



S|V|I|C

#WorkingBetterTogether

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**JAMES WALL**

Executive Director, SACA



## INDUSTRY PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderated by John Gonzalez



## ADAM PECK & CHRIS ZEITZ

Grant Opportunities

# 5TH ANNUAL SOUTH VALLEY INDUSTRIAL SUMMIT

October 7, 2022  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

West Hills College  
555 College Ave.  
Lemoore, CA 93245

815-353-0760 

[Southvalleyindcollaborative@gmail.com](mailto:Southvalleyindcollaborative@gmail.com) 

[southvalleyindustrialcollaborative.org](http://southvalleyindustrialcollaborative.org) 



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## Letter from our Chairman



We are excited to collaborate in person again for the first time in a few years. Although many changes have occurred in the way that we work and the way that we connect with each other, one consistency remains: we are better when we work together no matter the method of communication!

With our desire to engage more industry and service organizations within our region, we are thrilled to be hosted by West Hills College Lemoore in Kings County. Their campus is a testament to educators listening to the voices of industry, pursuing investments in technology, and developing curriculum to meet the needs of their community.

As we look back at the partnership work of the last year we are excited to see the investments being made in our region and thrilled to be part of support organizations that will continue to connect community members to opportunities for education, training, and ultimately good paying jobs.

Representatives of Kings, Fresno, Madera and Tulare county organizations came together to support a grant application under the Good Jobs Challenge. The lead entity Fresno Economic Development Corporation submitted the Built 4 Scale initiative: a project that aims to bolster and diversify an economy still dominant in agriculture by placing residents into high-quality jobs in four growth industries. Those industries are Professional and Financial Services; Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics; Manufacturing; Building and Construction. They were awarded a \$23 million dollar grant to further the cause.

The Central San Joaquin Valley K-16 has received a four-year grant of \$18.13 million to strengthen education-to-workforce pathways and ensure that partners address income, racial, and gender inequalities in education and employment. The Partnership is a collaboration between the Fresno-Madera K-16 Collaborative and TCOE's Tulare-Kings College + Career Collaborative (TKCCC) – one of only six collaboratives to receive the state's maximum award.

More investment is expected through the Community Economic Resilience Fund. CERF was created to promote a sustainable and equitable recovery from the economic distress of COVID-19 by supporting new plans and strategies to diversify local economies and develop sustainable industries that create high-quality, broadly accessible jobs for all Californians. Our same four counties were designated a region under this project and work has been submitted for the \$5 million dollar planning phase.



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The implementation of the inland port concept in California supports a wide range of State and local community public policy objectives, including a significant improvement in economic competitiveness, a substantial decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, and a sizable reduction in highway congestion in the Central San Joaquin Valley.

Central Valley Community Foundation F3 - Future of Food also received a \$65 million award.

These awards are proof that we have a region capable of working together to ensure that our communities thrive. This marks the beginning of the real work that needs to be done in the coming years. Work that requires industry input and engagement to ensure we remain a globally competitive location for manufacturing and industrial jobs.

Rodney Wilson  
SVIC Chairman of the Board  
Distribution Manager, Electric Motor Shop

# TOGETHER INDUSTRY STRONG

## SOUTH VALLEY INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATIVE (SVIC)

**Vision:** Vibrant Partnerships, Vibrant Industries, Vibrant Communities.

**Mission:** The South Valley Industrial Collaborative (SVIC) is a partnership for Community Excellence whose purpose is to provide a platform to build industry-led, industry-driven, and community supported partnerships to strengthen economies in the South San Joaquin Valley.

**Purpose of the Summit:** The Industrial Summit provides SVIC partners and community the opportunity to come together on an annual basis to learn about innovative industries that are growing in the region, to attend informational and educational breakout sessions, to engage in B2B networking.

The Industrial Summit depends on sponsorship and support from industry partners and community members. Your support of the South Valley Industrial Summit demonstrates the support for the industry to ensure industries continue to grow, create jobs, and are able to compete in the national and global markets.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and look forward to partnering with you in support of our South Valley Industries!

Questions: Rodney Wilson

[rodney.wilson@electricmotorshop.com](mailto:rodney.wilson@electricmotorshop.com)

559-250-3614

The logo for SVIC (San Valley Industrial Council) features the letters S, V, I, and C in a bold, sans-serif font, each contained within its own square box. The boxes are arranged in a horizontal row and are separated by vertical lines.

