

**BAKER APPRECIATION  
BASKET WINNER**

*Congratulations Rick Bobosky on winning the Baker Appreciation gift basket. Rick donated four loaves of ciabatta bread and two loaves banana bread. Thank you Rick for your contribution!*



# GSA insider

*Great Service Always!*



GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY NEWSLETTER      SEPT 2024

## From the Director

I want to start by thanking everyone for your prayers and thoughts during my recent health scare and hospitalization. They are greatly appreciated as are the continued wishes for a fully speedy recovery. It is a wonderful feeling to know how much you all care about me and our entire GSA family! It's been a busy few months, and fall is already upon us. The past few months have been full of exciting new events and changes, and GSA is, as always, right in the middle of it all. After assisting in temporarily filling in as the Public Works Agency Director, I'm pleased to say that GSA now has my undivided attention. I'm excited to be diving right back into each area of our organization. Special thank you to Craig Clutts who filled as GSA Interim Director and David



Barley as Facilities and Materials Chief Deputy Director. Take a look inside to meet GSA's own father/son duo keeping the County clean. Also meet the new GSA Safety Officer. You will see other great stories about how GSA is going the extra mile; requirements for recycled paper products, cele-

brating winners at the Ventura County Fair, dedication of the Daniel "Danny" Ponce Ramirez Ball Field, leadership learning what is Emotional Intelligence. Congratulations are due to Fleet Service. They were recently awarded #1 Green Garage Fleet, #10 Green Fleet in the National Association of Fleet Administration Green Fleet Awards, #14 Leading Government Fleet in the Nation and #25 Best Public Fleet in America. Fleet was publicly acknowledged by the Board of Supervisors with four special Resolutions. The next few months promise to be just as exciting.

Until next time,

David Sasek

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## GSA 1ST ANNUAL BAKE SALE



*GSA Holiday Committee had their first annual bake sale on August 27th. Customers donated what they thought was fair. There were smiles all throughout the sale! The event was such a great success that employees kept asking when our next one is going to be. Thank you to all that baked and all that donated! Great job Holiday Committee!*





# CAREER & RESOURCE EXPO



Chinna Nahabedian, GSA HR Talent Acquisition Analyst

GSA HR along with other agencies participated in the County of Ventura Career & Resource Expo in the main courtyard of the Ventura County Government Center on August 7, 2024. The public was invited to attend to explore career opportunities and learn about open positions, the application process and benefits of working for the County of Ventura. GSA's HR team has worked tirelessly to reduce our vacancy rate to below 9% for the first time in years. These career fairs are a big part of the their success.



Aaron Wilson, GSA HR Administrative Assistant IV



Left to right: Lucy Fernandez, GSA HR Manager, Beeta Lopez, Assistant Human Resources Manager and Kenny Leighton, GSA Occupational Health & Safety Officer



## Movin' and Shakin' who's coming, who's going in GSA

### New Hires:

Ramiro Cortez Roman, Garage Attendant  
 Gregory Napier, Clerical Trainee  
 Carmela Gonzales, Management Assistant II  
 John Kunsemiller, Environmental Resource Analyst I  
 Cameron Meisel, Graphics II Technician  
 Anissa Keown, Office Assistant III  
 Miguel Unzueta, Maintenance Engineer  
 Reed Schneider, Student Worker III  
 Rigo Martinez, Inventory Management Assistant III  
 Francisco Sanchez, Garage Attendant  
 Wade Lyle, Maintenance Engineer  
 Matthew Davoren, Staff Services Specialist I  
 Jessica Krohn, Management Assistant II  
 Kenyon Tobin, Maintenance Plumber  
 Robert Stadtler, Maintenance Plumber  
 Kenneth Leighton, Staff Services Manager II  
 Kathleen Ross, Custodian II

### Promotions:

Aaron Wilson, Administrative Assistant I  
 Diane Grace, Maintenance Worker IV  
 James Jordahl, Maintenance Worker IV  
 Christian Acuna, Certified Bldg. Maint. Eng.  
 Scott Mitchell, Senior Procurement Specialist  
 Emilia Contreras, Accounting Assistant II  
 Sean Mumper, Custodian III  
 Steven Blair, Facility Operation Specialist II  
 Annette Cardona, Facility Operation Specialist II

## REQUIREMENT FOR RECYCLED PAPER PRODUCTS



SB 1383 (Short Lived Climate Pollutants) effective 1/1/22 has many facets and requirements. Among them is a provision for jurisdictions to procure and use recycled content paper products. These paper products include of office supplies, writing and printing paper, printed material and paper janitorial supplies. You may have noticed a change in the paper products supplied by GSA's Housekeeping division. Paper towels, toilet paper and seat covers are now mandated to have a minimum recycled paper content.

This percentage requirement varies by product, but some require a minimum of at least a 40% recycled content.





