



Chris Berry
*Water Resources Manager
City of Santa Cruz*

Chris Berry studied biology and environmental management at UCSB and USF, respectively, and has since worked in environmental services in private, non-profit and government sectors in various capacities. He currently works as the Water Resources Manager for the Santa Cruz Water Department and also serves on the Santa Cruz County Fish and Game, Environmental Health Appeals and Water Advisory Commissions. Chris feels fortunate to be able to serve in these roles for such an environmentally rich (both naturally and culturally speaking) community, and hopes his experience with LSCC will deepen his understanding of the diverse and complex opportunities and constraints for sustainable natural resource management in the County. Through this learning opportunity he expects to become a more effective manager of our County's great natural resources – thereby becoming a stronger contributor to the human community that depends on them.



Christine Currie
Photographer, global citizen, blogger and sailor

Christine is currently involved with the on going development of ArtspaceSC.com, a start-up concept for local artists to work, teach and showcase talents within the analog and digital media space. She hopes the gallery-esque project will foster a socially responsible example of local artisan experience and promote the uniqueness of our creative community. She likes to envision this project as a 21st century salon.

Her community leadership experience includes: The Board of Directors of the Art and History Museums, Los Gatos, An appointed political seat on the Community Services Commission for the Town of Los Gatos and a member of Leadership Los Gatos class of 2008. An active literacy volunteer with local Gault Elementary school, The Los Gatos School district and The San Francisco School District.

Christine's life B.C (before children) was major market radio creative and sports marketing. A graduate of the University of Michigan, as well as The California Culinary Academy San Francisco and Greystone in Napa. She is a localvore and oenophile that adores Santa Cruz Mt varietals.

She and her husband Rob can't imagine a better place to raise seaworthy crew, sons Collin and R.C. ages 8 & 10. They have swallowed the hook, in sailing terms and currently reside in the Seabright neighborhood of Santa Cruz.



Tim Fillmore
*Hazardous Materials Program Manager
Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Services*

Tim is a graduate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where he majored in Biological Sciences. He moved to Santa Cruz County with Valerie, his wife of 35 years, in 2008 after 22 years as an Environmental Health Specialist for the Kings County Health Department. Tim currently serves as the Hazardous Materials Program Manager for the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency's Environmental Health Services Division.

"Being a relatively new resident of Santa Cruz County, I feel that participating in LSCC will help give me a broader view of how the county operates and will increase my understanding of important issues affecting the county now and into the future."



Rose Filicetti

Executive Director

Santa Clara County School Boards Association

Rose's move to the coast means a fresh start to a life devoted to raising three wonderful young adults and to community activism for K-12 education. Since graduating from Leadership Mountain View in 1994, Rose spent ten years on the Mountain View elementary school board. She was an active leader for the district's successful bond campaign, the merger of her district with a neighboring district, and a successful parcel tax campaign.

Rose continued in the field of education as the Executive Director of two non-profits. For the School Boards Association, she provides training and networking to the thirty-two school district boards in Santa Clara County. For the Educational Foundation, Rose raised community support and over \$400K to fund educational programs.

Rose is proud of her ability to connect people, ideas and resources. She hopes to establish a similar network in Santa Cruz County through participation in this program.



Allison Garcia

Associate Director of Development, Regional Programs

UC Santa Cruz

After graduating from UCSC in 1981, Allison lived in Japan, Denver, and New Orleans. She also had a short stint back in Santa Cruz while her husband Douglas completed his master's degree at UCSC, and their daughter was born. Allison and her husband had always wanted to retire in Santa Cruz, but then thought, "Why wait?" and they've been here since 1999. Allison works in University Relations at UCSC, where she meets with alumni, parents and other campus supporters throughout California and creates opportunities for them to re-connect, or deepen their connection to UCSC.

"I'm participating in LSCC because I think it will give me the opportunity to deepen my own personal and professional connection to Santa Cruz. Through LSCC I want to find ways to give back as much as I get out of living here."



