

2019 CSAC Challenge Awards – Executive Summary
Issue Area: Government Finance, Administration & Technology
Monterey County Young Supervisors Program

Overview:

Monterey County Young Supervisors Program (“YSP”) is a unique four-week long, summer program that is open to high school and college students that reside or attend schools in Monterey County.

Challenge:

Monterey County students face challenges finding access to institutions that would help them develop skills in local government, public policy and civic engagement.

Innovative Solution:

The YSP was created in 2017 in order to provide the young people of Salinas and the surrounding areas with an opportunity to develop skills in leadership, team building, problem solving and further comprehend the importance of both civic participation and higher education. Participants go on an initial two-day leadership development training to sharpen and learn leadership skills. At the end of the four weeks, the participants will be able to more effectively communicate with others, have a stronger background in community service and organization, learn about professional networking, research and debate a local high priority topic, and gain an understanding of the legislative process and the workings of a County Supervisor. The participants will use the program to build their resume and strengthen their volunteer experience. Furthermore, the YSP aims to spark an interest in the young adults to become civically engaged and take part in the democratic process and decision making in their own communities. For the last two years, the research and debate topics by the program participants have resulted in actual policy being implemented, including the establishment of the first year-round county homeless shelter and a “Vote at 16” Resolution approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Results:

The YSP was the first of its kind in Monterey County and is currently the only program of its kind in the entire state. The program offers workshops on legislation, community organizing, professional development, and conflict resolution. The graduates have been able to interact with government and business officials, environmental researchers, local reporters and historians, and community leaders. This

program is available at no cost to the participants or their families, and includes a visit the Monterey Aquarium Research Center, the site of the first California Constitutional Convention at Colton Hall in Monterey, and a boat tour of the Monterey Bay to learn about marine protection and wildlife. Students who completed the program receive a special recognition certificate and a letter of recommendation from Supervisor Alejo. The Young Supervisors Program was originally founded in 2011 as the Young Assemblymembers Program, where over 160 students completed the program. Since 2017, 40 students have also completed the YSP for a total of over 200 students between both programs. Many of the Young Assemblymember alumni have taken the valuable skills they have learned in the program to prestigious universities like UC Berkeley, UCLA, Stanford University, West Point and Saint Mary's College.

Funding:

The YSP is spearheaded by Supervisor Alejo's staff and Alejo has successfully obtained outside funding and non-monetary donations, including those from Comcast, PG&E, Wells Fargo, the Monterey Aquarium and private citizens. The local non-profit organization, the Salinas Valley Dream Academy, has also partnered as the program's fiscal sponsor since 2017.

Timeline:

Each week, the students learn about real life topics impacting their communities. Below is a brief description of the 2019 Young Supervisors Program outline:

Week 1: Legislative Process, Overview of Mock Hearing, Professional Etiquette and Creating a Resume
Week 2: Restorative Justice, Media, Immigration & Law
Week 3: Homelessness, Environmental and Marine Protection, Visit to Monterey Aquarium
Week 4: Monterey Bay Tour & History, Mock Trial & Program Completion Ceremony with their families

Replicability:

With minimal resources, the program can be replicated by other county supervisors who are wanting to have a summer youth leadership program in their offices and help strengthen opportunities for them.

Tulare County Supervisor Eddie Valero visited the 2018 Young Supervisors Program to learn about the key functions and is implementing a similar program this summer.

Project or program contact:

Javier Gomez, Program Director

Gomezj@co.monterey.ca.us

Office of Monterey County Supervisor Luis A. Alejo, District 1

2018 YOUNG SUPERVISORS PROGRAM

MONTEREY COUNTY SUPERVISOR LUIS A. ALEJO

CO- PROGRAM DIRECTORS:

JACKIE JIMENEZ AND JAVIER GOMEZ



MONTEREY COUNTY SUPERVISOR LUIS A. ALEJO

- Monterey County Supervisor Luis Alejo
- Former CA State Assemblymember for the 30th Assembly District
- Former Mayor of Watsonville CA
- Practiced law both at California Rural Legal Assistance and the Superior Court of Monterey

