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For Immediate Release

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**SANTA BARBARA SOUTH COAST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CARPINTERIA COMMUNITY
AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED AT ANNUAL GALA**

Carpinteria, CA - Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce celebrated the Carpinteria community with its 63rd Annual Community Awards Gala this past Saturday, March 12th, at Rincon Beach Club. This event was an amazing evening recognizing award winners for both 2020 and 2021, as the event was delayed due to COVID.

The Community Awards Gala honors individuals whose contributions have enhanced the Carpinteria community. This year's inspiring honorees included Educators of the Year Ryan Ethington, Carolyn Haines, and Kate Guede. *Mr. Ethington* was recognized as the 2020 Secondary School Educator. As the Carpinteria Middle School Art Teacher, Mr. Ethington has also been an adjunct professor at Westmont College teaching Art Principles and Art for Children and Adolescence. Working with young artists has inspired him to pursue work with non-profits and communities. *Ms. Haines* was recognized as the 2021 Elementary School Educator. She earned her master's degree in Education and began substitute teaching in Carpinteria where she fell in love with the elementary classroom and students. She earned her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and now teaches at Canalino School. *Ms. Guede* was recognized as the 2021 Secondary School Educator. For the past 16 years, she has taught Spanish and AVID at Carpinteria High School (CHS). She is one of four AVID teachers at CHS, a program designed to support first generation college students to pursue an education beyond high school. She has also served as Department Chair and Advisor for the California Scholastic Federation.

The Chamber proudly announced Eduardo Vences from Carpinteria High School as the Jr. Carpinterian of the Year. He is an impressive scholar with over a 4.5 GPA, has been President of Spanish Club, President of Celebrating Adversity, Diversity and Education (CADE), and President of Future Leaders of America. Eduardo has taken part in both Track and Field and Cross Country throughout his high school career and was named Most Valuable player for both. He also received awards for excelling in Spanish and Math honors classes and has received the Academic Excellence Award every year of high school and conducted countless hours of community service. Eduardo Vences will be awarded a \$4000 scholarship.

The Jr. Carpinterian of the Year Scholarship finalists included Kate Cooney - CHS, and Sierra Mayoral - CHS, who will each receive \$1,500 scholarships.

The night ended with the announcement of the 2020 and 2021 Carpinterians of the Year. Beth Cox was celebrated as the 2020 honoree for her outstanding fundraising and volunteer efforts, supporting organizations such as the American Cancer Society, the Rotary Club of Carpinteria Morning, the new Carpinteria Skate Park, the Food Bank, the Carpinteria Children's Project, Girls Inc. of Carpinteria, The Alcazar Theatre, Carpinteria Education Foundation, Carpinteria Boys & Girls Club, and the Lynda Fairly Art Center. She quickly put her skills to use during the pandemic, through her work with the 93013 Fund and adding the Paddle Out component to the Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

Clyde Freeman, the 2021 Carpinterian of the Year, was honored for his many positions among community organizations, including roles as President, Board Member, Committee member, Fundraiser, and Volunteer for, among others, Carpinteria Education Foundation, Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce, Carpinteria Beautiful, Girls Inc., Carpinteria Arts Center and the Carpinteria Valley Historical Museum. In addition, in his tenure with Montecito Bank and Trust, he guided many local non-profits in being recipients of the bank's annual one million dollar fund distribution.

Sponsors also made the event a success. These included: CARP Growers, Coast Supply Co., Rincon Beach Club & Catering along with Agilent Technologies, Bega North America, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, Chevron, City of Carpinteria, Community West Bank, Cox Communications, E.J. Harrison & Sons, Inc., ExxonMobil, Hickey Bros. Land Co., Inc., Latitude34 Technologies, LinkedIn, Marborg Industries, Montecito Bank & Trust, Pacifica Graduate Institute, Plains All American Pipeline, Santa Barbara



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