



THE MADDY INSTITUTE ANNUAL 2023 2024 REPORT

“One of the things we want to do is influence young people to get involved in politics. The Institute should teach students about the complexity of a democracy at work and the passionate issues that motivate constituents and their elected representatives.”

Senator Ken Maddy



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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At the heart of The Maddy Institute lies a rich history and commitment of shaping future leaders and fostering an environment for bipartisan collaboration in the San Joaquin Valley. This unwavering commitment drives us to provide opportunities for future leaders who will help our region grow and prosper.

As the new Executive Director and proud alumnus of The Maddy Institute, I am honored to lead such a prestigious organization and continue the legacy of Senator Ken Maddy. Since joining the Institute earlier this year, I am filled with gratitude for the dedication and support from our community, which has made our achievements possible this year.

The past fiscal year has been marked by significant accomplishments and meaningful progress. We have:

- Launched our new Agricultural Policy Intern Scholar Program, providing five scholarships to Valley students to intern at the California Department of Food and Agriculture in Sacramento.
- Doubled our esteemed community of Maddy Associates.
- Received a \$150,000 grant from the City of Fresno to expand our Legislative Intern Scholar Program.
- Partnered with San Joaquin Community Foundation, Stanislaus Community Foundation, Central Valley Community Foundation, and Kern County Community foundation to convene our first ever Central Valley Legislative Roundtable – a quarterly, bipartisan discussion on the most pressing policy issues in the Valley.

As we look ahead at the next fiscal year, I look forward to expanding our programs and strengthening the cooperative relationship among the Valley's four public universities, fortifying our role as a thought leader on issues impacting the prosperity of our region, and cultivating deeper partnerships from Modesto to Bakersfield.

Thank you for your continued support and for being an integral part of our work. Your contributions and belief in our mission empower us to strive for a more equitable and just society. Together, I am confident our collective efforts enable us to reach new heights through the respectful, fact-driven, problem-solving, and consensus-building approach that characterized Senator Maddy's 28 years in the California Legislature.



Blake Zante
Executive Director

LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR

Executive Director
Blake Zante

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Ian Wieland

Chris Woolf

As the leading nonpartisan public policy institute in the San Joaquin Valley, The Maddy Institute remains dedicated to enhancing the political landscape of the region. Through its policy analysis, civic engagement, and leadership training efforts, the Institute remains committed to preparing the next generation of Valley leaders, many of whom continue to serve the Valley long after their internships.

As a proud alumna of The Maddy Institute, I can personally attest to the significant impact its programs have on Valley students. During my time as a Maddy Legislative Intern Scholar in Sacramento, I gained valuable insights into the workings of state government and was able to envision a future in government relations more clearly. This opportunity shaped my career, provided me with lasting professional perspectives, and fostered personal and professional relationships that have deepened over the past two decades.

As we look ahead, finding the right solutions for our region will require a well-informed electorate and leaders who make decisions based on facts and work towards consensus, much like Senator Ken Maddy did during his 28 years in the California Legislature. Our programs promote this approach. On behalf of our Board colleagues, we thank you for your continued support as we strive to encourage thoughtful policy discussions and effective public leadership throughout California's great Central Valley.



Melissa Frank
Chair of the Board

INTRODUCTION

The Kenneth L. Maddy Institute (The Maddy Institute) is a non-partisan public policy and public affairs institute established in 1999 to honor State Senator Ken Maddy.

Our Mission

To help prepare current and future Valley leaders, inspire citizen participation, elevate government performance, provide non-partisan analysis and assist in providing solutions for public policy issues important to the region, state, and nation.

Our Objectives

The Maddy Institute seeks to carry on the spirit of bipartisanship, effectiveness and commitment to the public good that was exemplified by Senator Ken Maddy during his 28 years of service as an elected official. In partnership with California State University, Bakersfield; California State University, Fresno; California State University, Stanislaus; and University of California, Merced, we are committed to:

- To provide a non-partisan venue for the thoughtful discussions on important public policy issues facing the San Joaquin Valley, California and the Nation.
- To increase participation in the democratic process.
- To help prepare the next generation of civic-minded business, non-profit, and government leaders.
- To improve the engagement, efficiency and effectiveness of government.