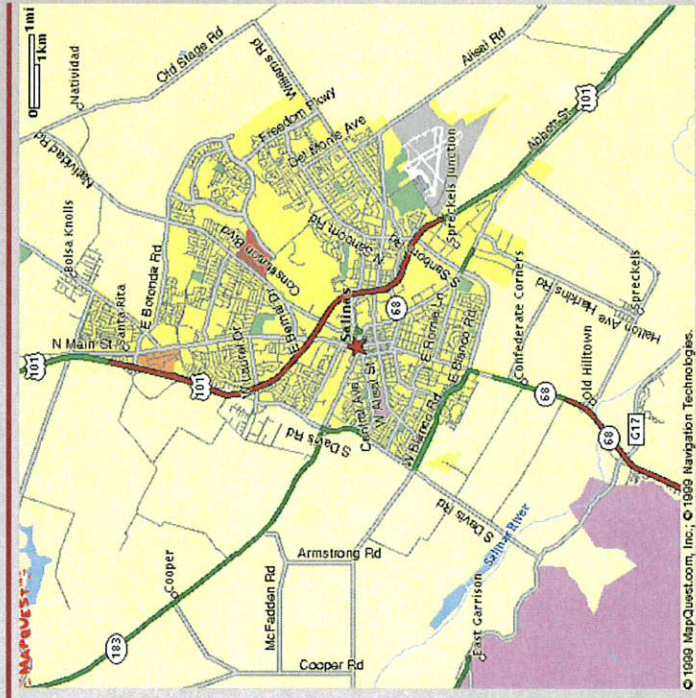
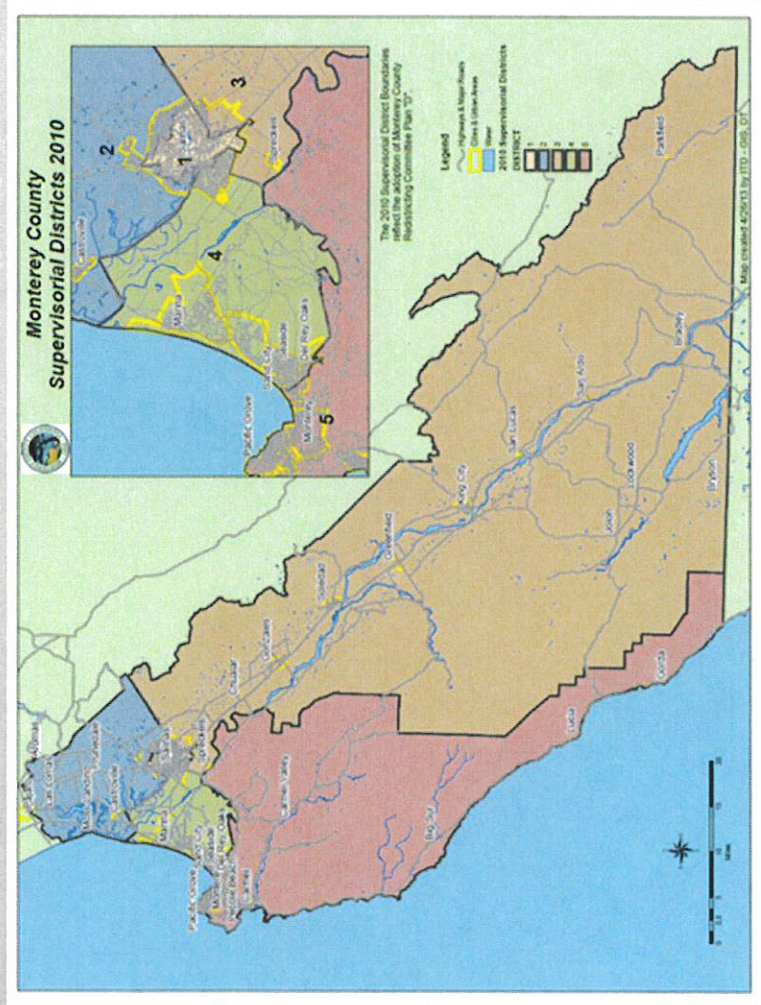


MONTEREY COUNTY OFFICE DISTRICT I

- Monterey County Supervisor
Luis A. Alejo
- Linda Gonzalez
 - Chief of Staff
- Javier Gomez
 - Legislative Aide
- Jackie Jimenez
 - Office Manager



COUNTY & CITY



PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

- Program Goal: Youth Mentorship & Empowerment
 - personal/professional development for the next generation of young leaders in Salinas.
- This program focuses on developing leadership skills and empowering the leaders of tomorrow by exposing them to important issues in our communities.

