

**Event:** Kern Leaders Academy announces the Class of 2018

**Sponsors:** [Wonderful Orchards](#), [San Joaquin Community Hospital](#), [WZI, Inc.](#), [Heise Media Group](#), [Pacific Gas and Electric Company](#) and [Kern County Taxpayers Association](#).

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## Kern Leaders Academy proudly announces the Class of 2018

The Kern Leaders Academy has announced the participants for the Class of 2018, selected from various Kern County businesses and associations. Class fellows include Laura Avila (Chief Appraiser, Kern County Assessor's Office), Clayton Fowler (Field Representative, Office of Assemblyman Vince Fong), Chad Garcia (Retired US Army Airborne Infantry), Midge Boydston Jimerson (Broker, President and Co-Owner, Boydston Realty), Audrey A. Johnson (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) Coordinator, California State University, Bakersfield), Allie Mae Perkins (Owner and Founder, The Beautiful Life), Antonio T. Reyes (Director of Nursing for Adventist Health Bakersfield Emergency Department, Nursing Supervisors, and Transfer Center), Kaitlyn Yates (Community Program Manager, The Wonderful Company.) Visit <http://www.kernleadersacademy.org/2017-class-copy/> for more information about the 2018 class.

The **Kern Leaders Academy** assists in the development of visionary community leaders who recognize that a healthy business climate is necessary for a strong economy, and a strong economy is necessary for a vibrant community.

The Academy provides education and training to select individuals with outstanding leadership potential so that they may enter public service with the appropriate skills and vision to creatively address the challenges facing Kern County. The **Academy** teaches county leaders how to listen to constituents yet make independent decisions. Successful graduates have the knowledge and vision to put their services forward as community leaders, and eventually, elected public officials who are capable of offering creative and effective solutions to the challenges facing Kern County.

The **Academy** faculty members include, but are not limited to, the following prominent leaders in Kern County:

- **Drs. Christopher Meyers and Steven Gamboa** from *California State University, Bakersfield*
- **Richard Chapman**, President & CEO of the Kern Economic Development Corporation
- **Drs. Richard Gearhart and Nyakundi Michieka** from *California State University, Bakersfield*
- **E.J. Voiland**, Retired President & CEO of Aera Energy LLC
- **Barry Hibbard**, President & CEO Central Valley Investments
- **Scott Hurlbert**, City Manager, Shafter
- **Robin Fleming**, Policy, Government and Public Relations Representative, Chevron
- **Sharlet M. Briggs, PhD**, San Joaquin Community Hospital Chief Operating Officer, Adventist Health System affiliate
- **Melissa Poole**, Director of Government Affairs/Counsel for Wonderful Orchards
- **Keith Wolaridge**, President and CEO OF Keith C. Wolaridge Farmers Insurance Agency and Wolaridge Consulting
- **Oliver A. Rosales**, Professor of History and Coordinator, Social Justice Institute at Bakersfield College
- **Romeo Agbalog**, Executive Director for Kern Citizens for Sustainable Government (KCSG)
- **Nancy Lawson**, Assistant County Administrative Officer for Budget and Finance, County of Kern
- **Elsa Martinez**, Chief Deputy for Budget and Finance, County of Kern
- **Dr. Bryon Schaefer**, Superintendent, Kern High School
- **Heidi Carter-Escudero**, Outreach and Communications Coordinator, Kern County Human Services Dept.
- **Karen Goh**, President of Garden Pathways
- **Marlene Heise**, Academy Communications Director and Owner of Heise Media Group
- **Michael Turnipseed**, Academy Director and Executive Director of Kern County Taxpayers Association

**Kern Leaders Academy's** goal is to challenge the students and prepare them to be effective community leaders. For more information about the program, please visit [www.kernleadersacademy.org](http://www.kernleadersacademy.org).

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