



WHO ARE WE

# VINEYARD TEAM

MEMBERSHIP  
& EVENTS



PODCAST



SIP  
CERTIFIED



SUSTAINABLE  
AG EXPO



SCHOLARSHIP



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

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WHO ARE WE

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WHO ARE WE



*"We can do well by doing good."*

- Don Ackerman,  
*A Vineyard Team Founder*

While "sustainable" is a common term in agriculture today, this was not the case in 1994, when a small group of vineyard growers got together on California's Central Coast to talk about critical resource concerns like safe pest management, soil quality, and farmworker training.

Nearly 30 years later, that small group of growers has expanded to include hundreds more, representing over 80,000 vineyard acres. They are members of our non-profit organization, Vineyard Team.

We continue to uphold the original growers' mission: bringing together experienced growers and researchers to educate the industry on sustainable winegrowing practices.

Today, sustainability is accessible to growers across the globe through in-field meetings, digital resources, and third-party certification. We are proud to help facilitate accessibility to all farmers and agriculture professionals.

[CLICK HERE](#)

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Vukmanic, Beth. *"Lessons From Sustainable Vineyard Farmers."*  
**Grape & Wine Magazine**, Jan. 2023



WHO ARE WE



## How Does Being a Vineyard Team Member Help You?

- In-field and online education from researchers and experienced growers.
- DPR and CCA approved Continuing Education hours.
- Discounts to the Sustainable Ag Expo; Booth for Business Members.
- Industry representation for a variety of regulatory and community issues.
- Discounted application fees for SIP Certified.

MEMBERSHIP

## You Can Join as a Business or Grower/Winery!

Network with like-minded farmers and ag professionals + get FREE tickets to all of our Tailgate meetings.

- **Business Member:**
  - Network directly with upper-level agricultural decision-makers.
  - Exhibit at the Sustainable Ag Expo (\$1500 tier and up).
- **Grower / Winery:**
  - Discounts to the Sustainable Ag Expo.
  - Drive ongoing research and education about sustainable viticulture.



Executive Director

*Beth Vukmanic*

- Joined Vineyard Team in 2009.
- Graduated from Cal Poly with a B.A. of Science in Agribusiness, Marketing Concentration and minor in Music.
- Not-so-secret passion: Being a HIIT instructor - check out her Bethercize videos, both awesome and intimidating!
- Fun fact: Beth has the travel bug. She's been to over 20 countries.

[beth@vineyardteam.org](mailto:beth@vineyardteam.org)

# TAILGATES

Learn more about sustainable vineyard practices!

Hear from experts and growers on a given topic; from irrigation to pest management, soil health, safety training, and more.

Bonus!  
Earn Continuing Education hours for DPR and CCA licenses at many of the meetings.



WHO ARE WE



Vineyard Team members get  
**2 FREE tickets**

to every Tailgate meeting!

*\*Non-member price \$30/ticket*

**CLICK HERE**

to visit our website for more information about memberships.

Outreach & Education Coordinator

*Hayli Macomber*

- Joined Vineyard Team in 2023.
- Has a B.A. in International Relations and over 17 years of experience in customer service & hospitality.
- Not-so-secret passion: Plants - she has 74 ... inside her house!
- Fun fact: Hayli dabbles in interior design/decorating and flipped a vintage trailer.

[hayli@vineyardteam.org](mailto:hayli@vineyardteam.org)





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## PODCAST

In the time it takes to drive from one vineyard to another, you can listen to in-depth technical information on topics like integrated pest management, fruit quality, water conservation, and nutrient management.

The Sustainable Winegrowing podcast brings you the latest science and research in the wine industry from the world's top experts and experienced growers.

### LISTEN IN!

1. Search for Sustainable Winegrowing on your podcast player.
2. Click subscribe so that you never miss an episode.
3. Use your new knowledge to make smarter, sustainable vineyard management decisions to increase efficiency, conserve resources, and maximize product quality.

