



THE HEART OF DISABILITIES

28th Annual Access Awards Luncheon
October 21, 2019

Omni Hotel | 251 South Olive Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012



Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Janice Hahn
Chair, Fourth District

Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor, First District

Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor, Third District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor, Second District

Kathryn Barger
Supervisor, Fifth District



Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

Celia Zavala
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

Carlos Benavides, President
Lourdes Caracoza, 1st Vice President
Katherine George Chu, 2nd Vice President
Peggie Reyna, Treasurer

Michelle Anne Babitz
Wan Chun Chang
Jack Darakjian
Andrea Edoria
Cathy Gott



Marsha D. Mitchell-Bray
Hector Ochoa
Dee H. Pinchbeck
Louise E. Smith
Maggie Soleimani
John B. Troost



Carlos Benavides
President
(4th District)



Lourdes Caracoza
1st Vice President
(1st District)



Katherine George Chu
2nd Vice President
(4th District)



Peggine Reyna
Treasurer
(1st District)

MEET THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Since 1975, the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities, appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, has worked to improve the lives of people with disabilities in Los Angeles.

On June 18, 2019, the Commission awarded education scholarships to 28 students with disabilities. We are proud to announce the following recipients: 1st District Waley Chan, Jose Dominguez, Denise Reynaga, Janet Rojas and Carlos Vergara; 2nd District Ivory Beavers, Nia Boyd, Michelle Diaz, Lawrence Lancaster and Brandyn Phlegm; 3rd District Lorena Flores, Saida Hernandez, Gaston Garcia, Nenette Lizaso and Jean-Paul Pierre; 4th District Olivia Antwine, Juan Garibay, Anthony Emanule, Aran Shams; and 5th District Sierra DuNah, Shanna Learned, Carlin Liang, Angel Lawson-Williams and Ruth Mancilla. Also, recipients representing All Districts are Robert Greggs, Mario Perez and Donna Stubblefield.

Commission meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in Room 374-A at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

If you would like additional information about the Commission or would like to be added to their distribution listing, please contact staff at (213) 974-1053, or you may visit the Commission's website at <http://laccod.lacounty.gov> or email at laccod@bos.lacounty.gov.



Hector Ochoa
(1st District)



John B. Troost
(2nd District)



Marsha D. Mitchell-Bray
(2nd District)



Louise E. Smith
(3rd District)



Maggie Soleimani
(3rd District)



Michelle Anne Babitz
(4th District)



Wan Chun Chang
(CA Dept. of Rehabilitation)



Dee H. Pinchbeck
Representing
Little People
(5th District)



Andrea Edoria
(5th District)



Cathy Gott
(5th District)



Jack Darakjian
(5th District)

Carlos Benavides, President, Fourth District Commissioner, was appointed in 2014. He is the current Chair of the Patient Advisory Council at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. He is also an accomplished graphic artist and digital photographer and has exhibited his work in several art galleries nationally.

Michelle Anne Babitz, Fourth District Commissioner, was appointed in 2017. She has been working with children and adults with moderate to severe disabilities for over 40 years. Currently, she teaches in the Rowland Unified School District.

Lourdes Caracoza, 1st Vice President, First District Commissioner, was appointed in 2015. She is the Director of Developmental Services, Facilities & Community Relations for Alma Family Services, a community-based services organization established in 1975, located in East Los Angeles.

Wan Chun Chang, Commissioner was appointed in 2007 representing the State of California Department of Rehabilitation. She works as the District Administrator of the Van Nuys/Foothill District Office.

Katherine George Chu, 2nd Vice President, Fourth District Commissioner, was appointed in 2017. She currently conducts quality assessment interviews using the National Core Indicators assessment tool as part of the Quality Assessment Project with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Jack Darakjian, Fifth District Commissioner, was appointed in 2018. He serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Modern Support Services, LLC, a Glendale based agency that provides individualized community and home-based services.

Andrea Edoria, Fifth District Commissioner, was appointed in 2018. She is currently working towards a law degree and has been a spokesperson for the Children's Miracle Network/Children's Hospital of Los Angeles.

Cathy Gott, Fifth District Commissioner, was appointed in 2017, by 2nd District Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. She is President of Education Spectrum, Inc., founder of Danny's Farm, and founder of the newly-formed Major League Baseball Players Association Alumni Wives Autism Alliance.

Marsha D. Mitchell-Bray, Second District Commissioner, was appointed in 2017. She is the Director of Community Services and Family Support for South Central Los Angeles Regional Center.

Hector Ochoa, First District Commissioner, was appointed in 2015. He currently is an advocate at the Southern California Resource Services for Independent Living and has been a volunteer counselor and event coordinator for the California Youth Leadership Forum held in Sacramento.

Dee H. Pinchbeck, Fifth District Commissioner, was appointed in 2015. She works as a solicitor for Helping Hands for the Blind and is an advocate for the disability community.

Peggie Reyna, Treasurer, First District Commissioner, was appointed in 2016. She is the project director for Peace Over Violence's Deaf, Disabled & Elder Services Program, including the Right Response Collaborative, and the "Love Me Not" Anti-Stalking Project.

Louise E. Smith, Third District Commissioner, was appointed in 2017. She worked at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center for 34 years as the manager of the Division of Transfusion Medicine. Currently, she is a member of the Disabilities Advisory Board in the City of West Hollywood.

Maggie Soleimani, Third District Commissioner, was appointed in 2017. She is an attorney and licensed real estate broker and is an advocate for children and young adults with special needs. She is currently serving as a member of the Assessment Appeals Board for the County of Los Angeles.

John B. Troost, Second District Commissioner, was appointed in 1975. He is a former vocational counselor for various independent living programs and has also served as past President, 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President. He recently celebrated his 44th anniversary as a member of the Commission on Disabilities.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

2018-2019 COMMITTEES

The Commission formed committees comprised of commissioners and members of the public in order to accomplish the Commission's duties and mission. For information on committee meeting dates and locations, please contact the Commission Services Office at (213) 974-1053 or via email at laccod@bos.lacounty.gov.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Carlos Benavides, *President*
Lourdes Caracoza, *1st Vice President*
Katherine George Chu, *2nd Vice President*
Peggie Reyna, *Treasurer*

EVENTS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Carlos Benavides, *Chair*
Members: Lourdes Caracoza, Cathy Gott, Peggie Reyna, John B. Troost
Community Member: Louis Burns

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Katherine George Chu, *Chair*
Member: Carlos Benavides, John B. Troost

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

John B. Troost, *Chair*
Members: Carlos Benavides, Lourdes Caracoza

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

John R. James, *Chair (Former Commissioner)*
Member: Louise E. Smith

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Peggie Reyna, *Chair*
Member: Michelle Anne Babitz

LGBTQ DISABLED COMMUNITY (AD-HOC) COMMITTEE

Michelle Anne Babitz, *Chair*
Members: Carlos Benavides, Marsha D. Mitchell-Bray, Lourdes Caracoza, Louise E. Smith

POLICIES ON INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (AD-HOC) COMMITTEE

Jack Darakjian and Cathy Gott, *Co-Chairs*
Members: Marsha D. Mitchell-Bray, Katherine George Chu



PROGRAM

Los Angeles County
Commission on Disabilities
28th Annual Access Awards Luncheon
Monday, October 21, 2019
11:30 a.m.



