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DIANA SANCHEZ ANNOUNCED AS 2021 FERNANDO RECIPIENT

Sherman Oaks, CA - The Board of Directors of the Fernando Award Foundation announced Diana Sanchez as the recipient of the 63rd Annual Fernando Award on November 5th at the Skirball Cultural Center.

During Sanchez's acceptance remarks, she said, "I'm honored and humbled to be selected as the Fernando award recipient." She also recognized her fellow finalists, shared her appreciation to her employer and dedicated the award to the memory of her late mother, late wife and to anyone who has fought cancer.

Sanchez, Public & Community Relations Director for the Los Angeles World Airports – Van Nuys, was nominated for this year's Fernando Award by the Encino Chamber of Commerce and the Mid-Valley YMCA. One of her nominators described her as "the consummate volunteer that every organization wishes they could clone. She is always the first to volunteer for a project or event." She has been involved with many organizations including the Mid-Valley YMCA, Encino Chamber of Commerce, Valley Presbyterian Hospital, Valley Family Center, Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce, The Valley Economic Alliance, Greater Van Nuys Rotary and Valley Cultural Center.

Sanchez was among five award finalists for this year's award. The other four finalists include Tamara Gurney, CEO of Mission Valley Bank, Carol Loweree, North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, Louise Oliver, Regional Operations Officer, Goodwill Industries and Kathleen Sterling, Publisher, Valley News Group.

The five finalists were chosen from 16 nominations, one of the largest group of nominees the organization has ever received. The full list of nominees includes, Paula Bahamon of Mission Valley Bank, Cindy Chernow of Chernow Consulting, Timothy Gaspar of Gaspar Insurance Services Inc., Kim Guard of Express Employment Professionals, Jeri Dye Lynch of the Conor Lynch Foundation, Kashmira Omar of Unique Individuals, Jorge Rabaso of the Office of Jorge Rabaso, Tammy Scher of Forgotten Treasures, Irene Tovar of Latin American Civic Association, David Tuckman of U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security and, Gustavo Valdespino of Valley Presbyterian Hospital.

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The Fernando Award Foundation was founded in 1958 and is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt community organization. The Fernando Award is considered the highest award presented for volunteer leadership and philanthropy in the San Fernando Valley. Since its first award gala held in 1958, 61 community and business leaders have been named Fernando recipients. The 2021 Fernando board members include: Paul Davis, David Honda, Marian Jocz, Mark Levinson, Pegi Matsuda, Bruce Miller, Walter Mosher, Mike Quiroga, Thor Steingraber, Dale Surowitz and Mark Villasenor.

For more information about the Fernando Award Foundation, visit www.fernandoawards.org.

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