



# FCOE HONORS GALA



**2026**  
**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**



# THE FOUNDATION @ FCOE



## **DR. MICHELE CANTWELL-COPHER**

Fresno County Superintendent of Schools

The Foundation @ FCOE is excited to host the 14<sup>th</sup> annual FCOE Honors Gala, celebrating the lifetime contributions of four individuals who have left their imprint on education in Fresno County in the areas of Academics, Agriculture, Arts and Athletics.

As this legacy continues, we proudly announce the 2026 recipients – Award for Academics, Diane Phakonekham; Award for Agricultural, David Jackson; Award for Arts, Cher Vang; and Award for Athletics, Pete Santellano. These honorees will be recognized on the evening of Saturday, September 19, 2026, at one of education's most historic landmarks, the Old Administration Building at Fresno City College. The Gala features a reception and silent auction followed by a multifaceted tribute program in the auditorium, and dinner under the stars in the beautiful courtyard.

The proceeds from the generous support of the Gala each year are instrumental in advancing exemplary programs, essential services, and special projects for Fresno County students. Through the support of partners who realize the value of education, the Office of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools continues to enhance the educational experiences of students by helping them develop their talents, interests and skills, preparing them for their bright futures.

We hope you will consider supporting this year's Gala. As a sponsor, you will demonstrate the value you place on public education as a shared community responsibility. An early commitment will offer you the optimum marketing exposure prior to the Gala. With your support, we will further bolster educational opportunities for Fresno County students! We encourage you to join us, along with the Foundation Board of Directors, as we present another inspiring evening designed to pay tribute to the 2026 Honorees and celebrate the community's impact in fostering educational opportunities for Fresno County students.

For more information about the FCOE Honors Gala visit [fcoefoundation.org](http://fcoefoundation.org) or call (559) 497-3770.



## **MARYELLEN GALVAN**

Executive Director, The Foundation @ FCOE

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Foundation @ FCOE is to ensure students reach their full potential by supporting exemplary educational programs and services through a shared community responsibility.



# SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## **PRESENTING SPONSOR - \$10,000**

- Premium placement of logo on all Gala print materials and televised video.
- Ten complimentary cocktail tickets for the bar.
- Host a table of 10 for you and your guests in a prime location.
- Reserved seating in the auditorium for the tribute performance.
- Wine placed at your dinner table.
- VIP parking at the Gala.
- Welcome sign greeting guests at the venue with your company logo.
- Acknowledgment from the stage at the Gala.
- Recognition on the Foundation's Wall of Gratitude.\*
- Logo recognition on table signage.
- Logo recognition on the Gala invitation and program.\*
- Highlighted on the Gala web page with a direct link to your business website.
- Logo featured in social media outreach and E-mail announcements.
- Two copies of the 2026 Accolades Book.

## **SUMMA CUM LAUDE SPONSOR - \$7,000**

- Host a table of 10 for you and your guests.
- Reserved seating in the auditorium for the tribute performance.
- Wine placed at your dinner table.
- VIP parking at the Gala.
- Welcome sign greeting guests at the venue with your company logo.
- Acknowledgment from the stage at the Gala.
- Recognition on the Foundation's Wall of Gratitude.
- Name recognition on table signage.
- Featured on the Gala invitation and program.\*
- Highlighted on the Gala web page with a direct link to your business website.
- Included in social media outreach and E-mail announcements.
- One copy of the 2026 Accolades Book.
- Recognized in the closing video credits.

## **MAGNA CUM LAUDE SPONSOR - \$3,000**

- Host a table of 10 for you and your guests.
- Reserved seating in the auditorium for the tribute performance.
- Wine placed at your dinner table.
- Name recognition on table signage.
- Featured on the Gala invitation and program.\*
- Highlighted on the Gala web page with a direct link to your business website.
- Included in social media outreach and E-mail announcements.
- One copy of the 2026 Accolades Book.
- Recognized in the closing video credits.

## **CUM LAUDE SPONSOR - \$2,000**

- Host a table of 10 for you and your guests.
- Wine placed at your dinner table.
- Name recognition on table signage.
- Featured on the Gala invitation and program.\*
- Highlighted on the Gala web page with a direct link to your business website.
- Included in social media outreach and E-mail announcements.
- Recognized in the closing video credits.