Introductions and Welcome Carlos Benavides
President

Lourdes Caracoza
1st Vice President

Welcome Mark Langill
Master of Ceremonies

Invocation Sister Jeanmarie Chavez, OSF

**Presentation of Colors and
Pledge of Allegiance** Los Angeles County
Fire Department Honor Guard

National Anthem Omoze Osagiede

LUNCH

District Awards Presentation from Supervisors The Honorable Janice Hahn, Chair
The Honorable Hilda L. Solis
The Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas
The Honorable Sheila Kuehl
The Honorable Kathryn Barger

Community At-Large Awards Mark Langill
Master of Ceremonies

- Chairperson's Awards
- Bill Tainter Public Service Award
- Billy Barty Media/Sports Award
- Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr. Veteran's Award
- Harley D. Rubenstein Caregiver Award
- Jane Small Advocacy Award
- Nadia Powers Leadership Award
- Pearl Ella Johnson Community Service Award

Closing Remarks Carlos Benavides
President



Mark Langill

Master of Ceremonies

Author and Team Historian for the Los Angeles Dodgers

Mark Langill was born and raised in South Pasadena. He is a 1983 South Pasadena High School graduate, and still resides blocks from where he grew up. In 2002, he became the first team historian in Major League Baseball.

This year Mr. Langill celebrates his 25th season with the Los Angeles Dodgers. He previously covered the ballclub as a beat reporter for the Pasadena Star-News from 1989 to 1993. He has written six books about the franchise, including "Game of My Life," "Dodger Stadium," and "The Dodgers: From Coast to Coast." Mr. Langill's television appearances include various documentaries on SportsNet LA about Hall of Fame manager Tommy Lasorda, Dodger Stadium, Dodgertown, the 1988 Dodgers retrospect, along with ESPN's 30-for-30 "Fernando Nation."

Mr. Langill is currently working with PBS SoCal on a 60th anniversary special about the Dodgers in Los Angeles which will premier locally on Thanksgiving. In a 2017 South Pasadenan article, Mr. Langill was asked how he became the Los Angeles Dodgers' Team Historian. His response was, "don't hit the ball in little league and you're well on your way."



THE HEART OF DISABILITIES



Elizabeth Jinzo

**Founder and Executive Director, Designated
Exceptional Services for Independence**

First District Award

Elizabeth Jinzo is the Founder and Executive Director of Designated Exceptional Services for Independence (D.E.S.I.). D.E.S.I. was created in 2008 out of the necessity to provide community integration for her daughter Desirae, who was born with developmental delays due to an extremely premature birth. Having to learn to navigate complex systems while raising her daughter, Ms. Jinzo envisioned a more inclusive world for people with intellectual disabilities. D.E.S.I. clients work with professional educators and mentors on health and wellness, independent living skills, and many more subjects and services such as Ticket-to-Work services, an official employment network for the Social Security Administration.

Serving as a role model for families throughout East and Southeast Los Angeles, Ms. Jinzo brings passion and drive to communities that have been marginalized throughout the years. She believes that by implementing the principles of collaboration, honesty, equity, and compassion communities will change one day at a time. She is also a facilitator for the Bridge to the Regional Center outreach program funded by the California Department of Developmental Services to address racial inequities in the provision of services for people with intellectual disabilities.

Ms. Jinzo has over 25 years of experience working with people with intellectual disabilities as a regional center social worker and a teacher with LAUSD. Elizabeth lives with her husband Kenny and their three multi-poodles. Together they have five children, Amber, Justina, Jason, Kenny Jr. and Desirae and eight wonderful grandchildren, Daniel, Natalie, Sol, Marissa, Emmanuel, Nathan, Luna, and Giovanni!



Mark Anthony Campoy

**Instructor,
Exceptional Children's Foundation**

Second District Award

Mark Anthony Campoy is a Computer Learning/Work Readiness Instructor at Exceptional Children's Foundation (ECF), an organization offering a full continuum of lifespan services for children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities and other special needs. As a regional service provider ECF currently supports approximately 4,000 children, adults, and their families at 15 service sites, in clients' homes, and in community settings throughout Los Angeles County.

For over seven years, Mr. Campoy has advocated for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities in diverse environments throughout California. He is well versed in job preparation techniques and his versatility allows him to positively impact people with disabilities. He empowers adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities on both hard and soft skills. Mr. Campoy has implemented work program curriculums to prepare individuals with disabilities for employment within the community and has cultivated relationships in order to expand employment opportunities.

Mr. Campoy is a dedicated volunteer and has been an employment advisor for Gatepath and a Community Instructor in adult services. He has taught classes at the nationally accredited Peninsula Works One Stop Career Center in Daly City, California and was a Career Coach at the English Center in Oakland, California. He is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions and recently received the most revered Career Valor Award in October 2018.

Mr. Campoy is passionate about empowering adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities and welcomes opportunities to collaborate with agencies to create learning structures for the disability community.



New Horizons
Third District Award

Under the leadership of President and CEO John C. Brauer, M.A., New Horizons is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with disabilities to reach their potential and fulfill their dreams.

Founded in 1954 by eight parents whose children had special needs, New Horizons has evolved to provide yearly services and support to more than 1,200 individuals and social and recreational services to nearly 3,000 individuals throughout the greater San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys of Los Angeles. New Horizons also offers job training and placement, education, counseling, residential services and social programs in the community, with a focus on providing personalized attention to help individuals gain confidence, skills, dignity and independence.

New Horizons has been recognized by the California Department of Developmental Services as one of the most successful providers in Los Angeles County in finding jobs for people with special needs. In addition, its residential programs are renowned for their skilled, compassionate and caregiving staff who work diligently to provide personalized instruction on activities essential to daily living. New Horizons' programs have proven to empower people with disabilities by teaching them self-advocacy and to explore creative self-expression, educational activities, and cultural events.

Most recently, New Horizons launched GoGrocery! A new initiative in partnership with Albertson's, Vons, Safeway and Jon's Market to help prepare individuals for employment in the grocery industry.



Kirk Moody
Community Advocate
Fourth District Award

Kirk Moody is a passionate advocate for caregivers and families of those living with Alzheimer's disease. Mr. Moody moved to California in 1981 to work at aerospace company TRW/Northrop Grumman after receiving his bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado in Mathematics. On his first day of work he met the love of his life, Nancy Paulikas. The fun-loving Manhattan Beach couple began dating in 1988, retired in 2001 and married in 2002. In October 2015, Mrs. Moody was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease.

In 2016, Mrs. Moody went missing after becoming separated during a family visit to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and was never seen again. Mr. Moody worked tirelessly organizing search party volunteers, mapping search areas, and working closely with the Los Angeles Police Department's Adult Missing Person Unit.

To aid in the search efforts, Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn took a direct interest and worked closely with Mr. Moody. After a continued extensive search, sadly, Mrs. Moody's remains were found and identified through DNA matching 26 months later.

After learning of the death of his wife, Mr. Moody used his experience as an opportunity to assist others with being reunited with their loved ones who have gone missing. Mr. Moody was an instrumental member on the Bringing Our Loved Ones Home Taskforce Initiative now known as L.A. Found. Championed by Supervisor Janice Hahn, L.A. Found is helping families and caregivers quickly locate individuals with Alzheimer's, dementia, autism and other cognitive impairments with trackable bracelets and other implemented recommendations.



Pietro Rosetti

Chief Executive Officer, FVO Solutions, Inc.

Fifth District Award

Pietro Rosetti joined FVO Solutions (FVOS) as the Assistant Controller in 2014 and is currently the Chief Executive Officer. He is also responsible for managing the organization's grants and business development. For more than 50 years, FVOS, a nonprofit social enterprise, has created jobs that changed thousands of lives by providing employment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, wounded warriors, and former foster youth.

