Submission deadline **June 12, 2025**. Day of event June 28, 2025 @ 4 pm
- Artist agree to donate their work, with proceeds benefiting FFA (Future Farmers of America).
- The auction organizer reserves the right to decline artwork that doesn't meet the theme or guidelines.
- Will be silent auction.
- Please submit artist bio or statement with artwork.
- Email Cristal Silveira with questions cristal@grizzlynut.com

BUDGET

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



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.



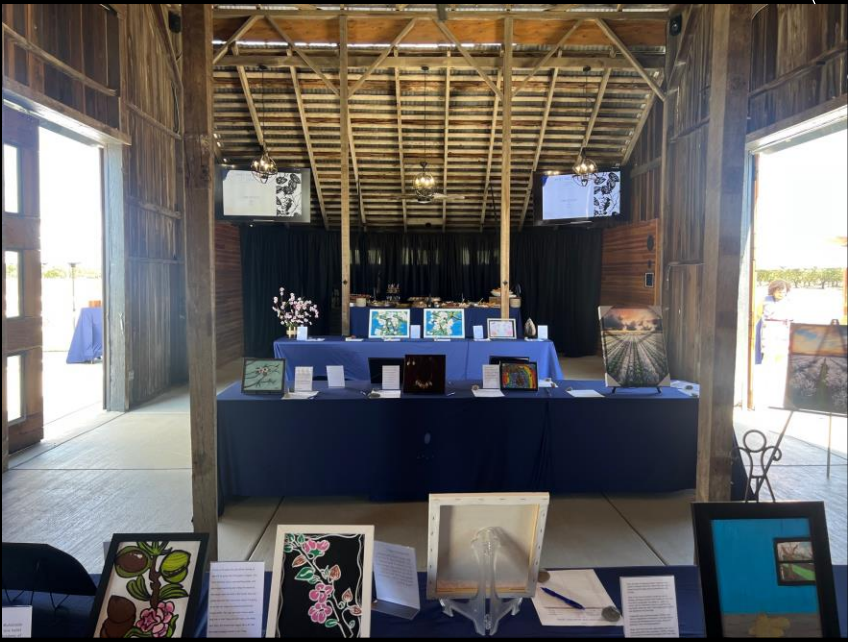
Welcome Note

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



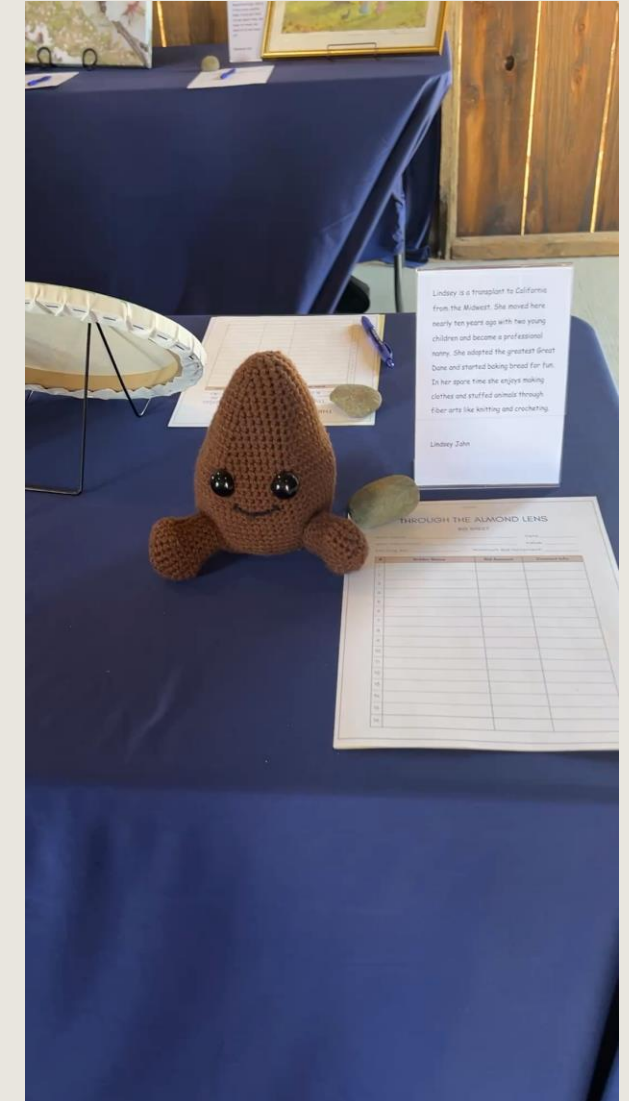
THE ART/ARTISTS

