



2025 CEAC AWARDS

HYATT REGENCY - NEWPORT BEACH, CA



Outstanding EAC Coordinator



Outstanding EAC Chairperson



Outstanding EAC



Outstanding Veterans' Committee



Distinguished Service



Cal Farmer Award

AWARD CATEGORIES

NOMINATIONS*

1. Covers 1 year period
2. April 1st through March 31st
3. Nomination forms posted on CEAC website
4. Completed and submitted to the CEAC Awards Committee
5. Nominations sent to the Judging panel for voting

* Exception: Cal Farmer Award



JUDGING PANEL PREVIOUS YEAR AWARD WINNERS



EAC COORDINATOR

- For the EACs: A “VIP”
 - A EDD Staff Member
 - A EAC Board Member





**CONGRATULATIONS
TO**

**CHRISTOPHER
MCGANN**

WEST LA EAC

**EAC COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR
(2025)**

CHRISTOPHER MCGANN

Christopher goes above and beyond his role as Coordinator to ensure that the West Los Angeles EAC is being run as smoothly as possible. He takes on tasks without waiting to be asked. He also volunteers to assist the Council members in facilitating seminars and meetings and plays an important role in marketing the Council to employers and community members.

His contributions are pivotal because of the lack of in-person and virtual activities during the pandemic resulted in a decrease in participation in membership and attendance at planned events. Christopher has helped bridge this decline through his contributions.

He has helped the Council coordinate 4 seminars with over 270 attendees, which is a substantial increase over the same period from the previous year. He continues to look for new ways to help the Council shine and we are thankful for his total investment in improving the effectiveness of the West Los Angeles EAC employer engagement.

EAC CHAIRPERSON

- ✓ Leads the EAC
- ✓ Represents the EAC
- ✓ Ensures the success of the EAC
- ✓ Partners with the EDD
- ✓ Serves the Employer Community
- ✓ Adheres to the Bylaws
- ✓ Fiscal responsibility
- ✓ Ethical responsibility
- ✓ Inclusive
- ✓ ...and more



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO
DAWN DISHER**

**DESERT
COMMUNITIES
EAC**

**OUTSTANDING EAC
CHAIRPERSON
AWARD (2025)**



DAWN DISHER: PRESIDENT/DESERT COMMUNITIES EAC

Dawn's leadership over the past 4 years has been nothing short of transformative, marked by significant growth, increased engagement, and impactful enhancements to our programming. She answered the call to help post-Covid when the long-time President Anita Marlowe retired.

Under Dawn's leadership, the DCEAC has experienced a remarkable revitalization. One of her most notable achievements has been the significant increase in the monthly meeting attendance and engagement during 2024 and into 2025. Dawn's proactive outreach combined with a focus on providing compelling topics and speakers resulted in a substantial increase in attendance. This fostered a stronger sense of community among our members.

Dawn has cultivated a truly engaged and active Board of Directors. She has fostered a culture of shared responsibility and encouraged active participation from each board member. Through clear communication, delegation of tasks, and a willingness to be creative, Dawn empowered the board to contribute their unique skills and expertise effectively. This led to a more dynamic and productive board with a focus on providing local business leaders with the HR knowledge needed to successfully manage their business in these challenging times.

Dawn championed the introduction of new and relevant topics and facilitated more interactive sessions. Dawn's leadership is characterized by her vision, her dedication, and her unwavering commitment to the success of the DCEAC and its members. She fosters a positive and collaborative environment.

EMPLOYER ADVISORY COUNCIL (EAC)

- Approximately 40 EACs throughout CA
- Each local Employer Advisory Council provides employment-related seminars to educate and further the knowledge of Employers in the community.
- Partners with the local EDD offices and shares the EDD services to the local Employers.
- Adheres to Bylaws
- Overseen by the State California Employer Advisory Council (CEAC)



DESERT COMMUNITIES EAC



Our area includes the greater Coachella Valley (Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, Thousand Palms, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, Indio, Coachella, Thermal, Mecca, Desert Center), Morongo Valley, Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree, Twentynine Palms, the High Desert communities and Blythe



- Our goal is to promote a better working relationship with EDD and the Workforce Development Center in our area, to network with one another, and to provide continuing educational information to our members and the community at large
- Every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 8:30am, we have in person educational seminars at the EDD office in Indio.

**Special “shout out” to the EAC
Coordinator: Felicia Simonsen (EDD)**

**12 Events
+ HR Recertification Credits +**

OUTSTANDING VETERANS' COMMITTEE

1. What actions has the EAC Veterans Committee taken to encourage and support the veterans?
2. How has the EAC Veterans Committee educated employers regarding the advantages and benefits of hiring veterans?
3. How has the EAC encouraged a close working relationship with local/state office veteran representatives?



