



MONIQUE LIMÓN
CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR

Women OF THE Year

Liliana Encinas

City of Santa Barbara/LISTOS National Program | Public Outreach Coordinator

Liliana Encinas serves as the Bilingual (English/Spanish) Public Outreach Coordinator for the Santa Barbara City Fire Department, and the LISTOS National Program Director for the Fire Services Training Institute (FSTI).

Mrs. Encinas is a devoted mother of four, who cherishes her time spent with her family and actively engages in volunteerism across various community-based organizations and educational institutions.

With a career spanning over fifteen years, Ms. Encinas' professional journey includes pivotal leadership roles such as Director of the Family Resource Center at La Casa de La Raza Cesar E. Chavez Center, as well as the Aware & Prepare Latino Initiatives and Outreach Coordinator for the County of Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Management.

Mrs. Encinas prioritizes enhancing emergency public education and disseminating vital information, fostering strong connections with the Latino community. Her immigration from Mexico to the United States enriches her dedication to serving diverse populations through outreach, social welfare, programmatic advancements, and holistic well-being promotion.

Margie Yahyavi (posthumous)

Santa Barbara Education Foundation | Former Executive Director

Margie Yahyavi passed away peacefully in Santa Barbara on Sunday, January 28th, 2024, with her loving family by her side.

Margie was born in Sebring, Florida, in 1955. At the young age of five, Margie and her family moved to Santa Barbara, a place that would become her lifelong home and the canvas for her extraordinary contributions.

Recognizing the power of education and the arts to transform lives, she became a formidable force within the Santa Barbara education system. Her leadership with the Santa Barbara Education Foundation became her mission and legacy in Santa Barbara — a testament to her belief in the potential of every child and the community's future.

Margie Yahyavi's journey with the Santa Barbara Education Foundation (SBEF) began in 2010 when she took on the role of the organization's only part-time employee with an annual budget of \$300,000. Over the years, her passion and commitment helped SBEF grow to new heights, with an expanded team, an annual budget of \$2.5 million, and a portfolio of ten signature programs and 14 fiscally sponsored programs providing essential services to Santa Barbara students.

Yahyavi's vision extended beyond SBEF, creating a collaborative spirit that uplifted the entire educational community. She secured funding for literacy intervention programs, initiated grants for teachers, and raised emergency funds to help students and families bridge the digital divide during the challenging times of the pandemic. Yahyavi's strategic efforts also supported and collaborated with the Santa Barbara Unified School District, piloting and launching literacy intervention programs, grant programs for teachers, and an emergency fund that provided Wi-Fi access for students and their families during the pandemic.

Under her leadership, SBEF saw significant growth in funding and programs. Yahyavi also led advocacy for bond and parcel tax measures resulting in \$193 million in support of improved student learning and infrastructure investment for the Santa Barbara Unified School District.

During her 12-year tenure as the Executive Director for the Santa Barbara Education Foundation, Margie made a lasting impact in the Santa Barbara community. She championed music education in the Santa Barbara Unified School District, ensuring access to instruments and music programs for all students. Margie was instrumental in focusing efforts on critical areas such as literacy, recognizing the importance of reading proficiency and teacher development in shaping a brighter future for every student. Each initiative she touched was infused with her spirit of generosity and a relentless drive to uplift and empower others.

She left the Foundation in an improved financial position, with a recent \$4 million bequest that will provide long-term sustainability and support. Throughout her journey with SBEF, Yahyavi worked with the community and built relationships with donors who understand the value of investing in education.

Margie's life was a symphony of love, generosity, and community—a melody that will resonate forever within the hearts of those she touched.

JoAnne Meade Young

Educator | Retired Principal

JoAnne Meade Young was born and raised in Hamilton, Ohio. She served as Principal in four elementary schools in Goleta, California and retired as Principal of Ellwood School after a seventeen-year career in June, 2007.

Prior to assuming her first principal position at Mountain View School in Goleta, JoAnne served as Principal of Dunbar Hill School in Hamden Connecticut for three years. Her career began as an elementary school teacher and included the positions of Primary Language Development Specialist, Library Media Specialist, Instructional Consultant, Director of the Goleta State Preschool, & Principal.

Presently, JoAnne serves on the board of the Democratic Women of Santa Barbara County as Treasurer & Co-Chair of Membership. She serves on the Commission for Women representing District 2 and was most recently elected to the Democratic Central Committee as a District 2 representative. JoAnne was a founding member of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee and served on the Board of the Family Services Agency.

JoAnne received her B.S, in Elementary Education from The Ohio State University, her M.A. in Reading from the University of Iowa, her M.A. in Supervision and Administration from Southern Connecticut State University, and her M.A. in Tier II Supervision and Administration from UCSB.

She has been married to Michael Young for 47 years and lived in Santa Barbara for 34 years. Her hobbies include creating ceramic sculptures & masks, designing & making earrings, and gardening,

Elvia Salazar

Planned Parenthood | Spanish Language Promotora

Elvia Salazar is an outstanding community leader and educator. She has demonstrated exceptional dedication to her community in Santa Maria and a tireless commitment to providing comprehensive sex education over the last seven years as a PPCCC Promotora Community Health Educator.

In her role as a Spanish language Promotora Community Educator, Elvia has consistently shown an unparalleled passion for addressing critical issues related to sexual health and education in her community. Her ability to approach these sensitive subjects with empathy, expertise, and cultural sensitivity has been nothing short of remarkable. Through her efforts, she has not only served as a valuable resource for the Santa Maria community but has also been a catalyst for change, advocating for a healthier and more informed community.

Throughout her seven years, Elvia has led numerous community Cafecitos and outreach events that have directly benefited the community. She has played a pivotal role in breaking down barriers, dispelling myths, reducing stigma, and fostering an open and supportive environment for individuals seeking information about sexual health. Her dedication to promoting safer practices and ensuring individuals have access to accurate information has undoubtedly had a significant and positive impact. She is an exceptional teacher and exudes warmth, empathy, and enthusiasm.

Elvia Salazar is a community trailblazer and advocate for sexual health education. Her unwavering commitment to providing vital information to the Latinx community has empowered individuals to make informed decisions about their sexual health.

Planned Parenthood is exceptionally proud of the work she has accomplished in the last seven years and look forward to her continued contributions to their mission. Her dedication to fostering a more informed, healthy, and empowered community is an inspiration to us all.

Dr. Leah Stokes

UCSB Anton Vonk | Associate Professor of Environment

Dr. Leah Stokes is a policy expert with nearly two decades of experience working on climate and energy, including championing a federal Clean Electricity Standard. She has four degrees, including her doctorate from MIT, and was recently recognized on the 2022 TIME100 Next and Business Insider Climate Action 30 lists.

Leah is conversant in a wide variety of climate and energy topics, including public policy, political science, planning, and psychology. Her recent award-winning book *Short Circuiting Policy* examines why we are behind on climate action, telling the history of fossil fuel companies and electric utilities promoting climate denial and delay. She is the Anton Vonk Associate Professor of Environmental Politics at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a senior policy consultant at Evergreen Action and Rewiring America. Her academic work is published in top journals and is widely read and cited.