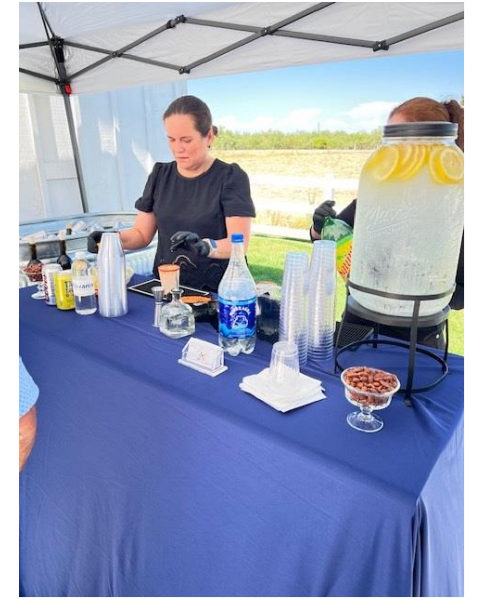
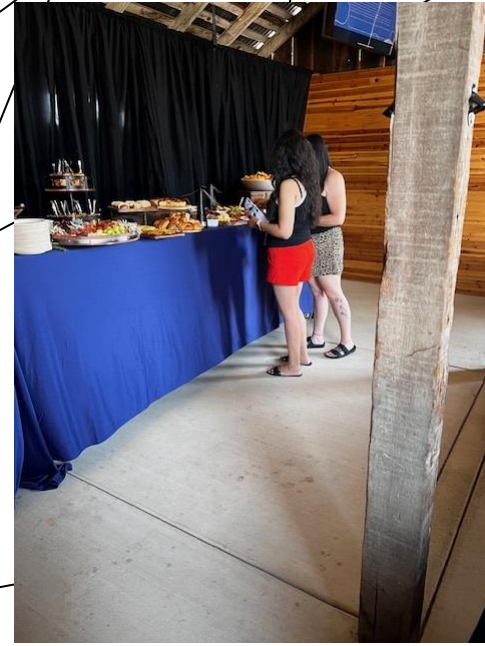


A r t i s t s



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!



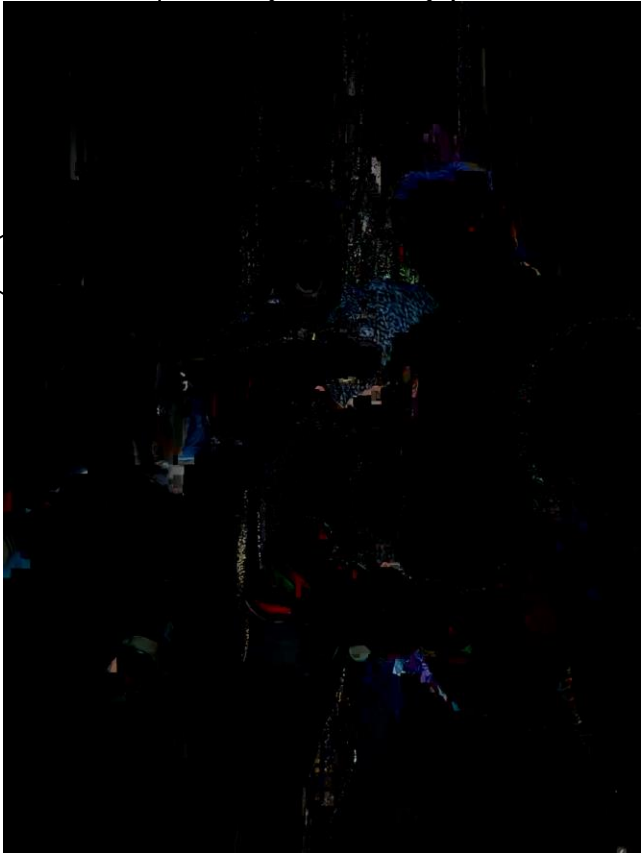






PHOTOBOOTH:





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

EVENT PROFIT		CASH DONATIONS		EXPENSES	
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
Total	\$3,235	Total	\$440	Total	\$665

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.

A series of white, overlapping geometric lines and polygons on a black background, located on the left side of the slide.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your support and encouragement!

Any questions or feedback?