YOUNG SUPERVISORS PROGRAM



PROGRAM BACKGROUND

- The Young Supervisors Program is a four-week long program which is open to high school and college students that reside or attend schools in Monterey County.
- This program was originally founded in 2011, and was previously known as the Young Assemblymembers Program.
 - It was created in order to provide the young people of Salinas and the surrounding areas with an opportunity to develop skills in leadership, team building, problem solving and further comprehend the importance of both civic participation and higher education.
 - You will learn about the importance of civic participation, the press, community service, the legislative process, local issues facing Monterey County, and much more.



Monterey County Supervisor Luis A. Alejo addressing the Young Supervisors Program participants.

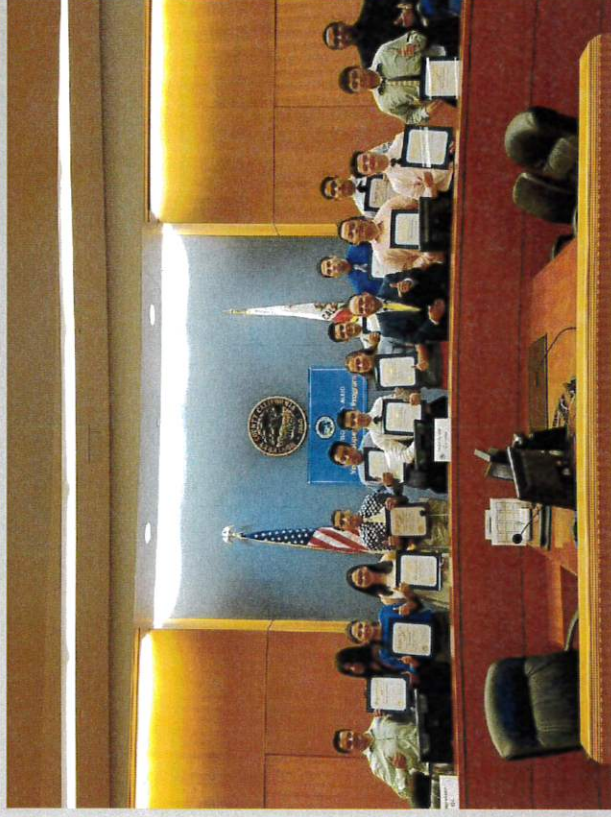
PROGRAM BREAK DOWN

- Program will consist of 8 sessions
 - Each session you will learn something new about our Community
 - The program will consist of multiple aspects
 - Tours/Trips in Monterey County
 - Special Guest Presentations
 - Mock Trial Preparation
- Grand Finally –Monterey County Young Supervisors Program Mock Hearing
 - Letter of Recommendation & Certificate of Recognition



BENEFITS OF COMPLETING THE YOUNG SUPERVISORS PROGRAM

- You will:
 - Meet Important Community leaders
 - Learn about leadership
 - What you learn during our program can be applied in future jobs moving forward
 - Receive Supervisor Alejo's Monterey County Board of Supervisors Certificate of Completion
 - Receive a letter of Recommendation from Supervisor Alejo
 - College Applications
 - Job Reference



Young Supervisors with their Monterey County Board of Supervisors Certificate of Completion.

MOST OF ALL...

- After the 4 week program
 - We want you all to leave feeling that you are:
 - More Empowered than when you first started
 - Learned new concepts, ideas and Information
 - Have a better understanding/grasp on the Legislative process
 - We want you all to have enjoyed your time and had FUN!

PROGRAM BREAKDOWN

WEEK 1 - WEEK 4

WEEK 1:

- Program Overview
- Overview of Mock Hearing
- Leadership Discussion and Activities
- Topics covered by guest speakers
 - County and State Government
 - Professional Etiquette & Resume Development



Young Supervisors hearing about leadership from Community Organizer and former Salinas City Councilmember Sergio Sanchez.