FVOS' mission is to create jobs for people with barriers to employment. Over 75% of the program participants have developmental and other disabilities that make it difficult to secure and retain stable employment. Mr. Rosetti is passionate about FVOS' mission and has a deep belief in the potential of individuals with disabilities.

Mr. Rosetti brings to this position his prior experience with fund development, government contract acquisition, and financial management. He is extremely knowledgeable about the AbilityOne Program and FVO's relationship with SourceAmerica and is very humbled to be part of an organization that strives to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve their true potential and pursue their goals.

Mr. Rosetti worked for over 10 years in the financial services field, providing tax, audit and financial planning, with an emphasis on private equity and hedge fund clients. Later, he worked in business development for government contractors and nonprofit clients. Mr. Rosetti is a Certified Public Accountant who holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from the University of Southern California.



Global Paratransit, Inc.

Chairperson's Award

Global Paratransit, Inc. is a specialized company created to provide Americans with Disabilities Act compliant transportation services. They proudly serve as a contractor for Access Services' southern region of Los Angeles County, Long Beach Transit Dial a Lift, City of Bell Dial-a-Ride and La Campana fixed route and the City of South Gate's "The Gate" fixed route service. Since the company's inception in 2001, Global Paratransit Inc., has expanded its foundation employing over 450 employees, operating over 260 dedicated service vehicles and carrying active service agreements with over eight taxi and California Public Utilities Commission companies. In addition, their workforce is highly diverse, and they strive to foster a culture of inclusion.

Global Paratransit, Inc., ensures that empathy, sensitivity, and compassion are at the forefront of their customer service and work diligently on customer outreach. Customer feedback and networking is the cornerstone of their infrastructure and their visibility and accessibility to customers is their lifeline to safeguarding that their service product meets the expectation of customers.

Global Paratransit, Inc. is dedicated to continuously improve service and dependability at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center (Rancho). Global Paratransit Inc. attends monthly meetings at Rancho to address the concerns of riders and improve the overall quality of services. They also provide and train their staff onsite at Rancho in order to expand their staff's understanding of various disabilities and how to accommodate those individuals.

Through continued dedication to service Global Paratransit, Inc. has become a dependable leader in the disabled transportation service industry.



Andre Colaiace

Executive Director, Access Services, Inc.

Bill Tainter Public Service Award

Andre Colaiace is the current Executive Director of Access Services, Inc. (Access Services) which is a local public entity that offers a curb-to-curb shared-ride service to eligible disabled individuals within proximity of fixed-route bus and rail lines in Los Angeles County. Since joining Access Services in 2006, he has served as the Deputy Executive Director of Planning and Government Affairs and became the Executive Director in 2016.

As a proven leader, Mr. Colaiace is dedicated to improving ADA paratransit services in Los Angeles County by enhancing service delivery and integrating technology that is easier for Access Services' customers to use. These enhancements include the "Where's My Ride" App, which allows individuals to use a smartphone, computer, tablet or flip phone to check the location of a vehicle 15 minutes prior to the scheduled time reserved.

Prior to joining Access Services, Mr. Colaiace spent four years at the Culver City Transportation Department as a Senior Management Analyst, served as the Director of Government Affairs for Foothill Transit in West Covina, California; and served as a Committee Administrator for the Transportation and Transit Committee with the Minnesota House of Representatives. In addition, he served on the Access Services' Board of Directors from 2002 to 2005.

Originally from Rhode Island, Mr. Colaiace earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. He is a member of the 2008 American Public Transportation Association Leadership class and continues to be committed to improving access, safety and enhancing services to those with disabilities.



Dennis Powell

Professional Baseball Player

Los Angeles Dodgers Alumni League

Billy Barty Media/Sports Award

Dennis Powell started his career with the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1983. At the age of 21, he made his Major League pitching debut on July 7, 1985 against the St. Louis Cardinals. He is a member of the 1985 National League Western Division Champion Dodgers.

In 1987, Mr. Powell was traded to the Seattle Mariners where he played until 1993. He also played for the Milwaukee Brewers, Chicago White Sox and Baltimore Orioles organizations. Mr. Powell pitched in 207 games and finished his career with an ERA of 4.95. Before retiring in 1997, he made pitching stops internationally in Osaka, Japan, Dominican Republic, Cartagena Colombia, Venezuela and Mexico.

It is also worth noting that Mr. Powell has a street named in his hometown of Norman Park, Georgia: Dennis Powell Lane. Mr. Powell continually participates in various events empowering and motivating those with special abilities. In 2017 and 2018, he formally opened the DisABILITY Sports Festival at California State University, San Bernardino, one of the largest cross ability events for people with any disability; and in April 2019, he was honored and participated in the annual Mt. San Antonio College Disability Athletics Faire.

Today, Mr. Powell proudly serves as an alumni legend and brand representative for the Los Angeles Dodgers and uses this platform to help him reach across all boundaries to give back. He currently resides in Southern California with his wife Brenda, of 30 years and is the proud father of four.



Rudy Contreras

**Chief Executive Officer, Southern California
Resource Services for Independent Living**

Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr. Veteran's Award

Rudy Contreras is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Southern California Resource Services for Independent Living (SCRS-IL). SCRS-IL is a non-profit cross-disability, non-residential, disability rights organization empowering people with any disability to live full and independent lives by committing to building an inclusive community that recognizes the dignity, humanity, and worth of all people. After honorably serving in the United States Marine Corps, Mr. Contreras has dedicated over 16 years to working with, and for people with disabilities.

Mr. Contreras is the Co-Founder of the SCRS-IL's Annual Disability Pride Parade and along with the East Los Angeles College, he launched the first ever STEM focused dual enrollment college program for high school youth with disabilities in the country. At the conclusion of this program, the college students earn a certification in Engineering and Graphic Design. Most recently, Mr. Contreras, along with Compton College, launched a fully inclusive program that opens the door to all Associate Degrees and Certificate Programs to high school graduates with intellectual disabilities.

Mr. Contreras is proud to lead an organization that serves five counties, finds paid employment for over 700 people annually, and serves over 2,300 people annually. He touches the lives of over 4,500 people through effective outreach and community events on an annual basis. Mr. Contreras has proven himself to be a compassionate, innovative role model who leads by example while empowering others.



Greg Thompson

**Executive Director, Personal Assistance
Services Council of Los Angeles**

Harley D. Rubenstein Caregiver Award

Greg Thompson is the Executive Director of the Personal Assistance Services Council (PASC), a registry provider for In-Home Supportive Services. Under Mr. Thompson's direction, his team has developed a new Registry Call Center, a Consumer Outreach Program, monthly Teleforums, and a web-based Job Bank. He has served as a member of the California Olmstead Advisory Committee, which ensures involvement of people with disabilities in making recommendations to improve California's long-term care system. Mr. Thompson also served on the Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission, and the California Commission on Disability Access.

Mr. Thompson is proud of the many years he worked as Chief Social Worker at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center (Rancho). It was Rancho that gave him the confidence and drive to succeed, and inspired him to continue his education, obtaining a master's degree from the University of Southern California. Mr. Thompson's education and his passion for independence has inspired his commitment to improve the quality of life for seniors and persons with disabilities. While working at Rancho, he founded the Spinal Cord Injury Games and was Co-Founder of the KnowBarriers Life Coaching Program.

Mr. Thompson's commitment has garnered him multiple commendations from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, including Employee of the Month, Rancho's Employee of the Year Award, The Amistad Award, and The KnowBarriers Lifetime Achievement Award.



