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## UnitedAg Hosts 43rd Annual Meeting & Conference

Last week, UnitedAg held its 43rd Annual Meeting and Conference at *Disney's Grand Californian Hotel® & Spa* in Anaheim, California. More than two hundred ag professionals attended the conference "Building Communities." The two-day event focused on the importance of building your brand, as it can strengthen your connections and engage more deeply with colleagues and industry partners, as well as the need for a more personalized healthcare experience, all in hopes of building a healthier and more sustainable agricultural community. ***"There is nothing more powerful than discovering what your community is passionate about; community is more than just belonging to something; it's about doing something together that makes belonging matter,"*** said Kirti Mutatkar, CEO of UnitedAg.

The conference kicked off with a bowling tournament and welcome reception at Downtown Disney's Splitsville Luxury Lanes, where more than one hundred conference attendees participated in the bowling tournament and reception where proceeds benefited UnitedAg's scholarship foundation, the Agribusiness Education Foundation. President & CEO Kirti Mutatkar congratulated the winning team and closed the evening with an overview of the next day's events.

*Continued on page 2*





## Annual Conference Continued

The conference guest speakers included brand strategist Sasha Strauss, Founder of Innovation Protocol, a brand consultancy that exclusively serves innovators; Tom Daly, former California State Assemblymember; Louie A. Brown, Jr., Partner, Kahn Soares & Conway, LLP; Eric Bream, President, Bream Family Farms; Rodney Braga, President & CEO, Braga Fresh Family Farms, Dr. Carladenise Edwards, Strategic & Board Advisor for Parsley Health, Clover Health, and Heluna Health and a special message from Congressman John Duarte.



The conference culminated with the annual dinner dance with an homage to the 80s. Attendees danced the night away but only after participating in a dessert auction that benefited the Agribusiness Education Foundation. Led by guest auctioneer Louie A. Brown, Jr., the auction raised over 18k in donations surpassing the 10k goal.

Visit [our website](#) to see all the moments captured from the Annual Conference.

## 2022 MEMBER AMBASSADOR AWARDS

The top three UnitedAg ambassadors were awarded for their contributions and innovative ideas to improve and enhance members' healthcare experience. Chief Medical Officer and program adviser Dr. Rosemary Ku highlighted all eight ambassadors and congratulated the top performing ambassadors, Kacy Smith, Ag Improvement Award; Veronica Luna, Ag Innovator Award and Veronica Blanco, Ag Influencer Award, for their successful initiatives in 2022.



Left to right: Veronica Blanco, Veronica Luna and Kacy Smith

Learn more about the Member Ambassador Program on [our website](#).





# 2022 WomenAg Academy Commencement Ceremony



Seven graduates of the 2022 Womenag Leadership Academy were highlighted for their completion of the twelve month leadership program. The ceremony was held during the annual luncheon at *Disney's Grand Californian Hotel®* and Spa. Special guest speaker, Rodney Braga, President & CEO of Braga Family Fresh Farms, acknowledged the graduates for their hard work, dedication, and commitment.

Learn more about the WomenAg Leadership Academy on [our website](#).

# WomenAg Graduating Class of 2022

**Brenda Allison**  
Coast General Ins. Brokers

**Sarah Bell**  
Kaiser Permanente

**Shelby Campiz**  
Moore Insurance Services

**Patty Emmert**  
Duncan Family Farms

**Tricia Geringer**  
Ag Council of California

**Yarixza Gonzalez**  
UnitedAg

**Mayra Guerrero**  
Red Dog Management

**Connie James**  
Plantel Nurseries, Inc.

**Sasha Jones**  
CA Agricultural Soilworks

**Channy Lee**  
UnitedAg

**Kari Nale**  
Kings River Packing

**Laura Penera**  
Braga Fresh Family Farms

**Marylú Ramirez**  
Good Farms

**Kiran Sibia**  
Montna Farms

**Elvia Torres**  
Valley Pride, Inc.



Left to right: Veronica Urzua-Alvero, Kirti Mutatkar, Shelby Campiz, Yarixza Gonzalez, Mayra Guerrero, Connie James, Channy Lee, Laura Penera, Kiran Sibia, Rodney Braga and Bridget Sanchez.



# 2022-23 Agribusiness Education Foundation Scholarship Recipients

UnitedAg is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2022-23 AEF Educational Scholarships. Forty-two students from agricultural communities across California and Arizona won awards ranging from \$500 to \$6,000. This year the Educational Scholarship Program awarded a grand total of \$74,800 to students pursuing higher education. The applicants were awarded based on their application, essay, academics, leadership, extracurricular activities and personal video statement.

Each year, the scholarship committee selects three applicants to receive the highest scholarships ranging from \$6,000 to \$4,300. We proudly congratulate this year's top recipients:

- Hanna Scully, Maurice McMillan Award
- Karli Lundberg, William C. Goodrich Award
- Kassidi McLeod, Woman in Agriculture Award

To learn more about AEF and its mission [click here](#).

