



Contra Costa County

County Administrator's Office • 651 Pine Street • Martinez, CA 94553 • www.contracosta.ca.gov

NEWS RELEASE
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Contacts: Susan Shiu, County PIO, 925-313-1183
Brooke Converse, 925-608-7713, bconvers@ccclib.org

Welcome to the 26th Cesar E. Chavez Commemorative Celebration Recognize the 2019 Youth Hall of Fame Award Honorees

Todos Bienvenidos!

(Martinez, CA) – The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors will honor Cesar E. Chavez in a celebration recognizing his commitment to social justices and respect for human dignity. The 26th Annual Cesar E. Chavez Commemorative Celebration will take place on Tuesday, **March 26, 2019** from 11 am to 1 pm in Board Chambers at 651 Pine Street, Room 107 in Martinez.

“We honor Cesar Chavez for his leadership and activism to confront and fight injustice, and to improve the lives and employment conditions for farmworkers and others in our country,” said Board Chair, Supervisor John Gioia. “His legacy of nonviolent yet impactful activism is an inspiration for all of us.”

The celebration will feature Mayra Padilla, Ph.D. as the keynote speaker. Ms. Padilla is the Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Equity at Contra Costa College. She grew up in Richmond and San Pablo, and received mentorship through Metas and the Center for Science Excellence programs at the College. After a career as a neuroscientist, where she saw too few Latinx and Black scientists, she returned to Contra Costa College to take on the role of Director of the Hispanic Serving Institution Science, Technology, Engineering and Math initiatives.

This year's event will feature musical performances by Mariachi Monumental, Ballet Folklórico Netzahualcoyotl and the Kennedy High School Symphonic Band.

The ceremony will also include the presentation of the 2019 Youth Hall of Fame Awards. These awards are presented to five outstanding Contra Costa County teens who demonstrate excellence in one of five categories. The honorees are:

Good Samaritan: Rita Benitez, Richmond High School

Volunteerism: Ellora Easton, Northgate High School

Teamwork: Marlen Muñoz, Richmond High School

Leadership/Civic Engagement: Christiana Aranda, Pittsburg High School

Resilience: Raven Richardson, Pinole Valley High School

The annual celebration honors the diversity and richness of our community and its immigrants.

Visit the [Cesar Chavez Ceremony](#) webpage found in the “Community” section of Contra Costa County’s website www.contracosta.ca.gov for details and a look at the previous ceremony.

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