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## AGENDA

8:00 A.M.

**Registration & Vendor Showcase**

BLDG 200 Quad

9:00 A.M.

**Opening Ceremony**

Room 253

- James Preston President WHCC
- Kris Costa, Lisa Walsh, & Dax Brott

9:30 A.M.

**Morning Keynote**

- James Wall w/SACA – Employer Partnership, Certification & SACA

10:30 A.M.

**Break and Exhibits**

10:45 A.M.

**Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

- New CA Law Updates Room 239
- Automation Technology Room 238
- Community College Industrial Technology Programs Room 236
- Government Panel & Water Crisis Room 235

12:00 P.M.

**Lunch Break and Exhibits**

Room 253

12:30 P.M.

**Business Leader Panel Discussion**

1:15 P.M.

**Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

- New CA Law Updates Room 239
- Employer Apprenticeship Program Development Room 236
- Workforce Investment Board – Labor Market Update Room 235

2:30 P.M.

**Afternoon Keynote**

- Recent Wins (EDA) & Grant Funding Opportunities Room 253
- Adam Peck & Chris Zeitz

3:30 P.M.

**Closing Remarks, Raffle**

4:00 P.M.

**K16 & Education Partners Social Hour**

Room 811

Beverage Sponsors One Hope Wine and Firestone Walker



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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## RODNEY WILSON

Distribution Manager, Electric Motor Shop, Visalia, CA

The SVIC has been an exciting opportunity to connect with other like-minded businesses in the industrial community. Its allowing me to join forces with others to accomplish goals that may not be possible with a single voice. I am a huge advocate of building stronger community through workforce and training and retraining for new technologies.



## DAX BROTT

President & CEO, BMI, Tulare, CA

The Southern San Joaquin Valley is a diverse intersection of industries. Whether its agriculture, manufacturing, construction, or shipping and logistics – the one thing they all have in common is a reliance on manufacturing and industrial applications. We have the experience, talent and resources necessary for success. But it will be our continued appreciation and fostering of our interdependence as an industry-driven region that will allow us to remain globally competitive.



## CARMEN HERRERA

Human Resources Manager, Saputo Cheese USA Inc., Tulare, CA

Being part of the SVIC provides me with the opportunity to collaborate with other business leaders, educators, economic and workforce development agencies; creating opportunities to improve the skill set of our local workforce, support local business talent gaps and attract new businesses to the South San Joaquin Valley.



## MARISELA VALENZUELA

Human Resource Manager, Saputo Cheese USA, Inc., Tulare, CA

20 years in the HR Profession, I have worked in both the private and public sector. I have been with Saputo 3 ½ years and I am currently the HR Manager at the Tulare-Paige Facility. I love my profession making a positive impact in someone's life is very rewarding. I strive to be seen as a true Business Partner



## LISA WALSH

Director of the South Valley Industrial Collaborative

Beyond 25 years of industrial manufacturing experience, I have committed myself to mentoring and guiding young adults. I am an avid volunteer, Leadership Visalia alumni, Parks and Recreation commissioner, advisor for workforce and education as well as board member of the Visalia Parks & Recreation Foundation, Visalia Economic Development Corporation, Visalia Chamber of Commerce, and South Valley Industrial Collaborative. These volunteer opportunities have afforded me learning and growth opportunity beyond any of that achieved through traditional educational or work history.



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### JAMES WALL

Executive Director, Smart Automation Certification Alliance

James Wall is currently the Executive Director of the Smart Automation Certification Alliance (SACA). In that capacity, he is responsible for the development & deployment of the new SACA Skill Standards & Certifications. Jim has a background in education having been a faculty member at the Pennsylvania State University, Workforce Education & Development Program where he helped develop new career & technical education instructors. While at Penn State, he also directed a multi-year project to upgrade the metalworking programs across the state.



### CHRIS ZEITZ

Director of Special Projects, Fresno County Economic Development Corporation

Chris Zeitz is the Director of Special Projects for Fresno County Economic Development Corporation (EDC). In his current role, he is overseeing the early stages of implementation for the \$23 million awarded by the US Economic Development Administration to the region in the Good Jobs Challenge. He also works with local employers and Harvard Business School's Impact Weighted Accounts Initiative on reimagining competition for economic development investments by focusing on social impacts rather than lowest costs of doing business. He has also recently served as a part-time lecturer in Economic at Fresno State University. Prior to joining EDC, Chris worked at a community-based organization where he supported a variety of programs including a workforce development program, a program that partnered with Fresno County Department of Behavior Health, and several early childhood educational programs. He is also a US Army Veteran of the famed 101st Airborne Division.