Jane Lutz

**Student Advisor and Deaf/Blind Specialist
Braille Institute of America**

Jane Small Advocacy Award

Jane Lutz is a student advisor and Deaf/Blind Specialist at the Braille Institute of America's Los Angeles Center. For over 100 years, the Braille Institute has provided a broad range of free programs, services and classes serving students of all ages to empower themselves to live more enriching lives with blindness and vision loss. Since 2004, Ms. Lutz has taught tactile sign language classes to the deaf and hard of hearing students. She also works with local colleges and assists in establishing an internship program for the interpreter training students, which provides students experience doing tactile American Sign Language.

Ms. Lutz's passion for helping others began in 1984 while attending a disability rights group meeting at her church. From 1986 to 1990, she served as Chairperson of the Disability Rights Group Task Force where she joined other task force members in visiting different parishes sharing stories about their disabilities and how the parish could improve their accessibility. Ms. Lutz has referred more than 100 students to the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program to assist them in obtaining needed equipment to make telecommunications, advanced communications, and the internet accessible to low-income individuals who have both significant vision and hearing loss.

Ms. Lutz earned a Bachelor of Arts in Deaf Studies from California State University, Northridge in 1993. She is dedicated to supporting the Braille Institute's mission to empower individuals who are blind, deaf/blind and blind/hard of hearing to gain the skills to navigate the world and obtain independence. She is proud of her accomplishments and strives to continue increasing the number of deaf/blind students visiting the Braille Institute.



Seyed Amir Torabzadeh

**Engineer/TASAS Coordinator, California
Department of Transportation (Caltrans)**

Nadia Powers Leadership Award

Seyed "Amir" Torabzadeh is a transportation engineer who works as the coordinator of the Traffic Accident Surveillance and Analysis System Unit at the Caltrans, Los Angeles District Office, where in 1988, he began his career as a Junior Engineer. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Engineering and a Master's degree in Systems Engineering from the University of Southern California.

At age 19, Mr. Torabzadeh became a quadriplegic after breaking his neck and sustaining a spinal cord injury. Over the past several years, Mr. Torabzadeh has been recognized numerous times for his advocacy for people with disabilities, including in 2015, when he received the "Outstanding Engineering Service Award" by the Orange County Engineering Council. In 2017, Mr. Torabzadeh served on a City of Los Angeles advisory committee, formed by Mayor Eric Garcetti, to make recommendations for improving on-street parking accessibility for people with disabilities. He received a Certificate of Appreciation for his contributions.

On April 11, 2018, CAREERS & the disABLED magazine named Mr. Torabzadeh "National Employee of the Year" for his outstanding achievements and advocacy efforts for people with disabilities. Only ten employees nationwide receive this annual recognition. Also, in July 2018, Mr. Torabzadeh was recognized by the Professional Engineers in California Government for his public work and service as a valued engineer for the State of California.

Currently, Mr. Torabzadeh continues his advocacy for the rights of people with disabilities and initiated an effort to establish a scholarship program that provides two \$500.00 scholarships annually to university students with disabilities.



East San Gabriel Valley Special Education Local Plan Area Community Advisory Committee

Pearl Ella Johnson Community Service Award

The East San Gabriel Valley Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) is a geographic consortium of 15 local educational agencies with a combined average daily attendance of 96,000 students and 12,500 students with disabilities. The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) serves as an advisory role to SELPA and is comprised of a group of parents who provide information, resources, and supportive activities to families of students with special needs.

The CAC is very active in advocating for legislation locally and statewide to support students with disabilities. They are a vital component of the effective special education programs in California, due to the specific roles and responsibilities they hold. Other responsibilities of the CAC include, supporting activities on behalf of individuals with exceptional needs, assisting in parent awareness of the importance of regular school attendance and providing families with an opportunity to share resources and support.

The CAC also plays a critical role in advising the SELPA and in encouraging community and parental involvement in the development, review, and implementation of the Local Plan. They also make recommendations on annual priorities to be addressed under the Plan. The CAC also engages the community through outreach, parent workshops, disability awareness trainings to support inclusion, and hosts an annual arts festival to showcase the creativity of students with special needs. In November 2019, they will be hosting a workshop on strengthening parent/child relationships in collaboration with Claremont Unified School District.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

PAST ACCESS AWARDS RECIPIENTS

2018

1st District Dr. Tomás García
2nd District Janet A. Neal
3rd District Yola Doré
3rd District Aaron and Rickey Bloom
3rd District Anny Semonco
4th District Outpatient Services Leadership Team
Rancho Los Amigos Rehabilitation Center
5th District Kathleen Barajas
Chairperson's Award, Louis Herrera
and Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd
Jane Small Advocacy Award, Keith Penman
Billy Barty Media/Sports Awards, Tracy Broughton
Bill Tainter Public Service Award, Kenneth S. Howard
Nadia Powers Leadership Award, Vanessa O. Smith
Pearl Ella Johnson Community Service Award, Dr. Barry Lavay

2017

1st District Hector Ochoa
2nd District The Achievable Foundation
3rd District James M. Chud
3rd District Maria Serrao
4th District Jennifer Kumiyama
5th District Andrew Skinner
Chairperson's Awards, Ralph's Riders Foundation
and Mayra Fornos
Pearl Ella Johnson Community Service Award,
Patrice Jinso-Springer, Clothes the Deal and Cynde Soto
Ernest T. Hamilton Jr. Veterans Award,
Paralyzed Veterans of America, California Chapter
Bill Tainter Public Service Award, Giovanna Gogreve

2016

1st District Sandra Flores and Ruben Hernandez
2nd District Linda Shimane and Wiley Center for Speech
and Language Development
3rd District Brenda Seiden
4th District Las Floristas and Rancho Los Amigos
Foundation
5th District Alethea M. Crespo Kevin D. Korenthal and
Cathy Gott
Chairperson's Awards, James Lee and Louis Burns
Billy Barty Award (Media/Sports), The Wilderness
Institute
Nadia Power Leadership Award, Alexander A. Ghaffari
Pearl Ella Johnson Community Service Award, Tiffany
Yonemoto

2015

1st District Jorge Chuc
2nd District Meals on Wheel Program, City of Inglewood
3rd District Marilyn Grunwald
4th District Gilbert Salinas
5th District Bud Brown and Sona Baghdassarian
Chairperson's Awards, James J.S. Holmes &
Kevin Gilliland, Sedgwick LLP
Billy Barty Award (Media/Sports), Richard Bell &
Ray Pizarro, Pushrim Foundation
Harley Rubenstein Caregiver Award, Jeffrey Gamble
Jane Small Award, Lori Arnoff, Los Angeles HIV Law
and Policy Project (LA HLLP)
Pearl Ella Johnson Community Service Award,
The E.J. Jackson Foundation, Jackson Limousine Service

2014

1st District Sal Valdez
2nd District The Help Group
3rd District Jacob Ramsey
4th District Joe Leal
5th District Jerry and Phyllis Campbell
5th District Jamie Goodreau
Chairperson's Award, Theresa May De Vera
City of Los Angeles Department on Disability
City of Pasadena Accessibility and Disability
City of Culver City Disability Advisory Committee
City of Santa Monica Disabilities Commission
City of West Hollywood Disabilities Advisory Board

