



Business Partners Honored for Contribution to East Bay Schools

The Eden Area ROP congratulates and honors the 2016 Business Persons of the Year

On October 14, 2016 the Eden Area Regional Occupational Program (ROP) presented The 2016 Business Person of the Year (BPOY) award to eleven East Bay business leaders at the First Annual Business Partner Appreciation Breakfast at the Marina Community Center in San Leandro, CA.

On hand to present the awards were Linda Granger, Superintendent, Eden Area ROP; Parvin Ahmadi, Superintendent, Castro Valley Unified; Ashley Strasburg, Interim Executive Director, Castro Valley/Eden Area Chamber of Commerce; Kim Huggett, CEO and President, Hayward Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Matt Wayne, Interim Superintendent, Hayward Unified School District; Emily Griego, President, San Leandro Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Michael McLaughlin, Superintendent, San Leandro Unified School District; and Dr. Fred Brill, Superintendent, San Lorenzo Unified School District.

The BPOY award is presented annually to individuals who exemplify the partnership spirit between the business community, the Eden Area ROP and its participating school districts. Each recipient provided support to career pathways and career technical education classes through work-based learning activities including classroom visits, work experience, donation of products and materials, internships, work-site tours and participation on advisory committees.

The 2016 awardees are Dr. Susan So, Castro Valley Orthodontics; Tricia Bruketta, Memory DaybyDay; Frankie Fegurur, Appreciation Financial; MaryJoy Rojo, Kaiser Permanente; Fire Chief Garrett Contreras, Hayward Fire Department; Jim Gurulé, Cabinet Business Solutions; Gordon Janaway, Roche Diagnostics; Deputy DA Elgin Lowe, Alameda County District Attorney's Office; Elizabeth Nuñez, San Francisco Tube; John Matranga, OSI Soft; Ruben DaSilva, Rubiano's Restaurant.

Dr. Susan So, Castro Valley Orthodontics. Dr. So has been a partner of the Eden Area ROP Dental program for six years. She has mentored students, hosted internships, hired student graduates and is an invaluable member of the program's advisory committee.

<http://www.cvorthodontics.com/>

Tricia Bruketta, Memory DayByDay. Ms. Bruketta never says 'no' to working with high school students. She has attended multiple career fairs in both the Castro Valley and San Lorenzo Unified School Districts and hosted a special-needs student from San Lorenzo High School as an intern. <https://www.memorydaybyday.org/home.html>

Frankie Fegurur, Appreciation Financial. Mr. Fegurur is a 'go to' partner when and wherever needed. An inspirational leader, he attended the San Lorenzo High School Career Day where he

spoke to more than 100 hundred students about his career path and working in the financial planning insurance risk management industry. Mr. Fegurur also visited several classes in other high schools including Castro Valley and Arroyo.

<http://appreciationfinancial.com/>

MaryJoy Rojo, Kaiser Permanente. Ms. Rojo was instrumental in building the Castro Valley High School Health Pathway. She participated in the Castro Valley Health Fair and through this event signed up multiple students to interview as interns. Ms. Rojo is deeply committed to building a pipeline to the health industry.

<https://thrive.kaiserpermanente.org/care-near-you/northern-california/gsaa/locations/union-city-medical-offices/>

Hayward Fire Chief, Garrett Contreras. Chief Contreras has supported the Eden Area ROP First Responders program for several years, starting with providing guest speakers, station visits and ride-alongs. Most recently Chief Contreras donated a fire truck and fire training equipment.

<http://www.hayward-ca.gov/fire-department>

Jim Gurulé, Cabinet Business Solutions. Mr. Gurulé has been a dedicated partner with the Eden Area ROP's Marketing class for 13 years, serving on the business advisory committee, as a guest speaker and a business plan project judge. He has also raised funds for students to attend competitions.

<http://cabinetbusinesssolutions.com/>

Gordon Janaway, Roche Diagnostics. Mr. Janaway has made it his mission to help students understand the career opportunities in the biotech industry by visiting several Biomedical Pathway classrooms. Speaking to dozens of students in three different school districts, his dynamic presentation helps students understand the vast options available upon graduation.

<http://www.roche.com/>

Deputy DA Elgin Lowe, Alameda County District Attorney's Office. Mr. Lowe serves on the advisory board for the Eden Area ROP Criminal Justice Program and is a featured guest speaker each year. More than that, he also assists in running the District Attorney's Justice Academy—a six month learning and working experience for high school students who are interested in pursuing the study of law, justice and social justice.

<http://www.alcoda.org/>

Elizabeth Nuñez, San Francisco Tube. Ms. Nuñez from SF Tube has provided the Eden Area ROP students in the Welding program the opportunity to test first for welding positions in her company. She has given these students the opportunity to begin their welding careers and acknowledges their work ethic and skills within her company.

<http://www.sftubebending.com/>

John Matranga, OSI Soft. Mr. Matranga is passionate about engaging youth in STEM programs at various secondary and post-secondary educational institutions. He has worked with San

Leandro High School's Advanced Manufacturing Pathway students in a summer youth internship program two years running and has opened OSI Soft for tours.

<http://www.osisoft.com/>

Ruben DaSilva, Rubiano's Restaurant. Mr. DaSilva has supported students in the San Leandro High School Business Academy. His desire to give back to his community fueled his efforts to mentor students, host meetings, and donate his business services for many events.

<http://www.rubianos.com/>