Eric Gonzalez

Product Planning Coordinator

Driscoll's

Eric has been married to his wife, Erika Lua for four years. They have a 2 ½ year old son named Abram Josiah, named after his grandfather. Eric and his family in East Santa Cruz County, aka Watsonville, where they have just bought a new home. This by far is his biggest accomplishment and the one that he is most proud of. Eric feels fortunate to be in the agriculture profession, as many have unfortunately lost their jobs. Eric feels that LSCC will help him to have a better understanding of his community and he hopes to incorporate his new knowledge in his professional life by making others aware of how we can all make a difference in improving the quality of one's daily life at work and in our community.



Maria Granados-Boyce
Supervisor, Customer Service
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Originally a New Yorker and married for almost 25 years, Maria has two children in college, and has settled comfortably in Soquel. In the 30 years that Maria has worked for the METRO, she has advanced her position several times and always strives to challenge herself using the knowledge she has acquired to help create positive change. Maria endeavors to support a cooperative and creative approach towards any goal and wants to create bridges within the company and outward to the community.

“I appreciate the opportunity to participate in Leadership Santa Cruz. I want to continue to discover more about what supports and creates this unique County we live in. Listening and learning from leaders within our community will add to my own knowledge of how to achieve successes. This guidance will help in creating successful work goals and personal goals as well.”



Socorro Gutierrez
Health Services Manager
County Health Services Agency

Socorro was born in Watsonville, but lived in Santa Cruz until she went to UCLA in 1994 and obtained her Master’s in Public Health. After graduating, she returned to Santa Cruz and worked at the County Health Services Agency, Public Health Department. During her 13 years of employment at the County, she has steadily climbed up the ladder and now looks back at the wealth of experience gained from each stepping stone.

Socorro and her husband moved to Watsonville in 2001 in pursuit of the “American Dream” of buying a home. They now have two elementary school age children. This move opened her eyes to a place so close to home, but yet so far from what she knew.



Eric Hammer
President
Eric Hammer Construction Inc./Boulder Creek Parks and Recreation

Eric is a 4th Generation Santa Cruz County resident with a family legacy of community leadership and service. He is married with a set of twins (5) and a step son(12). Eric attended SLV Schools, Cabrillo, and San Francisco State.

Eric’s passion for community service has driven his activities from his elementary years through adulthood. He is most proud of being the founding president of Youth First, providing services to youth in SLV, and serving as Board Chair of Mountain Community Resources, maintaining solvency and orchestrating a merger during challenging economic times. As an elected board member of Boulder Creek Recreation and Park District, he am watching my vision of a \$300,000 park renovation come to fruition.

“I feel that attending LSCC will widen my support network, allowing us all to establish better community based programming to provide a better life for future generations of SC County residents.”



Ed Harmon

*Science and Mission Operations Manager for a joint US/German Infrared Observatory (SOFIA)
NASA*

Ed is a native Californian who has been living in the Bay Area since moving from his hometown, Sacramento, in 1980. Ed holds a B.S. in Information Technology, and in the early years of his career, he was focused on defense and aerospace programs. For the past 15 years, his career shifted to space programs that included several projects related to International Space Station development.

Ed is married to a wonderful Estonian woman, Piret (Class 25), has 3 grown children, one still at home, and 3 grandchildren. In his spare time, Ed enjoys traveling, classic car restoration, tennis and golf.



Deutron Kebebew

*PAPÁS Project Director/Program Manager
Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center/PAPÁS, Supporting Father Involvement*

Deutron is the Project Director for PAPÁS, the Supporting Father Initiative clinical research project in Santa Cruz County funded by the Office of Child Abuse Prevention. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of California Santa Cruz. He has worked in the Social Services arena for the last thirteen years in the different capacities. Deutron has a strong passion for and commitment to representing and working for children, youth, fathers and families impacted by Child Welfare System and other underserved populations. His participation in LSCC is great opportunity for networking and building partnership with our community leaders, organizations and sectors to build a

better community for the next generation.