SHAPING THE **FUTURE**



**Almond
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2025 Mentors – Thank You!



Jaspaul
Bains



Jose
Borrell



Stan
Chance



Gaby
Chavarria



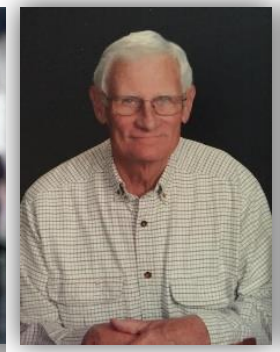
Megan
Chicoine



Jereme
Fromm



Christine
Gemperle



Ladd
Hackler



Donny
Hicks



Michael
Marsh



April
Nuckles



Joe
Palomino



Brandon
Rebiero



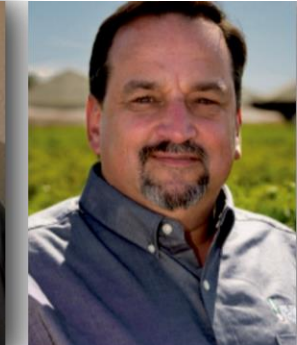
Michael
Roots



Lucas
Schmidt



Scott
Severson



Manny
Sousa



Chandler
Wilson

2025 Mentors – Thank You!



April
Taffera



Gaby
Chavarria



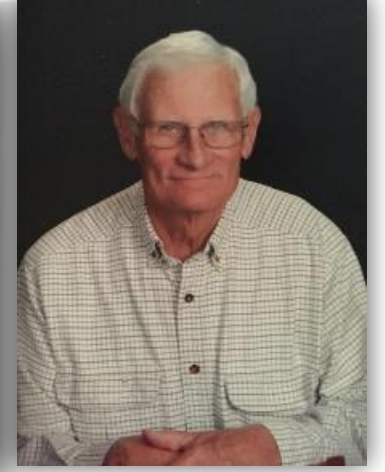
Michael
Roots



Christine
Gemperle



Scott
Severson



Ladd
Hackler

CONGRATULATIONS **CLASS OF 2025**



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CLASS OF 2025

Arik Bains

Wilbur Ellis



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CLASS OF 2025

Cristal Da Silva

Grizzly Nut, LLC



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CLASS OF 2025

Katie Driver

Syngenta



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Raquel Gomez Brandt



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CLASS OF 2025

Zach Harcksen

Mid Valley Agricultural Services



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Evan Koftinow

RPAC, LLC



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Laine LaGrande

John Deere



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Brenden Lusk

Real Broker



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CLASS OF 2025

Joseph McManus

Wilson Ag



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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.

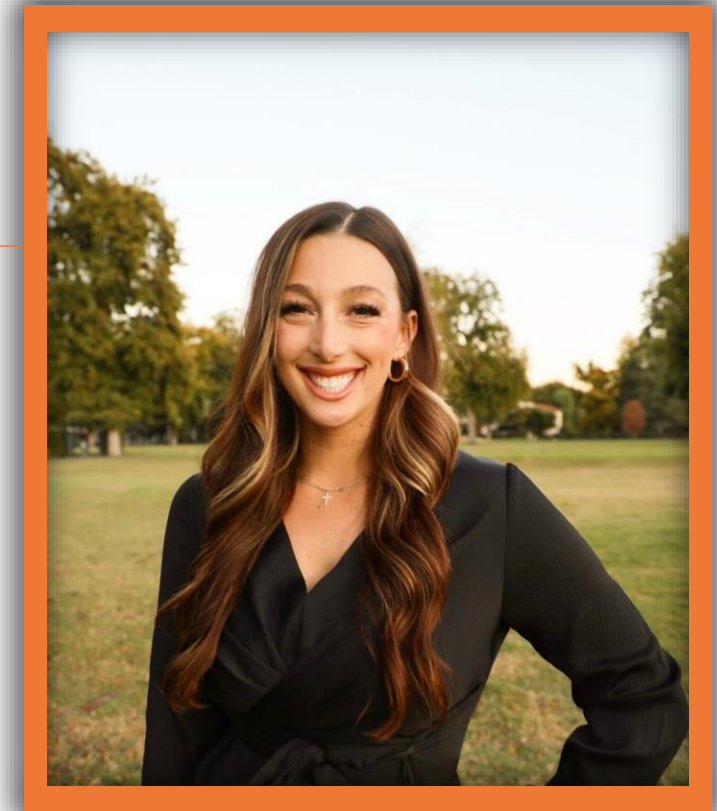


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CLASS OF 2025

Kiki Sandrini

Chandler Automation



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CLASS OF 2025

Ranvir Tung

Tung Corporation



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CLASS OF 2025

Elizabeth Vander Weide

Blue Diamond Growers



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CLASS OF 2025

Jake Wiley

ProFarm Group (Marrone Bio)



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CLASS OF 2025

Bobbie Williams

Memorial Medical Center, WMD Farms





CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025



Welcome – 2026 ALP Class

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