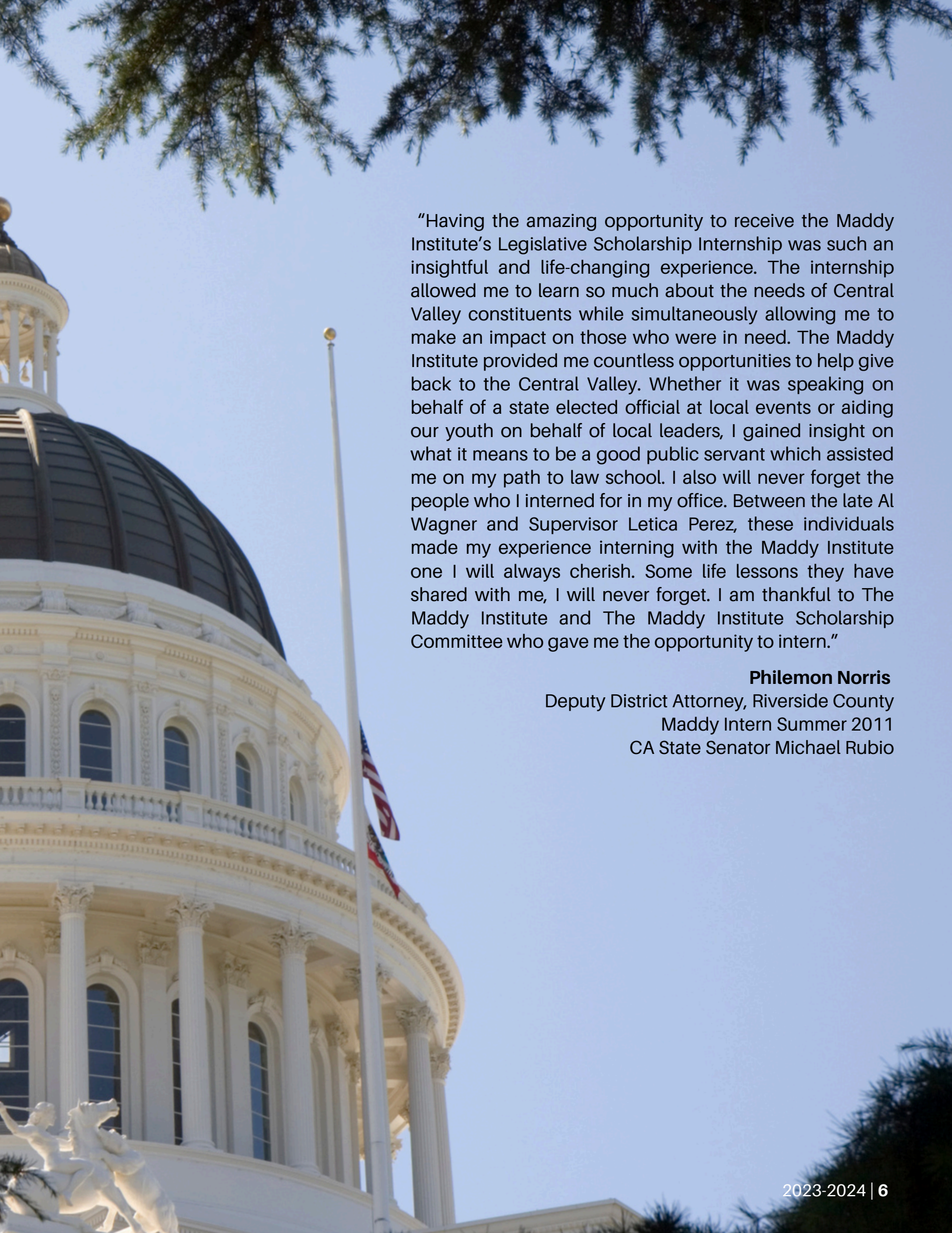
The following items highlight our various programs over the 2023-2024 fiscal year.



The Maddy Institute

The San Joaquin Valley – Inspiring Public Leadership





"Having the amazing opportunity to receive the Maddy Institute's Legislative Scholarship Internship was such an insightful and life-changing experience. The internship allowed me to learn so much about the needs of Central Valley constituents while simultaneously allowing me to make an impact on those who were in need. The Maddy Institute provided me countless opportunities to help give back to the Central Valley. Whether it was speaking on behalf of a state elected official at local events or aiding our youth on behalf of local leaders, I gained insight on what it means to be a good public servant which assisted me on my path to law school. I also will never forget the people who I interned for in my office. Between the late Al Wagner and Supervisor Letica Perez, these individuals made my experience interning with the Maddy Institute one I will always cherish. Some life lessons they have shared with me, I will never forget. I am thankful to The Maddy Institute and The Maddy Institute Scholarship Committee who gave me the opportunity to intern."

Philemon Norris

Deputy District Attorney, Riverside County

Maddy Intern Summer 2011

CA State Senator Michael Rubio

LEGISLATIVE INTERN SCHOLAR PROGRAM



The Maddy Legislative Intern Scholar Program provides students with the opportunity to develop public leadership skills while gaining practical knowledge of the daily government operations and the political process. Maddy Legislative Interns learn and support regional legislative offices in the San Joaquin Valley each semester as well as Sacramento, and Washington, D.C. over the summer.