[CLICK HERE](#)



Podcast Host & Tailgate Extraordinaire

*Craig Macmillan*

- Has been involved with the Vineyard Team since... the beginning, basically! (1996)
- Former winemaker, vineyard manager, and consultant. Currently does sustainability work and education at Niner Wine Estates.
- Holds degrees in Philosophy and Agriculture, and has a Ph.D. in Sociology.
- Not-so-secret passion: Teaching.
- Fun fact: Craig slays at karaoke.

## How Becoming SIP Certified Helps You

- Review your whole operation in one place.
- Learn the latest science-based practices.
- Find new technology and improve your efficiency.
- Teach your team members about sustainability.
- Easily communicate your sustainability with your customers.



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## Look Out For SIP Wines!

We want it to be super easy for you to find  
**SUSTAINABLE WINES!**

**CLICK HERE**

to find SIP Certified wines.

### **SIP TIP!**

*Look for this seal  
next time you're  
shopping for wine!*



SIP Certified Coordinator

*Whitney Brownie*

- Joined Vineyard Team in 2021.
- Has a degree in Psychology.
- Not-so-secret passion: Making chalkboard signs and colored pencil drawings.
- Fun Fact: Whitney once made a wish for a long-haired black cat with a white star to be born by her family's pregnant cat. It happened, and Midnight lived almost 20 years.

[whitney@vineyardteam.org](mailto:whitney@vineyardteam.org)





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# SUSTAINABLE AG EXPO

NOVEMBER

Madonna Inn | San Luis Obispo

DESIGNED FOR WINEGROWING  
PROFESSIONALS

**CLICK HERE**

to learn more and save the date!

## Who Exhibits?

Vineyard Team Business members.

*"The Sustainable Ag Expo was an awesome event. You have an awesome team. Honestly, the best event I've attended this year, so definitely looking forward to seeing you again next year."*

- Kerry Beane,  
Advancing Eco Agriculture, 2022  
Sustainable Ag Expo Exhibitor

*\*Business memberships starting at the \$1,500 level include an exhibitor space. Booth space sells out every year!*



## How Attending Benefits You & Your Business

- Get up to date on the latest grower-tested practices.
- Earn up to 20+ Continuing Education (CE) hours.
- Attend in-person seminars and online courses.
- Gain actionable tips from more than 40 of the world's top experts and experienced growers.





# Juan Nevarez Memorial SCHOLARSHIP

Helping children of vineyard and winery workers achieve higher education.

- \$1,000 - \$6,000 per year.
- 2- and 4-year colleges and trade schools.
- Multi-year scholarships.
- Program mentor.



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## WHO CAN APPLY?

- Graduating high school seniors or students currently enrolled in junior college, four-year universities, or trade schools.
- Applicant or applicant's parent/guardian must be employed or contracted by the vineyard and winery industry.
- Applicant must live in California.

**APPLICATIONS OPEN MARCH 1 - 31**

**APPLY HERE**

*while applications are open*

Scholarship Administration Coordinator

*Alex Gonzalez*

- Joined Vineyard Team in 2023.
- Graduated from the University of Oregon in Sociology and Ethnic Studies. Has 20+ years of experience helping students and families access financial aid and scholarship programs.
- Not-so-secret passion: Soccer.
- Fun fact: Climbed Mount St. Helens and Kayaked 100 miles on the Middle fork of the Salmon River.

[alex@vineyardteam.org](mailto:alex@vineyardteam.org)





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# JUAN NEVAREZ

Juan Nevarez was a dreamer. But the difference between Juan and many was his ability to turn his dreams into reality and share that opportunity with others.

[CLICK HERE](#)

## Who is Juan Nevarez?

Juan Nevarez was only 16 when he decided to come to California - alone, undocumented and without an education. With a belief that he could do what it took to achieve his dreams, and a solid work ethic to back it up, he began setting the foundation for what would become a long and successful career in viticulture. Working in the fields wasn't his long-term plan, but he knew that he had to start where he could with his limited experience and lack of education.

He didn't start his career with a college degree that could speak for his expertise and open doors. He built his 110-acre vineyard piece by piece through hard work alone. His success had to be earned. Although his decades of hard labor proved fruitful, he didn't want the same for his children. He didn't want them to struggle as hard as he did in order to become self-sufficient.