“It is my vision and hope that our County is a leader in delivering comprehensive Social Services that address the need of underserved population such as fathers so that we have lower rate of teen pregnancy, lower rate high school drop out, lower rate of juvenile delinquency and less children growing up in the Child Welfare System. Most of all every child in our County has caring, nurturing and involved father or father-figure their lives.”



Jack Kellythorne

*Founder
Radiant Heart Coaching*

Jack Kellythorne founded Radiant Heart Coaching for the purpose of helping people achieve their personal and professional goals and dreams. He is a Certified Dream Coach®, Dream Coach Group Leader, and Trained Purpose Coach. Jack is a registered Professional Engineer with over 20 years experience in mechanical engineering and numerous consumer product designs on the market. He holds a BSME from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. His soul is that of an artist through poetry, photography, and designing stunt kites.

Jack has lived in Santa Cruz County since 1988. His interest in Leadership Santa Cruz County stems from a desire to participate more fully in the community and to awaken leaders to greater possibilities for the people who make up our friends and neighbors.



Debbie Kinslow
Assistant Finance Manager
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Debbie moved to Santa Cruz in 1983 after being lured by the redwoods, the sand and the sea. She is currently the Assistant Finance Manager at Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District where she has worked since 2007. Before Santa Cruz METRO, Debbie worked at Dominican Hospital and for two local banks (before de-regulation and the economic melt-down!) The transition from the private sector to the public sector has been challenging but quite interesting as well.

“I’m looking forward to meeting new friends and getting a better understanding of the complex problems and issues our county is faced with. I’m also hoping to utilize my experiences from LSSC to help me make informed contributions to our community.”



Kerry Kriger
Executive Director
SAVE THE FROGS!

Dr. Kriger is the Founder & Executive Director of SAVE THE FROGS! (www.savethefrogs.com), America’s first and only public charity dedicated to protecting amphibian populations. Dr. Kriger holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from Griffith University in Gold Coast, Australia, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Virginia. He is a recognized expert on the amphibian disease chytridiomycosis, a topic on which he has published 15 articles in peer-reviewed international scientific journals. Dr. Kriger’s research into amphibian extinctions has been supported by the National Geographic Society and various philanthropic organizations throughout the world, and he has presented the results of his research at scientific conferences in several countries.

Having just returned to Santa Cruz after a 10-year absence, Dr. Kriger hopes the LSSC course will familiarize him with various people and groups of importance in Santa Cruz County.



Courtney Leibrock
Attorney
Baskin & Grant, Santa Cruz Next

Courtney was born and raised in Sacramento, California and is a relatively new transplant to Santa Cruz. She is a litigation attorney and recently started working for Baskin & Grant in Santa Cruz. Courtney is a board member of SPIN-Special Parents Information Network, a Santa Cruz County non-profit organization that provides information and resources to families with special needs children.

“I am interested in learning more about the Santa Cruz community so that I can become more involved in addressing the issues facing this community and make informed contributions to the continued vitality of Santa Cruz County.”



Mark Lilley
Facilities Manager
Mount Hermon Association Inc.

Mark grew up in Mount Hermon and attended SLV Schools K-12 before attending Cabrillo College. Employed by Mount Hermon for much of that time, with 10 year stint as a Fire Protection Contractor. Mark's current position as Facilities Manager for Mount Hermon is very rewarding, as he has always had a passion for Mount Hermon's ministry. He has served as a Felton Volunteer Firefighter and currently on the Board of Directors for the Fire District. Mark also serves on the board of the Mount Hermon Community Group, which is much like an HOA.

Mark has been married for 24 years and has two adult sons who are currently attending college at Cabrillo and Cal Poly.

"I am looking forward to garnering wisdom, learning more about Santa Cruz County and making new friends through the LSCC experience. I hope to use this experience to benefit those in my community as well as my employer."