Our Programs:

- Jim Costa Washington. D.C. Legislative Intern Scholar Program
- Bob Beverly Sacramento Legislative Intern Scholar Program
- Valley Legislative Intern Scholar Program

\$96,660
Scholarships

34
Intern Scholars

127
Applications

Participating offices during 2023-2024:

- U.S. Senator Alex Padilla
- U.S. Representative John Duarte
- U.S. Representative Jim Costa
- U.S. Representative David Valadao
- Governor Gavin Newsom
- State Senator Anna Caballero
- Assemblymember Juan Alanis
- Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula
- Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria
- Assemblymember Devon Mathis
- Assemblymember Jasmeet Bains
- Fresno City Council
- King County Administration Office
- Kern County Board of Supervisors

The Maddy Institute has provided over **500** legislative intern scholarships to students from throughout the San Joaquin Valley. Maddy Institute alumni are now not only in elected office at the State and local level, but they also work in a variety of political offices, businesses and non-profit organizations in the Valley.

AG POLICY INTERN SCHOLAR PROGRAM

This Summer, The Maddy Institute, in partnership with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), was excited to announce the launch of its Agricultural Policy Internship Program, offering San Joaquin Valley students a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience and contribute to the development of California agricultural policy in Sacramento.

The Ag Policy Internship Program aims to cultivate the next generation of leaders in agricultural policy and advocacy. Interns receive a \$6,000 stipend upon completion of the program thanks to the generous support of The Wonderful Company and California Cotton Alliance.

This new program has set the path for future interns, offering a unique opportunity for students to work on various projects related to agricultural policy development, research, analysis, and implementation. Through hands-on experience, our goal is to encourage students to pursue careers in this vital field.

\$30,000
Scholarships

5
Intern Scholars

15
Applications



"My Maddy Institute internship scholarship provided me with the opportunity to learn firsthand the importance of working in a legislative office and the importance of public service. The internship was key in setting me forward in my professional trajectory."

Ana Jovel Melendez

Deputy Secretary for Legislative Affairs, California Environmental Protection Agency
Maddy Intern Spring 2003
Assemblywoman Sarah Reyes

"As a first-generation student who transferred from College of Sequoias to the University of California, Merced, the Maddy Internship was a pivotal moment for me. The internship provided me with invaluable skills and opportunities that have been instrumental in shaping my career path."

Hector Ramirez

Attorney, California Community College Chancellor's Office
Maddy Intern Fall 2013
Senator Anthony Cannella

"My internship experience through the Maddy Institute was my first exposure to real-world politics at the local level. It was eye-opening to be immersed among the inner workings of the state government. Although I ultimately pursued a career outside of politics, my internship with the Maddy Institute emphasized the importance of local governments. After law school I went on to practice public agency law where I worked with public agencies throughout the Central Valley including local cities, counties, and school districts. Through my internship, and my experience as an attorney, I learned that if you really want to make a difference starting at the local level is where we can make the most change."

Leila Alamri-Kassim

Attorney and Lecturer, Fresno State
Maddy Intern Summer 2010
Senator Dean Florez



THE MADDY REPORT AND VALLEY VIEWS



The Maddy Report is a weekly half-hour public affairs television program that airs every Sunday at 10:00 AM PT on ABC30, featuring interviews with notable public policy leaders and experts on important issues impacting California and the San Joaquin Valley.

We strive to provide fact-based, non-partisan information from experts on various topics important to our region.

Guests from Season 13 shows include U.S. Representative Jim Costa, Fresno City Council President Annalisa Perea, Fresno Board of Supervisors Chairman Nathan Magsig, and Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors Chair Mani Grewal.

On average, The Maddy Report has a weekly viewership of 20,000 viewers. After airing on ABC30, shows are available on [YouTube](#) and Community Media Access Collaborative (CMAC) [website](#).

The Maddy Report - Valley Views Edition is a weekly hour-long public affairs radio program and podcast that airs every Sunday on Newstalk 580/105.9 KMJ, featuring interviews with local public policy leaders and experts on important issues impacting the San Joaquin Valley.

The program has an average of 6,500 listeners per week. Shows are available on [major podcast platforms](#), including Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

THE MADDY DAILY

Monday through Friday, The Maddy Daily provides our readers with a diverse range of articles from various sources to offer a comprehensive view of the key facts and differing perspectives shaping the San Joaquin Valley's political landscape.

