

**Event:** Kern Leaders Academy Graduation  
**Photos:**  
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**To find out more:** [www.kernleadersacademy.org](http://www.kernleadersacademy.org)

## **2015 Kern Leaders Academy Commencement, Eight Aspiring Leaders Graduate from Intensive Program**

Kern Leaders Academy is proud to announce the graduation of its 2015 class. KLA is a community leadership program, conducted by the Kern County Taxpayers Education Fund, whose purpose is to assist 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.

"This class really bonded from the beginning and they loved to laugh. The class fully engaged in each session's discussion and plan to continue exchanging ideas with each other in the future. This class had over a 90 percent attendance rate, which in this busy world was phenomenal. This was another great class for Kern Leaders Academy." Commented Mike Turnipseed

The KLA Class of 2015 honored its graduates at a dinner at Bakersfield Country Club on Wednesday, November 18, 2015.

Graduates are:

- Ricardo Del Hoyo, Staff of County Supervisor Leticia Perez
- Elaine McNearney, Founder/Executive Director, Dress for Success Bakersfield
- Tyler Moyer, CSUB University Budget Department
- Amanda Avila Ruiz, Sheriff's Program Specialist with the Kern County Sheriff's Office
- Noor Saba, Business Development Representative for Stantec
- Tracy Salerno, Marketing and Promotions Associate for the Kern County Department of Child Support Services
- Daures Stephens, Retired, Senior Deputy Sheriff
- Ashley Weaver, Mortgage Professional with San Joaquin Valley Mortgage.

The intensive 72-hour leadership training took nine weeks of study and commitment for the participants as well as the faculty. Kern Leaders Academy has exceeded everyone's expectations for this innovative educational program. Graduates of the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) academy 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.

Corporate sponsors that made the 2015 Kern Leaders Academy possible: Wonderful Orchards, San Joaquin Community Hospital, Verizon Wireless; WZI, Inc.; Heise Media Group; Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

**If you are interested in applying for the 2016 Kern Leaders Academy or wish to become a sponsor, please contact:**  
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