Heidi R. Luckenbach
Desalination Program Coordinator
City of Santa Cruz

Heidi has lived in Santa Cruz County for nearly 15 years with her husband and child. She is continuously awe-struck by its beauty, the opportunities that exist from the standpoint of outdoor recreation, the innovative business opportunities, and dedication at many levels towards conservation and sustainability. Heidi admires the commitment by both public and private sectors to continue to make Santa Cruz a fun, interesting and progressive place to work, live and play.

"In making this my home and establishing a career as a civil engineer in public service, I look forward to using my experience with LSCC to better understand the issues and needs in the community as well as their relationship between public and private entities. By doing so, I hope to be able to optimize these relationships and to make contributions to the community in a more efficient and meaningful way."



Katie Mahan
Vice President Branch Manager
Rabobank

Katie and her husband Jack (of 37 years) relocated to the SC area from Southern California and raised their two children in the Pajaro Valley. They have one grandchild who is 7 years old. Katie has worked in banking for all the years she has been here. Originally with County Bank, Katie moved to the Pajaro Valley Bank in Watsonville. After several mergers, transfers, and 11 years later, she left the then Santa Barbara Bank and Trust to manage the Community Bank of Central California in Watsonville which was then purchased by Rabobank in 2006. Presently, she manages both the Santa Cruz and Watsonville offices.

Katie enjoys community involvement, and has served on the boards of several organizations over the years including: the Watsonville Community Hospital, Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce, Watsonville Fly-In and Airshow, United Way, Strawberry Festival, Santa Cruz County Fair Heritage Foundation and the Flower Festival. She has been a Rotarian for over 14 years.



Joe McMullen
Assistant Director of Human Resources
City of Santa Cruz

Born in Berkeley and raised in the South SF Bay Area, Joe moved to Santa Cruz right after high school in 1974. After several moves around the country and a few more twists and turns on his career road, Joe and his partner of seventeen years landed in Seattle where he spent the first several years of this new century working at Amazon.com. While there, Joe was selected for a position in the HR department at the City of Santa Cruz in May of 2006. Coming back to Santa Cruz has been a mixed experience for Joe – “it’s a very different place now than it was in 1975 – our community faces many difficult challenges.”

“I plan to use the LSCC experience to build my professional network and increase my awareness of the varying needs of our community so I can connect myself to it in an effective way in a place that will benefit most from my help.”



Luis Pavel Mendez
Deputy Director
SCCRTC

At age nine, Luis entered the US with his mother and sisters as a Mexican citizen without a visa. In East San Jose, he was blessed with excellent, dedicated, supportive and underpaid public school educators. Thanks to their great work, he received a BA in Economics and English from Stanford University. Luis lives in downtown San Jose with his wife, Wendy and cat, Leo.

Luis joined the RTC in 1994 as an Assistant Transportation Planner and was appointed Deputy Director in 2005. The RTC affords him the privilege of working with a very dedicated professional staff, a passionate caring board and an active diverse community.

“There is never a lack of room for improvement in anything that I do and I am certain that LSCC will use some of that room to help me become better equipped to work with the community at developing a better transportation system. I also expect that LSCC will help me to better collaborate with others who are working to improve other aspects of the Santa Cruz County community.”



Brooke Morley
Bay Federal Credit Union
Loan Operations Manager

Having recently relocated back to the Santa Cruz area from Southern California. Brooke has been involved in the lending industry for the past nine years since completing finance and economics degrees at Santa Clara University. She volunteers in the community through Big Brothers Big Sisters and local beach clean-up efforts. Working for Bay Federal Credit Union has provided the opportunity to understand the impact an organization can have on the community. She has participated in the redesign of Bay Federal's lending strategy to create lending programs that focus on the needs of the local community.

“Through Leadership Santa Cruz County I anticipate working with others to identify how our organizations can effectively combine efforts to achieve mutual success. I hope to create programs to target individuals and businesses who will continually contribute to the progress and development of Santa Cruz County.”