9,646

Subscribers

16

Categories

26,000

~ Articles Shared

News Categories:

- North San Joaquin Valley
- Central San Joaquin Valley
- South San Joaquin Valley
- California
- National
- Agriculture
- Economy
- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Housing
- Public Finance
- Public Safety
- Technology
- Transportation
- Water



CENTRAL VALLEY LEGISLATIVE ROUNDTABLE

This fiscal year, we were excited to convene our first ever Central Valley Legislative Roundtable in conjunction with Kern Community Foundation, Central Valley Community Foundation, Stanislaus Community Foundation, and San Joaquin Community Foundation.

The Roundtable is a quarterly meeting that brings legislative offices and elected officials together from both sides of the aisle to discuss critical issues impacting our region. This quarter's discussion revolved around expanding access to medical education in the San Joaquin Valley.





MADDY ASSOCIATE EVENTS

Maddy Associates play a key role in strengthening awareness of our work in the San Joaquin Valley and expanding our mission across the state and nation.

Our Maddy Associate events have brought together numerous Valley community leaders and distinguished organizations who have shown their continued support for fact-based policy analysis, increased civic engagement and improved government leadership in our region.

Maddy Associate Events organized in 2023 - 2024:

- Downtown Fresno: "Will \$300M Kickstart a Once-in-a-Lifetime Renaissance?"
- Valley Legislative Update with Asm. Juan Alanis, Asm Joaquin Arambula, and Asm Esmeralda Soria
- A Conversation with Congressman David Valadao
- A Conversation with Senator Anna Cabellero
- A Conversation with Congressman Vince Fong



Jerry Dyer
Mayor, Fresno



Elliot Balch
President & CEO, Downtown
Fresno partnership



Asm. Juan Alanis
(AD-22)



Asm. Joaquin Arambula
(AD-31)



Asm. Esmeralda Soria
(AD-27)



Congressman David Valadao
(CA-22)



Senator Anna Cabellero
(SD-14)



Congressman Vince Fong
(CA-20)

MADDY ASSOCIATES

Every contribution made to The Maddy Institute supports our mission to inspire public leadership and offer non-partisan analysis of public policy issues affecting the region and the State. Thanks to the generosity of donors who share our vision for enhancing the San Joaquin Valley, we can better serve our region.

By becoming a Maddy Associate donor, you will have the opportunity to connect directly with a community of notable individuals and organizations. You will receive special invitations to a diverse range of events where you can meet legislators and stakeholders who are experts in their fields and gain insight into their policy initiatives.

We hope you join us as a Maddy Associate and contribute to improving our region by supporting bipartisan policy solutions.

President's Circle - \$10,000+

BNSF Railway
Comcast
Harris Ranch
Producers Dairy
The Spencer Family
The Wonderful Company

Governor's Circle - \$5,000

Cook Land Company
California Manufacturing & Engineering Company (MEC)
E & J Gallo Winery
Fresno Association of Realtors

Senator's Circle - \$2,500

Bonner Family Foundation
Community Medical Centers
Fresno State President's Office
Halajian Architects
Nossaman LLP
PG&E
Sagasaer, Watkins & Wieland
Valley Children's Hospital
Vista Consulting
Wawona Frozen Foods

Assemblymember's Circle - \$1,000

ARKEN Strategies
Austin Ewell
Auston Consulting
Bryn Forhan
Caglia Environmental
California Fresh Fruit Association
Catalano Fenske & Associates
Clovis Chamber of Commerce
Fresno Chamber of Commerce
Jeffrey Cowan
Joseph Castro
Kaiser Permanente Fresno
Larry Salinas
Law Offices of Aaron Anguiano
Miles, Sears & Eanni
Montoy Law Corporation
Park West Associates
Phillip Maroot
Providence Strategic Consulting
Ralph Simoni
RBW Group
The Capitol Morning Report
The Gualco Group
Western Electrical
Contractors Association (WECA)
William J. Beverly
Woolf Farming

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*Business and Community Leader
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*Regional Operations Specialist and Chief of Staff
to the Regional Vice President - Central Valley,
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Ian Wieland

*Partner, Sagaser, Watkins & Wieland PC
Fresno, CA*

Chris Woolf

*Partner, Woolf Farming
Fresno, CA*

OUR TEAM



Blake Zante
Executive Director



Guadalupe Cruz
Program Coordinator



Tonia Loeffler
Program Coordinator



Lillian Hammerstrom
Student Assistant



Karina Virk
Student Assistant



Huda Alazani
Student Assistant



Camalah Saleh
Student Assistant



Claudio Silva
Student Assistant



Shireen Virk
Student Assistant



Rawan Kiran
Student Assistant



The Maddy Institute

The San Joaquin Valley – Inspiring Public Leadership



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