## 2022-23 Scholarship Recipients:

Marco Antonio Ceja, *Soledad, CA*  
Isabella Argueta, *Visalia, CA*  
Jesse Blanco, *Salinas, CA*  
Idalia Bucio Rodriguez, *Santa Maria, CA*  
Flavio Carrillo-Gonzalez, *Watsonville, CA*  
Wendy Ceja, *Soledad, CA*  
Emily Cerney, *Colusa, CA*  
Sierra Dorf-Cardenas, *Santa Cruz, CA*  
Vanessa Enciso, *La Palma, CA*  
Maggie Farlow, *Chico, CA*  
Venissia Garcia, *Fresno, CA*  
Mikayla Gonzales, *Devine, TX*  
Adelia Guerrero, *Buckeye, AZ*  
David Hernandez, *Santa Paula, CA*  
Sylvia Hernandez, *Fairfield, CA*  
Madden Hill, *Waterford, CA*  
America Huipio-Piedra, *Visalia, CA*  
Emma James, *Salinas, CA*  
Kaitlyn Kampmann, *Orland, CA*  
Tyler Keegan, *Salinas, CA*  
Lindsey Kennel Kisling, *Porterville, CA*  
Hadassah Legaspi, *Salinas, CA*  
Karli Lundberg, *Santa Maria, CA*  
Jackie Madrigal, *Lindsay, CA*  
Jacqueline Martinez Rojas, *Santa Maria, CA*  
Kassidi McLeod, *Orland, CA*  
Jennifer Millan, *Salinas, CA*



[Click here](#) to listen to a special message from Karli & Eddie Lundberg, two of our past Maurice McMillan Scholarship Award recipients.

Katherine Miller, *Edinburgh, UK*  
Hannah OConnor, *San Luis Obispo, CA*  
Dominic Odegaard, *San Luis Obispo, CA*  
Carmen Ortiz-Cruz, *Orland, CA*  
Caleb Peltzer, *Visalia, CA*  
Noah Peltzer, *Visalia, CA*  
Catherine Regan, *Tucson, AZ*  
Jackson Roberts, *Salinas, CA*  
Ana Rosas Pacheco, *Santa Maria, CA*  
Sandy Rubio, *Pittsburgh, PA*  
Hanna Scully, *Lakeport, CA*  
Amber Snook, *Arroyo Grande, CA*  
Landon Trinh, *Garden Grove, CA*  
Carson Wallace, *Springville, CA*  
Andrew Zendejas, *Gonzales, CA*





## 2023-24 Board Update

UnitedAg and UABT are pleased to announce the appointments of two new board members. Santiago (Chago) Martin, Jr., appointed director, and Steve Church, appointed trustee, during the annual board meetings on March 8-9 at *Disney's Grand Californian Hotel® & Spa* in Anaheim, California. Also, the Board of Directors appointed Eric Bream as Vice Chair and Loretta Brown as Treasurer for the 2023-24 term.

The Board of Directors and Trustees is comprised of members committed to our mission of meeting our members' employee benefit needs, promoting their interests with lawmakers and helping them comply with legislation and regulations. ***"We are excited to channel Santiago and Steve's talent, expertise and energy into furthering our mission,"*** said Kirti Mutatkar, **President & CEO.**



### **Santiago Martin, Jr.**

*President, Trilogy Personnel & Land Management, Inc.*

Santiago Martin, Jr. is the President of Trilogy Personnel & Land Management, Inc. He grew up in Bakersfield and spent most of his childhood working on the farms of Kern and Tulare Counties. In 2009, Santiago, Jr. founded Cal Ag Resources, Inc. a single-source partner for comprehensive personnel management and compliance solutions for agriculture. He holds a BS in Management Science from UC San Diego.



### **Steve Church**

*Co-Chairman, Church Brothers Farms*

Steve Church has been a part of the produce industry for more than 50 years. In 1999, he and his brother Tom formed what is now known as Church Brothers Farms, a vertically-integrated family owned and operated company from seed to salad bowl. Steve holds a BS in agricultural business from from Arizona State University.

Learn more about our leadership by visiting [our website](#).

## 2023-24 Membership Renewal

**It's renewal season!** Beginning April 1, members will receive their membership renewal invoices so be sure to check your mailbox and inbox. We hope you consider renewing your membership and helping us build a stronger and healthier agricultural community. For more information regarding your membership, contact our Membership team at [mochoa@unitedag.org](mailto:mochoa@unitedag.org).

**The upcoming membership fiscal year begins June 1, 2023 and ends May 31, 2024.**



## What Regulatory Issues are You Most Concerned About?

In 2023-24, we'd like to become more engaged with our legislators to protect our members' best interests and better serve the agricultural industry. To ensure our members' voices are heard, we invite you to participate in a short survey. Your feedback will help drive our future advocacy efforts.

[Click here](#) to take the short survey.



[Click here](#) to listen to a special message from newly elected Congressman John Duarte.

## NEW: UnitedAg Launches Community Health Forums in Efforts to Support Members with Chronic Diseases



**Living with chronic health conditions can be challenging but you are not alone with UnitedAg!** UnitedAg is launching Community Health Forums where members can come together to support one another and share tips, questions, and experiences related to a specific condition. These sessions will be focused on group discussion rather than a formal presentation. Our first Community Health Forum will be focused on diabetes. In order to design these community gatherings to best suit your needs, we'd like to ask you a few questions.

[Click here](#) to take our bilingual survey.

## 2023 Upcoming Spring Events You Don't Want to Miss

### HealthChats: Healthy Eating

April 20 at 10 am | Webinar

[Registration link](#)

### WomenAg Coffee Chat:

#### Innovation & Leadership Part 2

April 26 at 9 am | Webinar

[Registration link](#)

### HealthChats: Mental Health

May 18 at 10 am | Webinar

[Registration link](#)

[Visit our website](#) for more information and to register for upcoming events.







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## Thank You to Our Sponsors!