WEEK 2:

- Mock Trial Preparation:
 - Debates & Research
- Watch a live Monterey County Board of Supervisors meeting
- Topics Covered by Guest Speakers
 - Restorative Justice
 - Immigration
 - H-2A Housing



District 1
Lane Abate



District 2
John H. Phillips



District 3
Simon Salinas



District 4
Janet Parker

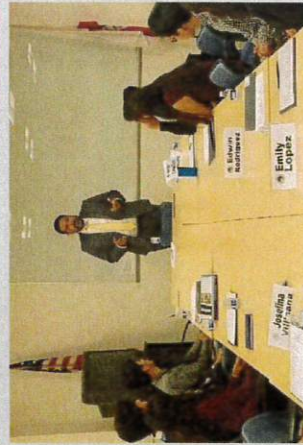


District 5
Mary Zolman



Young Supervisors observing the Monterey County Board of Supervisors Meeting.

WEEK 2 CONTINUED:



Left: Young Supervisors hearing about immigration law from Monterey County Public Defender Adhemir Romero.



Right: Young Supervisors after a presentation by Magnolia Zarraga, Immigration Attorney in Monterey County.



Left: Young Supervisors with Pamela Patterson of the Monterey County District Attorney's Office Victim Witness Services.



Right: Young Supervisors listening to a presentation on Restorative Justice by MILPA's Israel Villa.

WEEK 3:

- Trip to the Monterey Bay Aquarium
 - Topic: Environment: Oceanic Protection



Young Supervisors take in the vast ocean biodiversity at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

WEEK 3 CONTINUED:

- Tour of First United Methodist Church
- Topic: Homelessness in Monterey County



Left: Young Supervisors breaking bread and hearing from Salinas homeless residents and the work of the United Methodist Church.



Right: Young Supervisors with United Methodist Church Pastors Steve Linden and Cindy Storr.



Left: Scene from a homeless encampment in the Chinatown region of Salinas.



Right: Young Supervisors working with the United Methodist Church of Salinas to create care packages for the poorest residents.

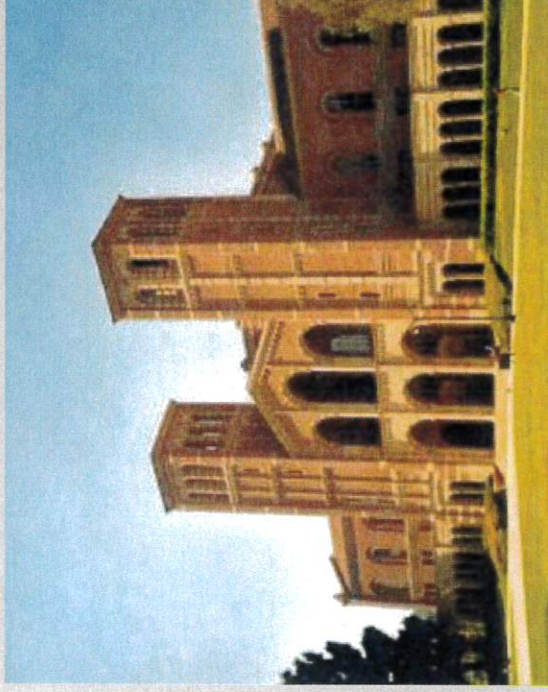
WEEK 4:

- City of Monterey Tour
 - Whale Watching in the Monterey Bay



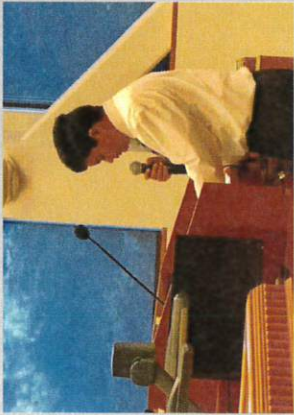
WEEK 4: MEDIA

- Mock Trial Rehearsals
- Guest Speakers: Former YAM participants
- Topic: Educational Attainment
- Former Young Assemblymembers Program Alumni
 - Over 160 students from the ages of 13-19 have participated in the former YAM program
 - Many of the alumni have taken the valuable skills they have learned in the program to prestigious universities such as:
 - UC Berkeley, UCLA, West Point Academy, Stanford University, Santa Clara University and UC Davis School of Law.



WEEK 4: MOCK HEARINGS IN 2017 AND 2018 ON “VOTE AT 16” AND YEAR ROUND HOMELESS SHELTER IN SALINAS

Both become policy approved by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors.



2018 YOUNG
SUPERVISORS
PROGRAM

•Questions?