Kerry Nehls

*Occupational Therapist, Manager Occupational and Speech Therapy Departments
Dominican Hospital*

Raised in San Jose California, Kerry attended San Jose State University and obtained a BS in Occupational Therapy. She has been employed as an Occupational Therapist since 1976, at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, Stanford University Hospital and Dominican Hospital specializing in Acute Therapy, Ergonomics and Work Rehabilitation and Injury Prevention. Most recently, Kerry has been managing Dominican Rehab Services Occupational and Speech Therapy Departments at Dominican. Kerry is a single parent with two daughters, both attending college.

Kerry's interests include hiking, reading, spending time with family, especially outdoors. She joined Santa Cruz Sunrise Rotary Club in 2009 and has always found involvement in volunteer work since teen years to be one of the most gratifying roles, outside of being a mother.

"LSCC will benefit me to grow as a active community member by exposing me to government, healthcare, education and private business organizations serving the Monterey Bay area. I am hoping this newly acquired awareness will broaden my perspective as a healthcare team leader, enabling me to further define and strengthen what rehabilitation services at Dominican Hospital can do for our community."



Kathleen (Katie) M. Olsen

*Executive Assistant
Dominican Hospital*

Katie was born and raised on Long Island, New York. She traveled to Santa Cruz in 1974 for a summer vacation and never left. Her interests include hiking, reading, music, radio and baseball. Katie was a member of the Board of Directors of the NPR station KUSP 88.9 FM from 1997 to 2006, and was president of the board for three years.

Katie has been at Dominican Hospital for 25 years and has gained a detailed knowledge of the hospital/health care business. She believes the LSCC experience and networking opportunity will great benefit to her in her work, particularly as it relates to her work with organizations that use the hospital as a resource.

"The knowledge I attain from LSCC will benefit me in all areas of my life. I hope to bring the teamwork experience, network contacts and what I learn from LSCC to my co-workers, which will be beneficial to me and my team."



Tamara O'Kelly

*Principal
EarthArch Design; Landscape Architecture for Public Spaces*

Tamara was born and raised in the Bay Area and has been a Santa Cruz Mountain resident since 1990. While working in the medical field, she traveled 3rd world countries by backpack and volunteered to assist in building an orphanage in the Philippines. Finding that she really enjoyed working with her hands, she left her medical career behind her and began restoring historic homes and gardens. This led to a career change and a degree in Landscape Architecture from UC Berkeley where she focused on sustainable building and historic preservation, blending her love of art and science.

Currently Tamara is a principal of a landscape architecture firm that specializes in public spaces. Tamara has received numerous awards ranging from public parks and zoological habitats, to educational building design and therapeutic gardens for a veteran's hospital, to way-finding signage for the Historic Capitola

Village. She also operates “The Historic Hartman House,” a B&B and organic farm on her property in downtown Boulder Creek. She has a particular interest in Historic Main Street Programs and looks forward to her association with LSCC as a way to become even more involved in her community and preserving its sense of place.



Andrea Pabon
Blackberry Breeder
Driscoll's

Andrea is originally from Colombia. She worked at the University of Illinois Department of Crop Sciences for four years as a Visiting Research Specialist. She has worked on multiple projects regarding the pathology of and improvement of the soybean crop in Illinois. Three and a half years ago, Andrea moved from Illinois to California to work at Driscoll Strawberry Associates as a Blackberry Breeder, working towards the objective of developing the world's best blackberry varieties.

Leadership Santa Cruz will help Andrea to know more about herself as well as help her to understand the problems that the community of Santa Cruz County is facing. In addition, she expects to be exposed to important community organizations that are providing valuable services to the residents of Santa Cruz County. She hopes it will encourage her to get involved and to do a better job.

“I want to become a better leader in my area of work and also in my personal life. I want to be able to project my passion for my work to others, and to help guide them in a way that they can succeed on their own.”



Jeanette Pagliaro, CSA
Vice President/Executive Director
Visiting Angels, Living Assistance Services

Jeanette has lived in Santa Cruz County for 22 years, is a wife, mother, and small business owner. She has three boys, ages 29, 23, and 14. Jeanette and her husband, Tony, own Visiting Angels, a home care agency serving Santa Cruz and Monterey counties. She has a passion for senior citizens and Visiting Angels allows her to help seniors who wish to live at home, do so safely and comfortably, while maintaining their independence and offering peace of mind to their families.