OUTSTANDING EAC VETERANS' COMMITTEE



West Los Angeles EAC

Local Veterans Employment Committee

- **Committee Members**

- **Chair:**

- David Uyematsu, EDD LVER

- **Members:**

- Dinah White, WLEAC President, Compton Lives Matter Member
- Silvia Maron, WLEAC Treasurer, Compton Lives Matter Member
- Aaron Thumb, PVJOBS Sr Program Manager
- Sterling Barbour, Revolution National Pest Council President
- Tova Barbour, VAGA President

WEST LA EAC VETERANS' COMMITTEE

- Dedicated to educating employers and community stakeholders in serving disadvantaged veterans and transitioning military members of all branches of service, by helping remove barriers that may prevent them from obtaining life sustaining employment.

Hosted veteran's workshops and orientations to increase awareness of services and benefits designed to increase veterans' employability or life sustaining veterans' benefits.

2024: they hosted/sponsored/participated in over 25 in-person or virtual veteran events including the 2024 National Apprenticeship Awareness event with over 100 attendees.

They participated in several Veterans' Stand-Down events including Compton and Los Angeles.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

- ✓ Lifetime Award
- ✓ Strong and cooperative support toward the goals of his/her local EAC and the CEAC
- ✓ Active EAC Member
- ✓ Exceptional Contributions
- ✓ Goes beyond
- ✓ 110% +



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO
TAMMY ELKINS**

**10-YEAR
BOARD MEMBER
(CHAIRPERSON, BOARD
MEMBER, ETC.)**

HEMET/TEMECULA EAC

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
AWARD (2025)**



TAMMY ELKINS: HEMET/TEMECULA EAC

Tammy has been an active member of the HTEAC for at least 10 years, and a board member for over 7 years. Tammy is the HR Manager for a local electronics company. She is very dedicated to the EAC program, volunteering for the position of Chairperson from 2022 to present.

After the “COVID Years”, Tammy had been most instrumental in reviving the “in-person” seminars offered by the HTEAC. She is the “Speaker Coordinator” for this EAC and acquires the speakers for each of the 4 in-person seminars conducted annually. She keeps abreast of new laws and legislation which affect businesses, and therefore, can offer insight as to the latest issues affecting businesses.

In addition to obtaining the speakers for our events, Tammy also submits requests to have HRCI & SHRM credits offered for attending the HTEAC seminars. She completes the Certificates of Attendance for the seminars, so attendees can apply for these credits. She schedules and presides over all HTEAC monthly board meetings and seminars with knowledge and expertise. She is a great moderator for the presentations!

Tammy keeps up to date on current employment laws and requirements. She schedules monthly online board meetings, is focused, and keeps the board on track. **This HTEAC could not be nearly as successful without her leadership.** She is very deserving of this award.



CAL FARMER AWARD

- Established in 2015
- Cal Farmer served various positions on the Board for more than 30 years. He primarily represented the Veteran community. The Cal Farmer award, given originally to him, was to acknowledge the service, dedication and commitment to the CEAC
- Winner selected by the CEAC President
- For: Exceptional contributions to the CEAC

CAL FARMER AWARD WINNERS



- 2015: Cal Farmer
- 2016: Naomi Hamamoto (retired EDD)
- 2017: Stu Lerner (Orange County EAC)
- 2018: Laura Harris (CEAC Past President)
- 2019: Alex Hill (Webmaster)
- 2020: Bruce Matlock (Labor Law Attorney)
- 2021: (none)
- 2022: Hope Sandoval (CEAC Past President)
- 2023: Mary Williams (CEAC Secretary)
- 2024: Jennie Wong (CEAC Region 6 Co-VP)

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO**

STEVEN HUHTA

**(CEAC VETERANS
COMMITTEE)**

CAL FARMER AWARD (2025)



STEVEN HUHTA

2025 CAL FARMER AWARD



For over a decade, Steve Huhtha has been a steadfast pillar of the CEAC, taking on the duties once held by our beloved Cal Farmer Veterans Committee. Steve ensures that every year, the CEAC and the Employer community come together to recognize businesses that honor U.S. veterans through positive policies in hiring, promotion, employee retention, ongoing training, and benefits. His meticulous attention to detail and unwavering commitment are evident as he combs through the nominations with a dedicated committee to select our winners. His volunteer time and effort are truly appreciated, and his dedication serves as an inspiration to us all.

- In recognition of his outstanding service and dedication, it is our great honor to announce that Steve Huhtha will be receiving the President's Cal Farmer Award this year. This prestigious award is a testament to his exceptional contributions and the lasting impact he has made on the CEAC. Thank you, Steve, for your dedication, passion, and unwavering support.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE 2025 CEAC AWARD WINNERS