\*with commitment made prior to printing deadline



## FCSS YOUNG AUTHORS' FAIRE



Your sponsorship helps support students in the areas of Access, Excellence and Innovation, ensuring students reach their full potential.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## PAST HONOREES

### ACADEMICS

2012 David Mas Masumoto  
 2013 Juan Arambula  
 2014 Dr. Peter G. Mehas  
 2015 Dr. Floyd B. Buchanan  
 2016 Juanita Stevenson  
 2017 Delbert Cederquist  
 2018 Dr. Sudarshan Kapoor  
 2019 Dr. Francine M. Farber  
 2021 Dr. Fitzalbert M. Marius  
 2022 Larry L. Powell  
 2023 Mary Curry  
 2024 Steven Voon  
 2025 Lupita Lomeli

### AGRICULTURE

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 Marvin Meyers  
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 Will Scott Jr.  
 Manuel Cunha  
 Pat Ricchiuti  
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 Mathias "Matty" Matoian  
 Marsha Vucovich  
 Mark Thompson

### ARTS

Margaret Hudson  
 Kaye Bonner-Cummings  
 Dr. Vida Samiian  
 Darius Assemi  
 Ma Ly  
 Yukari Thiesen  
 Dan Pessano  
 Dr. Terry Allen  
 Dr. Jackie Ryle  
 Lilia Gonzáles-Chávez  
 Hugo Morales  
 Cynthia Merrill  
 Arthur Dyson

### ATHLETICS

Rafer Johnson  
 Alan Autry  
 Deby Hergenrader  
 Terance Frazier  
 Dr. Cathy Ferguson  
 Margie Wright  
 Diane Carbray  
 Dr. Jose Elgorriaga  
 Jackie White  
 Jared Schmidt  
 Danella Barnes-Penman  
 Maxie L. Parks  
 Diego Quintana

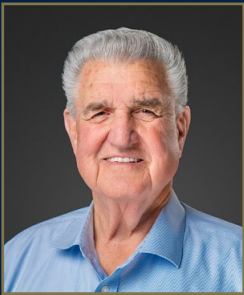
ACADEMICS



Diane Phakonekham

Diane Phakonekham was born in Vientiane, Laos. She and her family immigrated to the United States from Thailand when she was a young girl to escape the Vietnam War in 1982. While her family has known true hardship and tragedy, Mrs. Phakonekham credits the experience into helping shape who she is today. Her career began as an entry-level teacher assistant and then Program Director for Fresno State Kids Invent! Mrs. Phakonekham's journey to Big Brothers Big Sisters began as Program Director and eventually she rose to be its President and CEO. Under her leadership, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California has expanded dramatically, from serving hundreds to more than 5,000 children and their families across four Central Valley counties. The organization's High School Bigs Mentoring Program also grew significantly, expanding from three school districts to 21. The program aims to help youth achieve higher aspirations, greater confidence, and better relationships by providing positive role models and support. Mrs. Phakonekham's resolute advocacy for children, especially those facing adversity and or a disability, is rooted in her life story.

AGRICULTURE



David Jackson

David Jackson co-founded Family Tree Farms in Reedley with his sons, Daniel and Rick, and his son-in-law, Andy Muxlow. The family-owned farm is known for its commitment to quality, innovation, and community. Beyond his leadership in agriculture, Mr. Jackson dedicated 21 years of service as a trustee for the Kingsburg Joint Union High School District. He served as President of the Fresno County Trustee Association and represented Fresno County on the California School Board Association. Mr. Jackson served as Chairman of the Valley Regional Occupation Program, providing vocational training for high schools. He has also been involved in promoting character and integrity in youth sports. He was the Founding Chairman of the CIF Sportsmanship and Citizenship Committee and served as State Chairman of the CIF's Wrestling Advisory Committee, where he worked to advance value-based leadership in athletics. A lifelong supporter of agricultural education, he advocates for FFA programs that develop leadership and responsibility in students. Mr. Jackson also served nine years on the Executive Board of Community Medical Center hospitals. His enduring commitment to youth, education, and community continues to inspire those around him. Above all, he is a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