2013

1st District Gabriela Hernandez-Gonzalez
2nd District Ability First
3rd District Michelle Krotinger Wolf
4th District Janne Kouri
5th District Kimberly Albrecq
5th District LeRoy Wm. Nattress, Jr., Ph.D.
5th District Michael Shanklin
Chairperson's Award, Los Angeles Fire Department
Urban Search and Rescue
Harley Rubenstein Award, Lora King
Jane Small Advocacy Award, Teddie-Joy Remhild
Pearl Ella Johnson Community Service Award,
City of Hope
Veterans Award, Major Lenora Gay Ingram

2012

1st District Timothy Hernandez
2nd District Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic
3rd District National Arts & Disability of California
Los Angeles
4th District Advocates for People Choices
5th District Kathleen Sturkey
Billy Barty Award, Nine O'Clock Players
Billy Barty Award, Noreen Vincent of City of
Los Angeles
Billy Barty Award, Gerardo Borrego of KTYM
Legends Award, Shari Gamson

2011

1st District Victor Hugo Padilla
2nd District Alyce Morris Winston
3rd District Zack Weinstein
4th District Allan Buck
5th District Tyrone Hampton
Chairperson's Award, Marcia Gayle
Billy Barty Award, TV Japan
Bill Tainter Public Service Award, Regina Houston Swain
Harley Rubenstein Caregiver Award, Dr. Raul Ramirez
Pearl Ella Johnson Community Service Award,
Locks of Love

2010

1st District Lourdes Caracoza
2nd District Areva D. Martin, Esq.
3rd District Dr. Rick Scuderi
4th District Got Kids?
5th District Carousel Ranch
5th District Saddle Up Therapeutic Riding Stables
Chairperson's Award, NBC Universal
Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr. Veteran's Award, TRIUMPH
Foundation
Jane Small Advocacy Award, CALIF (Communities
Actively Living Independent and Free)
Legends Award, Marcella M. Meyer
Nadia Powers Leadership Award, Richard Lorenzo Ray

2009

1st District L.A. Care Health Plan
2nd District Consuella Mackey
3rd District Deaf West Theatre
4th District Angela Madsen
5th District Winslow C. Reitnouer
Billy Barty Award, I AM PWD
Chairperson's Award, Sharon Crittendon
Jane Small Advocacy Award, Stephen Simon
Nadia Powers Leadership Award, Rafer Johnson
Pearl Ella Johnson Community Service Award,
Beauty Bus

2008

1st District Salvation Army-Harbor Light Center
2nd District Sandy Varga, Disability Rights Advocate
2nd District Michael Agyin, Disability Rights Advocate
3rd District Braille Institute
4th District Charles Martucci, Community Services
Coordinator, City of Lakewood
5th District Lou Bozigian, Co-Owner, Coldwell Banker
Bozigian Realty
Chairperson's Award, MOMS Pharmacy
Billy Barty Award, Lou Ferrigno, Actor, Body Builder
& Reserve LAC Sheriff Deputy
Jane Small Advocacy Award, HALSA, Inc. (HIV &
AIDS Legal Services Alliance, Inc.)
Nadia Powers Leadership Award, Chip Hazen, ADA
Compliance Officer, Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO)
Pearl Ella Johnson Community Service Award,
Alan H. Woo, Director of Planning and Program
Development, Community Action Partnership of
Orange County

2007

1st District Washington Mutual
2nd District Junior Blind of America
3rd District Terri Lantz, United Cerebral Palsy of
Los Angeles
4th District Ben Rockwell, Beach-Wood
Chapter of Californians for Disability Rights
5th District Steve Miller, Tierra Del Sol Foundation
Chairperson's Award, Captain Gregory Malais,
Los Angeles Fire Department
Bill Tainter Award, Kristina Ripatti of Los Angeles
Police Department
Billy Barty Award, Extreme Makeover Home Edition
Jane Small Advocacy Award, Protection & Advocacy, Inc.
Pearl Ella Johnson Community Service Award,
Lawrence Pleskow of When U Dream a Dream, Inc.

2006

1st District Rick Vannan, Plant Manager, Clorox Company
2nd District Sheila Cruz, Los Angeles City Department of
Transportation
3rd District Ben Uphues, Founder,
Opaque Dining in the Dark
4th District Blanche Grove, City of Cerritos Adaptive
Recreation Programs
5th District Dennis Wick, Antelope Valley Special Olympics
Chairperson's Award, Kathleen Nola Thomas, T.H.E Clinic
Billy Barty Award, Elizabeth Helmes, Executive Director,
AHEAD with Horses
Community-At-Large Award, Paul Cahill, Chair, Marriott
Business Council
Jane Small Advocacy Award, Royce Crowder,
Disabilities Advocate
Public Service Award, Bobbi Jean Tanberg

2005

1st District April Thompson, Manager, Ushers and Ticket Takers of Los Angeles Dodgers
2nd District Jim Preis, Executive Director, Mental Health Advocacy Services, Inc.
3rd District John Gile, Executive Director, Project Angel Food
4th District Maria Venegas, Partner, PETCO, Downey, CA
5th District Cindy Cox Goodfellow, President & CEO, Aeroplex Business Center, Inc.
Chairperson's Award, Bally Total Fitness, Culver City
Billy Barty Award, Mary Ann Glicksman, Executive Director, Computer Access Center
Community-At-Large Award, Marie Villalobos and Deputy Adam Castro, LASD
Jane Small Award, Hugh Hallenberg, Advocate
Public Service Award, Honorable Beverly O'Neal, Mayor, City of Long Beach
Robert Abell Award, Larry Albers, HandiPlate Research and Development, Inc.

2004

1st District Tony Iskandar, VP & GM, Goudy Honda
2nd District Christine Leahey, Visitor Services Director, Santa Monica Museum of Art
3rd District Calif. Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities
4th District Ken Slu, Planner, L.A. County Beaches and Harbors
5th District Grace Waegell Tiessen, President, Board of Trustees, SHHH, (Self Help for Hard of Hearing)
Ron Schraiber, M.A., Director Office of Consumer Affairs, Department of Mental Health
Richard Nichols, Chair, WIB (L.A. County Workforce Investment Board)
Paula and Lewis Turner, Owners, Pet Care Co.
Dianne Piastro, Instructor/Lecturer, Cal-State Long Beach & PASC Consultant
Valerie Vanaman, Attorney, Teaching Fellow, Harvard Law

2003

Ted Casey & Toyota Motor Sales, USA (Employment Program for mentally challenged)
Foster Grandparents Program, Metropolitan State Hospital
Jeneen Vendetti, Sheila Kvale & Staff, Secrets Salon (make-overs for mentally challenged)
Antonio Parisi, Advocate, Mentor, Boxer
Shane's Inspiration, Developer of Accessible Playground Equipment
Nare Setyan, Youth Sculptress
Beverly Health Care, Deaf Services Program
Victor Caballero, Fiesta Taxi, Disabled Passenger Program

2002

John Savage & American Honda Motor
Margaret "Maggie" Belton, Chair, Personal Assistance Services Council (PASC)
Wayne Boudreau, Special Ed Program Specialist, Palmdale School District
Ruben Hernandez, Founder of Unification of Disabled Latin Americans
Mattye Fegan-Perry, Member, California Senior Legislature
University of California, Los Angeles, Office for Students with Disabilities
Jeanette A. Nishikawa, Executive Director, Disabled Resources Center, Inc.
Delta Air Lines, the Innovative Delta Air Chair (wheelchair)
Susan Schneider Gordon, Volunteer, Culver City Senior Center
Lynn Olson, Advocate & Owner, Manhattan Beach Bread & Bagel Co.