### ADAM PECK

Executive Director, Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County

Adam has over 25 years of experience in the field of workforce development, the last 15 as the Executive Director of the Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County.

He is the past Chair of the California Workforce Association and in 2018 Governor Jerry Brown appointed him to the Board of Directors of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. He also serves as the Vice Chair of the City of Visalia Planning Commission.

Peck graduated in 2004 from California State University, Fresno with a Master of Arts in Public Administration. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the same institution in 1995.

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### S. BRETT SUTTON

Attorney and managing partner of Sutton Hague Law Corporation

Brett Sutton is an attorney and managing partner of Sutton Hague Law Corporation ([www.suttonhague.com](http://www.suttonhague.com)), which has offices in both Nevada and California. He has over thirty years of legal practice experience and is licensed to practice law in both states. He has trained thousands in all aspects of employment law. His firm conducts bi-monthly webinars on employment law topics for employers as well as podcasts available on iTunes as CalNeveLaw Podcasts. In 2016, he was inducted as a Fellow of the prestigious national College of Labor and Employment Lawyers and has the highest possible rating as a practicing attorney from Martindale-Hubbell.



### KRIS COSTA

Dean of Career Technical Education at West Hills College Lemoore

Kris Costa is the Dean of Career Technical Education at West Hills College Lemoore. She earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Cal Poly SLO, in Agriculture. Kris taught high school agriculture education for 7 years in Orange County and Visalia. She entered higher education in 2002, where her roles have included Tech Prep Coordinator, Director of Agriculture Programs, Articulation Liaison, Career Pathways Engagement Manager and Subject Matter Expert focusing on Early College Credit models, with various colleges and organizations. Kris joined the administrative team at West Hills College Lemoore in 2017. Since then, she has championed Career Technical Education in Kings County and has built new credit, noncredit, and apprenticeship programs to meet existing workforce gaps in the community.



### JONNA SCHENDEL

Dean of Career Technical Education, Workforce Development, Nursing and Allied Health, College of the Sequoias

My passion is workforce development and helping students find work in their field of training while supplying local employers with their workforce needs.



### AMY BAKER

Director of Apprenticeship Programs for West Hills College Lemoore

Amy Baker is the Director of Apprenticeship Programs for West Hills College Lemoore. In her position, Amy plans and directs all aspects of creating and overseeing registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs to include managing employer and student apprenticeship records, program standards, and rules and regulations in compliance with appropriate governmental agencies for West Hills College Lemoore. Amy holds a Masters in Educational Leadership and Administration from California State University, Fresno.



# Career Education

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- Bakersfield College
- Fresno City College
- Merced College
- San Joaquin Delta College
- West Hills College Lemoore

### Machining & Machine Tools

- Bakersfield College
- Fresno City College
- Modesto Junior College
- Reedley College
- San Joaquin Delta College

### Instrumentation Technology

- Bakersfield College
- College of the Sequoias
- Fresno City College
- Merced College

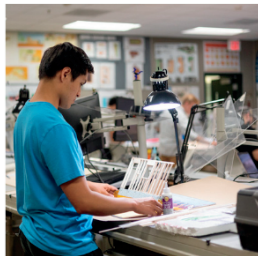
### Industrial Systems Technology & Maintenance (includes Automation/Mechatronics)

- Bakersfield College
- Clovis Community College
- College of the Sequoias
- Fresno City College
- Merced College
- Madera Community College
- Reedley College
- San Joaquin Delta College
- West Hills College Lemoore

For more information, please go to: [CRCCONSORTIUM.COM](http://CRCCONSORTIUM.COM) or contact Jessica Grimes, CRC Regional Chair; [jessica.grimes@crconsortium.com](mailto:jessica.grimes@crconsortium.com)



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- Animal Science
- Dairy Science
- Equine Science
- Food Safety Mgmt.
- Ornamental Horticulture
- Plant Science
- Veterinary Assisting



### BUILDING DESIGN, DRAFTING & CONSTRUCTION

- Architecture
- Construction Tech.
- Drafting Tech.
- Electrician Training
- Graphic design
- Landscape Design
- Landscape Mgmt.



### MACHINES, MANUFACTURING & CARS

- Ag Tech.
- Automotive Tech.
- Environmental Control Tech. (HVAC)
- Industrial Automation
- Industrial Maintenance Tech.
- Welding Tech.



### SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS

- Computer Programming & Information Systems
- Information Communication Tech.



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### DEVON MATHIS

Assemblyman, California's 26th Assembly District

Born and raised in the heart of California's central valley, graduating from Reedley High School in 2001, then joining the California Army National Guard where he served as Sergeant for nearly 10 years, including 2 combat tours to Iraq. During Devon's second tour in Iraq, he sustained major injuries from a road side bomb attack in 2008 which gained him a Purple Heart.

He graduated from Porterville City College with an AA in Social Science, from Fresno State University, with a BA in Public Administration, and George Washington University with a Master's degree in Professional Studies in Strategic Public Relations.

Currently serving as Vice Chair of the Agriculture Committee and serves on the Rules Committee, the Budget Subcommittee Number 1 on Health and Human Services, the Military and Veteran Affairs Committee, the Natural Resources Committee, the Government Organization Committee, and the Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee.



### LAURA MAGANA

Kings County Job Training Office

Laura Magana is a workforce professional with over 20 years at the Kings County Job Training Office. As a Business Service Manager, she seeks to build community relationships to provide workforce resources to new and existing businesses. Graduated from Chapman University, with a bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership. Engaging in community outreach by building relationships with economic leaders, chambers, education, and pathway programs, to create high road workforce opportunities.



### SENATOR SHANNON GROVE

State Senator

After graduating from high school, Senator Grove served in the United States Army. While stationed in Frankfurt, Germany she witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Following her service to our nation, she established a staffing company with her sister-in-law called Continental Labor and Staffing Resources. Senator Grove currently serves as the CEO.

Senator Grove was elected to represent the 16th Senate District which includes Kern, Tulare, and San Bernardino counties in November 2018. In January 2019 she was elected Leader of the Senate Republican Caucus. She is the first female veteran and third female to serve in the top leadership post of the Senate Republican Caucus.



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Executive Director,  
Visalia Economic Development Corp.  
ban1951@comcast.net

### **DEVON JONES**

Economic Development Manager  
City of Visalia  
devon.jones@visalia.city

**WWW.VISALIAEDC.COM**





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# BUSINESS LEADER PANEL DISCUSSION



## GARY GERMAINE

Vice President – Production Operations, Leprino Foods Company

Gary is the Vice President of Production Operations for Leprino Foods, a leading manufacturer of mozzarella cheese and nutrition products. He has been with the company for the past 12 years and he currently leads the Western Region production facilities in California and New Mexico. Before moving responsibilities to operations, Gary was the Vice President of Global Quality for Leprino Foods. He was responsible for the food safety and quality systems for all nine manufacturing facilities.



## MELANIE HELLWIG WHITE

President & CEO, Hellwig Products

Melanie Hellwig White is the president of Hellwig Products. Founded in 1946, Hellwig Products manufactures forged steel suspension products for a variety of vehicles including recreational vehicles, trucks, and SUVs and is an OE supplier for Oshkosh, Freightliner, and the United States military. Family-owned and operated, Hellwig Products is based in Visalia, California and has been manufacturing in California's Central Valley for nearly 60 years.



## VONN CHRISTENSON

Chief Executive Officer, ZeroNox

Vonn R. Christenson is an original founder and the Chief Executive Officer of ZeroNox. Mr. Christenson obtained a Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School in 2006, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics magna cum laude with Honors from Brigham Young University in 2003. Mr. Christenson was born and raised in Porterville, California, where ZeroNox's headquarters are located. Having a passion for his local community, Mr. Christenson returned to Porterville to help support his hometown community, and ZeroNox is an important part of that effort.

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**Industry-driven,**

**Community-supported,**

**Partnerships**

**Connecting Businesses &**

**Support Organizations**

Join our regional efforts  
to sustain a globally  
Competitive location  
for manufacturing  
& industrial jobs.



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5th Annual South Valley Industrial Summit

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The logo consists of the letters S, V, I, and C, each enclosed in a vertical rectangular box, with a thin horizontal line connecting the boxes at the top and bottom.


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A photograph of a modern industrial manufacturing facility with stainless steel equipment, pipes, and a worker in a blue uniform in the background. The image is partially obscured by geometric shapes: a white triangle in the top left, a white triangle in the top right, a large blue triangle in the bottom left, and a large orange triangle in the bottom right.

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**SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY OCTOBER 6, 2023**