The importance of obtaining a college education was a common subject in the home. Growing up, his daughter Mia says college was never an option, "it was something that was going to happen!" Mia's father would tell her that an education isn't just about the piece of paper - it's proof of someone's ability to accomplish something through hard work and dedication.



*"Our dad had one requirement for all his children: we must graduate from college. It didn't matter what we wanted to study or where, but he insisted we don't come home until our diploma is printed and hanging on the wall in the living room!"*

*Our dad struggled to read and write but this was not a challenge for him. He was able to build this company and vineyard for us by developing relationships with people and being a man of his word."*

- Eufemia Nevarez

# SCHOLARSHIP STORIES

Read the stories of past recipients

*"My success is not only going to be mine; it will be my family's. I want to be part of the legacy of people that have helped me in my journey."*

- Esteban Garcia,  
2020 - 2022 Recipient



## Esteban | CSU Fresno

*"I'm a 28-year-old father of two. Growing up in Mexico City, I never saw an education ahead of me. I was born into a family of poverty. Starting school was exciting and scary because I did not speak English. Becoming a dad at 17, my mindset changed drastically, but I still didn't realize how important school was. I am the middle child of five. My parents would work, but the income from growing crops was never enough. My grandparents grew corn for their everyday needs. All I know is agriculture. Regardless of my struggle, I did it.*

*Today, I have an A.A. in Enology/Viticulture, A.S in Viticulture, a Certificate of Achievement in Viticulture, and will receive my bachelor's in Viticulture from CSU Fresno. I'm grateful for the sacrifices my parents made. This country has a lot of opportunities for my family. My success is not only going to be mine; it will be my family's. I want to be part of the legacy of people that have helped me in my journey."*



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## SCHOLARSHIP STORIES

Read the stories of past recipients

*"The scholarship has been very helpful. It has allowed me to buy books, pay tuition, cover a lot of expenses, and not worry about using out-of-pocket money to pay for school. The scholarship has allowed me to focus on school and be the best person I can be."*

- Alberto Ramirez,  
2019 - 2022 Recipient

### Alberto | Fresno State

Growing up in a small California community called Shandon, Alberto was always told that he would not get anywhere in life. Working in agriculture with his father since his first year of high school showed him what a tough life his parents had. Alberto shares, "My experience in the vineyard pushed me to do better in school and motivated me to get a better education to eventually repay my parents for what they've done for me."

Since graduating high school in 2018 as treasurer of ASB and FFA, member of the football and basketball teams, and with high grades, Alberto successfully completed two years at Cuesta College with Certificates of Achievement for Pipe Welding and Structural Welding all while continuing to intern at a local vineyard management company.

Today, he continues on to Fresno State to earn a degree in Viticulture.



# SCHOLARSHIP STORIES

Read the stories of past recipients

## Evelyn | Cal Poly

While Evelyn's family always encouraged her to attend college, their economic struggles meant that the dream would be hard-won. Due to a physical disability, her father was not able to work, leaving her mother to be the sole provider for the family of four. Evelyn was determined to attain higher education, and sought out financial aid and scholarships to cover her educational expenses. She remains enduringly grateful for the aid.



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*"There are no words that can sufficiently describe how honored and grateful I am for having been granted the opportunity to be touched by the generosity of such an inspirational organization. It has served as a significant reminder that I am not alone in this journey and that I have support to overcome any obstacle both as an individual and a professional."*

Five years after receiving her first scholarship in 2017, Evelyn has completed her Master's program in Agriculture with a specialization in Crop Science at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Her research project on Botrytis bunch rot management was published in a trade journal, and she has accepted an exciting position as Assistant Grower Relations Representative for JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery.

*"There is no doubt that being a recipient of the Vineyard Team Educational Scholarship has helped me to get where I am today. This scholarship has not only made a significant difference in financially supporting my educational journey, but it has also opened up so many doors through which I was able to begin my career in viticulture."*



WHO ARE WE

## CONTACT

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Hayli Macomber

Whitney Brownie

Alex Gonzalez

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