2001

Holly & Rodney Peete, HollyRod Foundation
Nadia Powers, Advocate & Workforce Investment Board member
Disneyland Resort - Front Line Employees
Valerie Zanders, Program Director, Portal Mental Health Rehab
Casa Colina Outdoor Adventures
Vincent Bryson, Executive Director, Ronald McDonald House
Linda & Abbott Brown, Ridgestone Foundation
Team Hoyt (Rick/Dick), father and disabled son marathon team
Alan Toy - LILA Website

2000

Olegario D. Cantos VII, Western Law Center for Disability Rights
Dr. Samuel M. Genensky, Founder, Center for the Partially Sighted
Robert David Hall, Actor, Role Model
Harvey L. Huddleston, V.P. Gen. Mgr., Xerox Connection, Xerox Corp.
Mary Ann Jones, Exec. Dir., Westside Center for Independent Living
Mordena Moore, Vice Chair, Board of Directors, AbilityFirst
Peggy Reyna, Project Director, LAC Assaults Against Women
Sylvia Rodriguez - Bill Tainter Internship
Jane Small Award - Inaugural
Charles D. Siegal, President, Western Center for Disability Rights

1999

Lillibeth Navarro, Advocate, IRAPS
Jennifer P. Olson, Esq., Employment Law and ADA
Eric Levinson, Burbank Advisory Council on
Disabilities
Lynn Manning, Calif. Arts Council's Artist in
Residence, Mark Taper Forum
Southwest Airlines (Anastasia Albanese-O'Neil)
Staples Foundation Community Development
(Jose Gardea)
Bob Farran, LAC Office of Special Education

1998

Chet Cooper, Publisher, Ability Magazine & Founder,
Ability Awareness Org.
Nancy J. Covert, Chair Emeritus, California Governor's
Committee
Judge Fred Horn, Orange County Superior Court
Cyrile "Cy Cy" Lambert, Motivational Speaker, Founder,
RVL S.C.O.R.E.
Dr. Harry J. Murphy, Founder/Dir., Center on Disabilities,
Cal State Northridge
Gerard Rossi, Volunteer/Leader Visually Impaired
Community
Bill Ste. Marie, Teacher/Mentor for Disabled
Students, Bellflower High School

Los Angeles County Regional Centers

Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center
Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center
Harbor Regional Center
North Angeles Regional Center
San Gabriel/Pomona Valley Regional Center
South Central Los Angeles Regional Center
Westside Regional Center

1997

Paul Harvey, founder of numerous sports activities
for disabled youth in Irvine
Christina Hyosun Kimm, Professor, Special
Education, Cal State LA
Douglas Martin, Professor, Special Assistant to
Chancellor, UCLA
SHARE, Inc. (Share Happily and Reap Endlessly)
Betty R. Wilson, Director, City of Los Angeles
Office on Disabilities

Schools - Community Colleges

East Los Angeles College
Los Angeles Southwest College
Los Angeles Harbor College
Los Angeles Valley College
Los Angeles Mission College

Department of the Year

Beaches and Harbors

1996

Laura Remson Mitchell
Mainstream Magazine
Rockwell - Space Systems
Richard Chavez

Schools - Universities

Cal State Northridge
Cal State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Cal State Long Beach
Cal State Los Angeles
Cal State Dominguez Hills
UCLA

1995

Judith Heumann
State Senator Diane Watson
Mitch Pomerantz
VONS Markets
John Hill

1994

Victoria Ann-Lewis
Justice Joyce Kennard
Brenda Premo
Target Stores
Supervisor Edmund D. Edelman
Joanne Sturges

1993

Karla Geller
Bridges Project, Marriott Foundation
Frank Lindsey
Super Shuttle

1992 Inaugural Annual Access Awards

Luncheon - Honorees

Gordon Sam Overton
Xerox Corporation
Nordstrom
City of Whittier/Whittier Access Committee

1989 Open House and Recognition Ceremony

Douglas Martin
Timothy Cook
John Day
Herald Examiner
Exceptional Children's Foundation

1988 Open House and Recognition Ceremony

Stanley Fleishman
Carolyn Vash
Western Law Center for Disability Rights
Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

For the past 16 years, the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities has provided \$121,000 in scholarships to students and veterans with disabilities in Los Angeles County. These scholarships assist in furthering their educational goals with proceeds stemming primarily from the Commission's Annual Access Awards Luncheon.

The Commission on Disabilities collaborates with several agencies to distribute scholarship applications to students and veterans with disabilities who meet guidelines for financial need, and plan to pursue their educational goals. These agencies include: Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, City of Los Angeles Department on Disability, East Los Angeles Regional Centers, Jewish Foundations, State Department of Rehabilitation, Centers for Independent Living and the Braille Institute.

Our Commissioners are dedicated to serving as positive role models for the recipients. We congratulate all past and present recipients. We wish them all the best in their educational and personal endeavors. Donations to the Commission can be designated for scholarships by contacting staff via email at laccod@bos.lacounty.gov or at 213-974-1053.

For more information on the scholarship program, please visit our website at <http://laccod.lacounty.gov>.



Anthony Emanule

4th District

Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter Scholarship Award

Anthony Emanule currently attends the Wayfinder Family Service's Special Education School and plans to attend Compton College with the goal to transfer to California State University, Dominguez Hills where he plans to pursue a career in psychology.

Juan Garibay

4th District

Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter Scholarship Award

Juan Garibay is currently attending Los Angeles Harbor College where he is pursuing a degree in counseling. His goal is to earn both a Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling.

Aran Shams

4th District

Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter Scholarship Award

Aran Shams recently graduated from Downey High School and attends Cerritos College. He plans to further his education by transferring to a four-year university to earn a degree in either architecture or business.

Rodrigo Torres

4th District

Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter Scholarship Award

Rodrigo Torres currently attends East Los Angeles College where he is enrolled in a dual-certification Program in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Program. Rodrigo aspires to pursue a professional career in graphic design.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Olivia Antwine

4th District

*Ruben Rios Creative Arts & Design
Scholarship Award*

Olivia Antwine recently graduated from Norwalk High School and currently attends Cerritos College. Olivia aspires to have a professional career in Graphic Design and her dream is to work for The Walt Disney Company.



Denise Reynaga

1st District

*Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter
Scholarship Award*

Denise Reynaga attends East Los Angeles College in the City of Monterey Park, and aspires to be an American Sign Language Interpreter that will enable her to help the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community.



Waley Chan

1st District

*Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter
Scholarship Award*

Waley Chan, currently attends Pasadena City College, and aspires to transfer to California State University, Los Angeles, and one day work as an information technologist in the field of Computer Information Systems.



Carlos Vergara

1st District

*Ruben Rios Creative Arts & Design
Scholarship Award*

Carlos Vergara currently attends El Camino College with plans to transfer to the Art Center College of Design. His goal is to be the first-generation graduate from college in his family and to open his own graphic design businesses with an emphasis on helping small businesses create their brand and identity.



Jose Dominguez

1st District

*Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter
Scholarship Award*

Jose Dominguez is enrolled in a dual-certification Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Program (STEM) at East Los Angeles College. Jose plans to utilize his STEM studies to compete in the engineering discipline both academically and professionally.



Ivory Beavers

2nd District

*Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter
Scholarship Award*

Ivory Beavers recently graduated from Morningside High School in the City of Inglewood and attends Eastern Arizona College. Ivory is committed to his education and feels that it will lead him to self-sufficiency as he pursues a career in Administration of Justice.



Janet Rojas

1st District

*Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter
Scholarship Award*

Janet Rojas recently graduated from the Alliance Collins Family College-Ready High School in the City of Huntington Park, and plans to attend California State University, Los Angeles to pursue a career in film.



