

**Event:** Kern Leaders Academy 2019 Commencement  
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## **2019 Kern Leaders Academy Commencement, Eight Aspiring Leaders Graduate from Intensive Program**

Kern Leaders Academy is proud to announce the graduation of its 2019 class. The eight graduates, who come from a variety of business and service backgrounds, spent 72 intensive training hours over the course of nine weeks to learn from seasoned Kern County business and industry leaders. KLA is designed to assist in the development of visionary community leaders who recognize that a healthy business climate leads to a strong economy, which is necessary for a vibrant community. The program is conducted by the Kern County Taxpayers Education Fund.

“This class benefited greatly from the wisdom of the dynamic faculty made up of senior leaders from major companies and industries in Kern County. The program provides real-life experiences and years of combined knowledge to the academy participants. In turn, Kern County’s future business and civic progress will be greatly enhanced by these up-and-coming visionary leaders. Kern Leaders Academy is proud of this class’s efforts and achievements and looks forward to many successful years under their leadership,” commented Mike Turnipseed, Academy Director and Executive Director of Kern County Taxpayers Association.

The KLA Class of 2019 honored its graduates at a dinner at Bakersfield Country Club on Wednesday, November 13, 2019. Graduates are:

- **John Houchin**, Realtor at Coldwell Banker
- **Andrew (J.R.) Flores**, Program Director of KERN Radio and Producer for The Richard Beene Show and The Ralph Bailey Show
- **Scott Knoeb**, Owner of Frontier Real Estate Services
- **Matthew Martin**, Vice President of Western Pacific Research
- **Christian Romo**, Field Representative for Supervisor Leticia Perez, County of Kern
- **Josth Stenner**, Community Organizer for the Kern Chapter of Faith in the Valley
- **Heather Van Housen**, Chief Nursing Officer at Adventist Health Bakersfield
- **Linda Willis**, Owner of San Joaquin Veterinary Hospital

The KLA program requires commitment and study on behalf of both the participants and faculty. Kern Leaders Academy has exceeded expectations as an innovative educational program. Graduates studied topics in ethics, critical thinking, the economy, education, healthcare, public relations, social issues, communication, leadership, the electoral process and became well versed on important topics in federal, state, regional and local governance.

Sponsors of the 2019 Kern Leaders Academy included Wonderful Orchards, Adventist Health Bakersfield, WZI, Inc., Heise Media Group, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and Kern County Taxpayers Association.

**If you are interested in applying for the 2020 Kern Leaders Academy or wish to become a sponsor, please contact: Michael Turnipseed: 661-322-2973 / email: [Kerntax@kerntaxpayers.org](mailto:Kerntax@kerntaxpayers.org)**

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