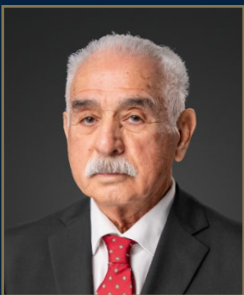
ARTS



Cher Vang

Cher Vang is a long-time educator, counselor, and cultural arts leader whose work has shaped and strengthened Fresno's Hmong and Southeast Asian communities. Beginning his career in the 1980s, Mr. Vang supported newly arrived Hmong and Lao students through native-language instruction, foundational English development, and early academic guidance. He spent nearly two decades as a high school counselor, helping students and families navigate graduation, college access, and financial aid. Beyond education, Mr. Vang has played a vital role in preserving and uplifting Hmong cultural traditions. He helps lead and host the annual Hmong New Year at the Fresno Fairgrounds, a vibrant celebration honoring heritage, family, and the arts. Rooted in centuries-old traditions, the festival showcases the beauty of Hmong culture through colorful clothing, intricate embroidery, traditional music, spirited dance, and ceremonial rituals. It is a time for the community to gather, share stories, display craftsmanship, and pass artistic traditions to future generations. Currently, Mr. Vang serves as President of the Special Guerrilla Unit (SGU) Veterans chapter in Fresno. His lifelong dedication to education, cultural preservation, and community well-being continues to make a meaningful impact.

ATHLETICS



Pete Santellano

Pete Santellano is a retired narcotics detective with 40 years of dedicated service in law enforcement with the Fresno Police Department. Even after retiring, his commitment to serving the community continued. Just one year into retirement, in 2006, Mr. Santellano took the helm of the Police Activities League (PAL) Boxing Program, a program focused on supporting at-risk youth. Through his leadership, he has provided countless young people with mentorship, guidance, and opportunities to develop discipline, confidence, and life skills. His tireless work to help youth navigate challenges and achieve their potential has had a lasting impact on the Fresno community. In recognition of his dedication and the positive influence he has had on young lives, Mr. Santellano was honored in 2021 as the City of Fresno Youth Leader of the Year. Today, he continues to support the youth of Fresno through the PAL program as a devoted volunteer, remaining a steady source of guidance and encouragement.



**SAVE THE DATE**

FCOE HONORS GALA

AN EVENING HONORING THOSE WHO ENRICH EDUCATION  
THROUGH ACADEMICS, AGRICULTURE, ARTS,  
AND ATHLETICS

**9.19.2026**



**EVENT HIGHLIGHTS**

Social Hour with Cocktails | Silent Auction  
Tribute Performance Garden | Dining and Entertainment | Elegant Cuisine

More event details available at [fcoefoundation.org/gala](http://fcoefoundation.org/gala)

Hosted by



To ensure students reach their full potential by supporting exemplary educational programs and services through a shared community responsibility.

**SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!**  
Call (559) 497-3770 for more information.



**FCOE HONORS SEPTEMBER 19, 2026**

Yes, we will support The Foundation @ FCOE!

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name as it will appear on printed materials)

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Authorizing Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSORSHIP LEVELS**

<i>Presenting Sponsor</i>	\$10,000
<i>Summa Cum Laude Sponsor</i>	\$7,000
<i>Magna Cum Laude Sponsor</i>	\$3,000
<i>Cum Laude Sponsor</i>	\$2,000

*A commitment by July 1st ensures inclusion on printed materials.*

**INDIVIDUAL TICKET PURCHASE/OTHER CONTRIBUTION**

Number of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ X \$150     \$1,500 table     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other contribution     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT INFORMATION**

My check is enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_     Payable To: The Foundation @ FCOE

Charge to    Visa    MC    American Express

CC # \_\_\_\_\_     Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

CVC# (last 3 digits on the reverse side, 4 for Amex) \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address if different from above \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to make payment on or before \_\_\_\_\_. Payment must be received prior to August 3, 2026.

JOIN SUPERINTENDENT DR. MICHELE CANTWELL-COPHER AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN CELEBRATING THE 2026 HONOREES.

Return Sponsor Form to: *MaryEllen Galvan, Executive Director*  
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