Nia Boyd

2nd District

*Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter
Scholarship Award*

Nia Boyd recently graduated from West High School in the City of Torrance and is currently attending California State University, Northridge. Nia aspires to have a professional career in fashion design.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Michelle Diaz

2nd District

*Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter
Scholarship Award*

Michelle Diaz is currently attending Los Angeles Harbor College where she is pursuing a degree in science. Michelle is committed to achieving her academic goals and hopes to one day work in a hospital setting.



Saida Hernandez

3rd District

*Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter
Scholarship Award*

Saida Hernandez is a recent graduate of the Robert Fulton College Preparatory School in Van Nuys and attends Santa Monica College. Saida aspires to continue her education and earn a Doctoral Degree in Anthropology.



Brandyn Phlegm

2nd District

*Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter
Scholarship Award*

Brandyn Phlegm is enrolled in a dual-certification Program in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math at East Los Angeles College. Brandyn is very dedicated to his education and one day hopes to transfer to UCLA to pursue a career in Information Technology.



Nenette Lizaso

3rd District

*Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter
Scholarship Award*

Nenette Lizaso is currently attending California State University, Northridge and is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. She aspires to achieve a higher level of responsibility in her career and her goal is to become a Human Resource Specialist.



Lawrence Lancaster

2nd District

*Ruben Rios Creative Arts & Design
Scholarship Award*

Lawrence Lancaster attends Santa Monica College and aspires to have a professional career as an Artist. Lawrence is an award-winning artist who received the first prize from the American Printing House for the Blind in 2009, third prize in 2018, and is in show every time he submits his artwork.



Jean-Paul Pierre

3rd District

*Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter
Scholarship Award*

Jean-Paul is currently enrolled in a dual-certification Program in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics at East Los Angeles College. Jean-Paul is a very dedicated student and aspires to transfer to California State University, Los Angeles, to complete his higher education.



Lorena Flores

3rd District

*Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter
Scholarship Award*

Lorena Flores recently graduated from Reseda High School's Phoenix Academy North in June 2018. Lorena is attending Pierce College where she is pursuing an education in the medical field as a clinical psychologist.



Gaston Garcia

3rd District

*Ruben Rios Creative Arts & Design
Scholarship Award*

Gaston Garcia recently graduated from Robert Fulton College Preparatory School in June 2018. He is pursuing an Arts Degree and will attend Los Angeles Valley College. Gaston intends to complete his education at the California Institute of the Arts.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Ruth Mancilla

5th District

*Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter
Scholarship Award*

Ruth Mancilla currently attends East Los Angeles College. Ruth is a single parent who strives to better her life by pursuing a higher education and intends to transfer to a four-year university in pursuit of a Nursing Degree.



Shanna Learned

5th District

*Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter
Scholarship Award*

Shanna Learned attends the California Baptist University (CBU) where she is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts. Shanna loves to assist children and her community and is an active member of CBU's LGBTQ+ Club and one day aspires to be a teacher.



Sierra DuNah

5th District

*Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter
Scholarship Award*

Sierra DuNah is a San Marino High School graduate and currently attends Sterling College. Sierra is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and intends to become a Special Education teacher.



Carlin Liang

5th District

*Ruben Rios Creative Arts& Design
Scholarship Award*

Carlin Liang recently graduated from San Marino High School. Her passion for learning in subjects such as art, design and math have strengthened her creative expertise. Carlin intends to pursue her passion as an Architect.



Angel Lawson-Williams

5th District

*Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter
Scholarship Award*

Angel Lawson-Williams Charter Oak High School graduate and currently attends Citrus Community College. Angel is hard working and very dedicated to his studies and looks forward to earning an Associate of Science Degree in Digital Web Design.



THE HEART OF DISABILITIES

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES 2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Robert Gregg

All Districts

Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr. Veteran's Scholarship Award

Robert Gregg is a veteran in service to our country in the United States Army. Robert's goal is to continue his education at Rio Hondo College, and intends to use his education to serve the diverse disability community and U.S. veterans.

Mario Perez

All Districts

Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr. Veteran's Scholarship Award

Mario Perez is currently attending the University of Phoenix pursuing a degree in Business Administration. He served with the United States Marine Corps for fourteen years and was deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Donna Stubblefield

All Districts

Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr. Veteran's Scholarship Award

Donna Stubblefield is a veteran of the United States Army where she dedicated over 17 years of her life to serve our country. She currently attends Rio Hondo College where she is pursuing an Associate of Arts Degree in General Studies and aspires to one day earn a Science Degree in nursing.



THE HEART OF DISABILITIES

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

2003-2018 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

2018

Jennifer Aguas
Armen Duran
Angel Potts
Michelle Diaz
Orlando Gertrudiz
Geovany Rodriguez
Lorena Flores
Saida Hernandez
Nenette Lizaso
Irene M. Brownson
Andrea Gonzalez-Diaz
Juan Garibay
Julian Carter
Shanna Learned
Ruth Mancilla
Eddie Gonzalez
Elijah Arzate
Gaston Garcia
Blanca Ortiz
Angel Lawson-Williams
Andy Jomarron
Mario Perez

2017

Julian Cally
Yonotzinc Durango Luna
Stephen Hernandez-Thomas
Ryan James Hinostroza
Matthew Robert Keels
Jesus Lombero
Lexi Nielsen
Rodolfo Ovando
Chelsea N. Robinson
Daniel Wilkins
Elizabeth Yee

2016

Audrey Chin
Brandon Shin
Caprina Benson
Carl Schlueter
Chelsea N. Robinson
Daniel Barrios
Daniel Hernandez
Elizabeth Yee
Haig Baghdassarian
Isabel Mendoza-Sanchez
Maria Flores

2016 (continued)

Molly Echlin
Ruth Mancilla
Stephen Hernandez-Thomas
Steven Castillo

2015

Zarech Lopez
Daniel Barrios
Omri Malka
Schiller Auguste
Haley Castrillon
Fyodor Bondarenko

2013

Carolina Vazquez
Lonzell Cromer
Irene Brownson
Haig Baghdassarian
Darnell Holcomb

2012

Zarech Lopez
Gabriela Quiroz
Calvin Montano
Andres Londoño
Danyel Bybee
Darnell Holcomb

2011

Cheolwoong Han
Kevin Phung
Kevin Rinaldi
Maritza Estrada
Sebastian Mendez-Guevara

2010

Alan Chen
Eric Barragan
Jenny Brano
Kacee Neria
Rachel Crabtree

2009

David Ritter
Joseph Huniu
Kelsey Sherman
Steven Ngo
Zylene Grace Bulosan

2008

Binna Kim
Eric Azus
Jessica Quintana
Ramiro Valderrama
Troy Hines

2007

Adam Ohnstad
Edwin Velasquez
Lizeth Gabriola
Paul Herzlich
Phillip Morrow

2006

Brittnee Bailey
Mckenna Wilson
Moenay Shepherd
Randy Joe Slone II
Yves Medrano

2005

David Gottesman
Nicole Davis
Patrick Rogart
Reggie Ormeo
Samantha Smith

2004

Aram Goganian
Kristian Batiste
Marques Tillie
Michelle Garcia
Pauline Vasquez

2003

Jesse Black, Jr.
Joann Guillen
Kimberly Romero
Michael Haneline
Rodolfo Lewa

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



• GOLD SPONSOR •

Thank you
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**
for hosting the
28TH ANNUAL ACCESS AWARDS.