“My vision for involvement with Leadership Santa Cruz County stems from wanting to learn more about other aspects of our community and how we can support one another as friends, business associates, and members of our beautiful county.”



Mark Ramos
Division Chief
Santa Cruz Fire Department

Mark is a Division Chief for Santa Cruz City Fire Department and a 3rd generation Firefighter. He also works as a Fire Technology Instructor at Cabrillo College. Mark attended UC Irvine and lives in Aptos with his wife Wanda.

“I want to create consistency, provide customer service and fairness throughout the organization. I want to continue to be a leader in the City and the community.”



Ron Rickabaugh

*Fire Chief
Felton Fire District*

After college, Ron moved here to work at the Mount Hermon Association. While employed at Mount Hermon, he became a volunteer fire fighter with Felton Fire and was appointed Fire Chief in 1991. Ron has been married to his wife, Kathy for 30 years and has two daughters, Jennifer and Kimberly. Ron and his family attend GateWay Bible Church in Scotts Valley, where he serves as an Elder. He has traveled to Romania, South Africa (4 times), Liberia and Mexico on mission trips with GateWay. Ron also has coached his daughters in softball and has coached 12 seasons of football at SLV High School.

“I look forward to networking and meeting new friends. I look forward to seeing people and places in this county that I have never seen before. I think my experience in LSCC will advance my knowledge and appreciation of the County.”



Julianne Rhodes

*Engineering Manager
Cruzio Internet*

With a background in geology Julianne had no previous experience working with computers prior to joining Cruzio in 1996. That wasn't especially unusual back when the Internet was just gaining traction. She is grateful to Cruzio for providing her the opportunity to eventually become the manager of engineering, which is the position she's had for the last 10 years.

“I feel lucky to be such an integral part of a company that is so firmly rooted in the Santa Cruz region and I make a point of enjoying what the area has to offer by unplugging on the weekends to hike, swim, scuba and enjoy the garden.”



Theresa Rouse

*Associate Superintendent
Santa Cruz County Office of Education*

As a Hoosier hailing from the great state of Indiana, Theresa came to California in 1996 to teach in southern Monterey County. She relocated to Santa Cruz County in September of 2007 to take a position at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education. Theresa was a classroom teacher for ten years in four states and one foreign country, and is now in her twelfth year as an administrator. She is in the process of writing her doctoral dissertation on the role of the district superintendent as instructional leader in systemic change.

“I chose to participate in LSCC to learn more about this amazing county and to use this new knowledge to assist in my current position.”



Reyna Ruiz

Program Director

Beach Flats Community Center, a program of Community Bridges

Inspired by a commitment to social justice and motivated by her own experiences, Reyna has dedicated her career to public service. Reyna arrived in Santa Cruz in 1991 to attend UCSC as the first in her family to attend a 4-year university. In 1995, she took on the opportunity to work with a homeless and mentally ill population as a Case Manager in Boyle Heights, CA. She returned to Santa Cruz in 1996 to take on the position as a Bilingual Counselor for teens on probation and their families through the Family Preservation Program, GROW. In November 2000, she became the Community Liaison for the City of Santa Cruz at the Beach Flats Community Center. In February 2009 funding for the BFCC was completely eliminated and together with families in the neighborhood and other community partners, Reyna coordinated a successful effort to raise \$130,000 to save the BFCC.

As a parent of three young children, Reyna wants to ensure that *all* children in the community are supported in finding their own life's purpose and given opportunities to feel connected and engaged in the very communities where they live, guided by a community that cares and values them.



Mary E. Russell

Mortgage Broker

Raised in Baltimore, MD, Mary moved to Santa Cruz in 1976. Mary is a mortgage broker and loves her job: "There is nothing more rewarding than helping buyers become home owners."