Congratulations to all of the honorees for showing great leadership and an unwavering commitment to promoting equality for people with disabilities.

A special thank you to **KIRK MOODY**
for his partnership in launching the
L.A. FOUND PROGRAM.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR
JANICE HAHN
Fourth District

Sign up for the Janice Journal:
Text **JANICE** to (562) 203-0711

THANK YOU

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES



For your
commitment toward
inclusion, equity,
and accessibility
for all.

On behalf of
the County of
Los Angeles and
the First District,
and in recognition
of Disability Awareness
Month, it is
my pleasure
to support the

**28th Annual
Access Awards!**



Sign-Up for my
newsletter at:

www.HildaLSolis.org

Follow me:



@HildaSolis

Congratulations Pietro Rosetti!



Thank you for your dedication
to uplifting and empowering
our community with disabilities!



Kathryn
BARGER

5th District Supervisor • County of Los Angeles



@SupervisorBarger



@KathrynBarger

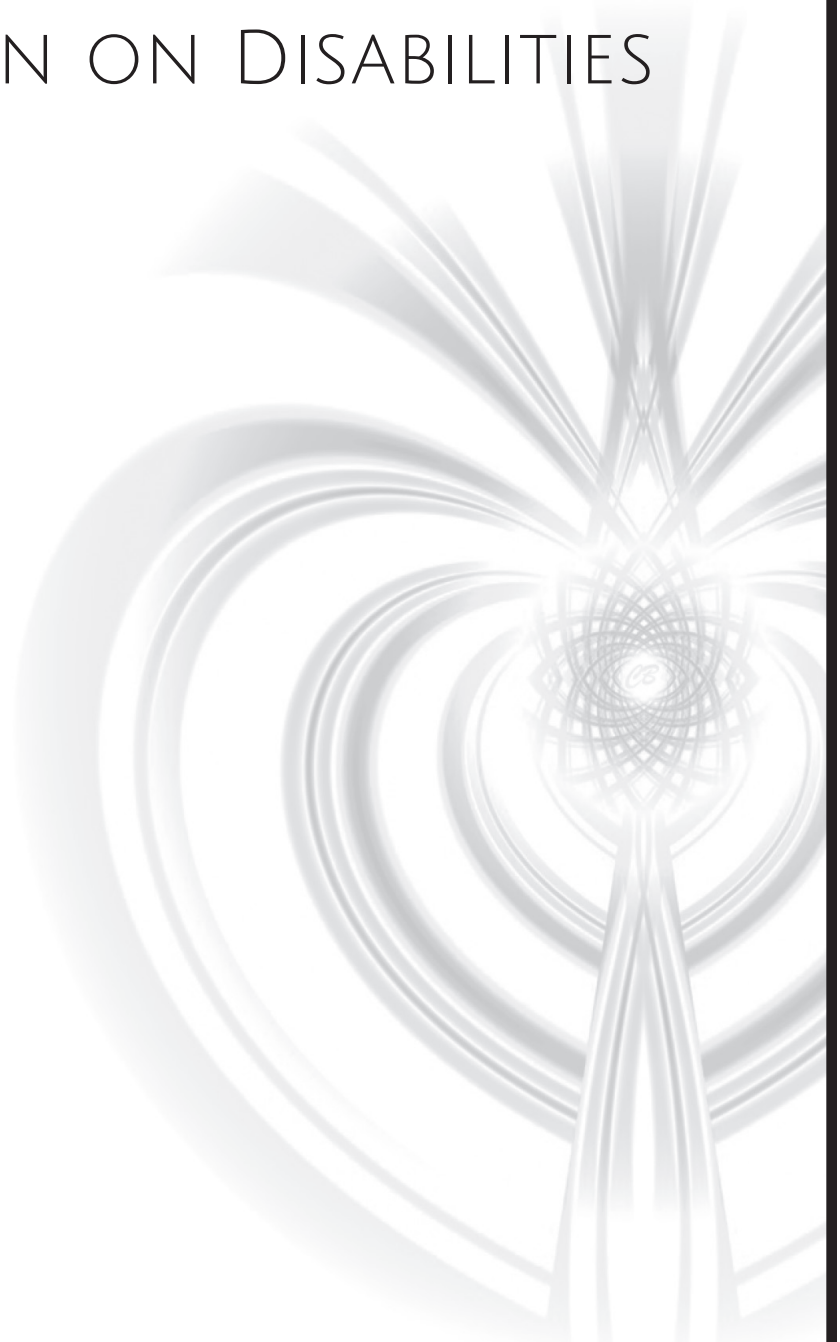


@SupervisorKathrynBarger



KathrynBarger.LACounty.gov

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THIS YEAR'S AWARD HONOREES
FROM THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES





Is Proud to Support the 28th Annual Access Awards Luncheon

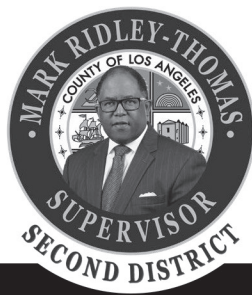
We look forward to continued engagement with community partners to increase access to transportation for our disability community.

**Lyft's Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) Service
Operates from 7am to Midnight - 7 Days a Week.**

*Just toggle on "Wheelchair Access"
in Settings and take a ride with us!
Pick-ups and drop-offs for WAV
service are currently limited to LA
county during our pilot program.*



THE HEART OF DISABILITIES



Congratulations

Mark Anthony Campoy
2nd District Honoree

**28th Annual
Access Awards
Luncheon**

Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

<http://ridley-thomas.lacounty.gov>
MarkRidley-Thomas@bos.lacounty.gov



**Access Services supports
the County Commission on
Disabilities and congratulates
today's honorees!**

Access is proud to have recently introduced the following services:

- > **Where's My Ride** – Allows riders to check the location of a vehicle before their scheduled pick-up time and to "rate their ride" after.
- > **Online Reservations** – A new system that allows the rider to manage upcoming trips with Access using a smart device or desktop computer.
- > **Online Eligibility** – Apply for Access online!

access Access Services accessla.org

Today we honor
New Horizons
for their incredible
contributions towards
promoting equality and
accessibility for people
with disabilities



Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl

We are Wayfinder.



Helping children,
youth and adults
reach their greatest
potential.



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Wayfinder
FAMILY SERVICES

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SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities extend their special appreciation to our sponsors and all those who helped make this a successful event.

Sponsors

Gold Sponsor

Supervisor Janice Hahn, Fourth District,
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Bronze Sponsor

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District,
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Scholarship Sponsor

Louise E. Smith, Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

Event Ticket Sponsors

Cathy Gott
Marsha D. Mitchell-Bray
Peggie Reyna
Louise E. Smith

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Carlos Benavides, President of Commission on Disabilities

Centerpiece Design by:

Bianca's Party Supply

Plaque Awards by:

House of Trophies

Invocation by:

Sister Jeanmarie Chavez, OSF

Presentation of Colors by:

Los Angeles County Fire Department Honor Guards

National Anthem by:

Omoze Osagiede

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Executive Office, Board of Supervisors Photo Unit

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Office of Emergency Management**

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of Workforce Development, Aging & Community Services**

Access Services, Inc.

Bradford Renaissance Portraiture

Cathy Gott

Hornblower Cruises & Events

**Island Packers –
Channel Islands National Park**

Rowley Portraiture

Skirball Cultural Center

So Cal Burgers Chill & Grill

Southern California Gas Company

DISABLED... DOES NOT MEAN UNABLE



LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

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