"Each day is a positive challenge. I will use my LSCC skills to move my life and others into the future. I am grateful for the opportunity."



Neal Savage

Project Manager

Hewlett-Packard

Neal and his wife, Rose Filicetti (also LSCC 26) are moving to Capitola after 25 years in Mountain View. Both have work-from-home jobs. Through out his career, Neal has leveraged an aptitude for flexibility and adaptation to roll with the changing needs of the organization and customers.

"I am looking for LSCC as a stepping stone to be an active and contributing member of the community and eventually move to work based here. I strive to use the strength and spirit of my personal life to balance and energize my work life.

Regarding my photo: Life is short. I always sit in the front."



Melanie Mow Schumacher
Public Outreach Coordinator
Soquel Creek Water District

Melanie lives in Soquel with her husband and two sons, ages 10 and 7. Originally from Stockton, she earned her BS in Civil Engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and moved to the area 15 years ago. In her spare time, Melanie enjoys spending time with her family, exploring the local parks and beaches, and although a bit klutzy- actively tries “to be athletic”.

She is excited to participate in Leadership Santa Cruz to learn more about the regional county-wide issues and network with other professionals who want to make a positive difference in our area.



JJ Scurich
Berry Grower
Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

JJ the 4th generation of his family to farm the Pajaro Valley. After attending Cal Poly, SLO for degrees in Agribusiness and Soil Science, he returned to the family business of growing strawberries, raspberries, and blackberries. JJ is a board director at Farm Bureau, chair of the Young Farmers and Ranchers committee, and currently works on a community group focused on solving the groundwater overdraft issue of the Pajaro Valley. He has a passion for everything involving agriculture and rural preservation.

“I believe LSCC will help me network and establish working relationships with leaders from industries outside of my own.”



Esther Vasquez
National Production Executive Assistant
Driscoll's

Esther was born and raised in Watsonville, Santa Cruz County. Her pride and joy is her enormous Mexican family. Esther loves to paint, read, dance, volunteer and spend time with her loved ones. She has held several operational and administrative positions. Esther has invested the last four years at Driscoll's working in the Blueberry and National Production teams. Working in agriculture is gratifying because it allows her to stay connected to the soil and enables her to be active in her community. Through Esther's participation in LSCC, she looks forward to networking, developing lasting relationships and learning more about the county she lives in.



Wes Walker

*Director of Corporate Security
Santa Cruz Seaside Company*

Wes was born and raised in Santa Cruz. After graduating from Soquel High School, he served in the Marine Corps until the completion of Desert Storm. Wes worked in local law enforcement for 15 years. He spent 2008 in Afghanistan embedded with the Marines while working for the Department of State.

Wes has a BS in Criminal Justice, and is married with three children. He is committed to the community of Santa Cruz and is actively involved in local organizations, one of which is providing reintegration assistance to military veterans attending UCSC.



Clare Wesley

*Director of Development and Community Relations
Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center*

In April of 2010, Clare became the Director of Development and Community Relations for SCCCC, where she has worked for the past 25 years; most recently as the Director of Youth Services. Passionate about supporting the social and emotional well being of young people and their families, she has created and provided oversight for many countywide youth serving programs.

Clare loves to write, dance, make beauty in her garden, paint, and play with her two young grandchildren. She is married and lives in Watsonville with her husband of 25 years. LSCC is a perfect fit with Clare's new focus on strengthening and building reciprocal relationships within the community.

"LSCC will provide me with a better understanding of the County's history and potential as I work toward increasing community awareness and support of the wide array of services SCCCC provides the County's most vulnerable residents."



Lorrie Wilson

City of Capitola

Lorrie has lived in Santa Cruz her entire life. She has been employed by the City of Capitola for 10 years and can't wait to attend LSCC. In her spare time she tries to travel as much as possible, but also enjoys hiking and spending time with family and friends. Her current goal is to spend a couple hours a week doing some type of volunteer work.

"I am hoping to meet lots of new people through LSCC."