## FATHER/SON DUO KEEPING THE COUNTY CLEAN



Daniel and Timothy Wiggins are Custodian II's with Ventura County with a unique story—they are a father/son duo! Daniel has worked for the county for 8 years in his current position. Daniel started as extra help at VCMC. He has worked in many different departments before he came to GSA. Daniel encouraged his son Timothy to apply for the Custodian position because of how much he enjoyed his job. Timothy has now been with the county for 1 year and 5 months. The father/son duo work in different buildings and have different supervisors because of their family relation, but at home Daniel and Timothy have discussed various work equipment and processes. Daniel passes his knowledge on to Timothy.

Both gentlemen enjoy the stability, benefits, and career advancements that the County offers. Custodian II's work an overnight shift, and both Daniel and Timothy enjoy the quiet and flexibility the shift has; it is comfortable and not stressful for them. Daniel particularly likes that the hours allow him to comfortably participate in one of his favorite pastimes, fishing! Daniel's neighborhood happens to be full of current and former county employees, and he says that working with the county gives him a true sense of community and pride.

They are not the only members of the family working for the county either—Daniel's wife, Timothy's mother, works for the probation agency at the juvenile facility. Daniel has another son that works for Oxnard Public Works, but Daniel hopes

that he will eventually work for the County. Looking forward, Daniel is looking forward to retiring with the County, although he's in no hurry to do so. Timothy is looking forward to staying with the County for many years to come and moving into other positions.

## WELCOME TO GSA

### Welcome GSA Safety Officer: Kenny Leighton

Kenny comes to the County from the private sector where he has 12+ years of Health and Safety experience. Kenny was born and raised here in Ventura County, having lived in Oxnard and graduated from Channel Islands High School many years ago. He is a proud Army veteran serving 8 years in the US Army as an Infantryman. Kenny has been happily married to his best friend Tina for 9 years. He has three kids, Kenny III (29), Kieana (26), and Ethan (13). He also has 3 grandkids, Nathan, Isabella, and Etta.

As a current resident of Fillmore, he is a volunteer coach for the Fillmore Condors Cross Country Team and the Heritage Valley Blazers Track and Field Club. Kenny says, "I won't lie, I use a bike -- father time just doesn't allow me to even think about keeping up with those young athletes."

When he does have some free time, Kenny is an avid BBQ/smoker. There's nothing better than getting up before the sun, throwing some meat on the Traeger, relaxing and watching the sun rise.

Kenny has a passion for safety where he truly believes that nothing we do is worth getting hurt and his goal is for everyone to go home safe and healthy. He also says he is a realist and understands we have a job and a responsibility to get the job done; "our constituents and customers depend on us. It is also our responsibility as leaders to ensure we accomplish this and to utilize all resources necessary to be safe." Kenny is excited and proud to have accepted the responsibility as the GSA Safety Officer and looks forward to supporting each member of this great team.

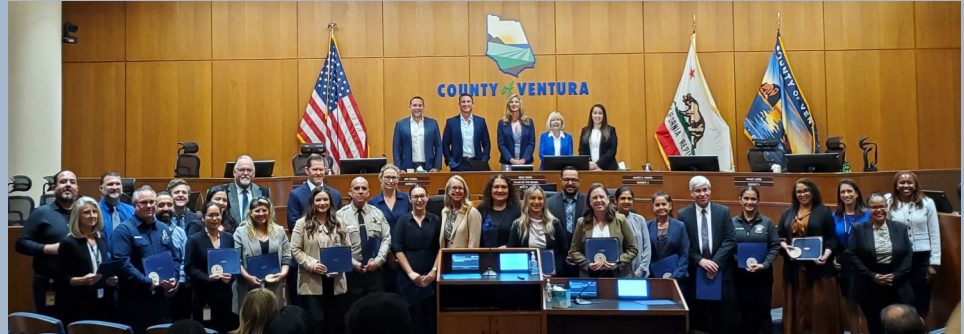


Kenny Leighton pictured with his wife Tina and his youngest son Ethan.



# Celebrating Staff!

## Leadership Excellence & Action Program For Managers

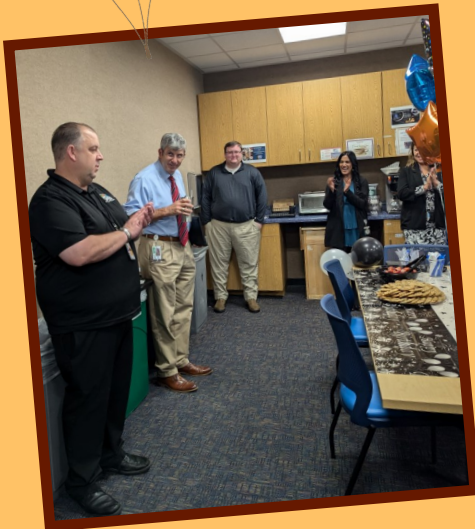


**Robert Crawford**

*Staff Services Manager II*

**Congratulations "LEAP" Graduate!**

**Happy Birthday  
GSA Director, David Sasek!**





# Ventura County Fair... and the winners are



Congratulations to Kenny Milton for taking home the 1st place blue ribbon and also earning "Best in Show for Professional Art" for one of his wood carvings featured at the Ventura County Fair. Kenny was also awarded 3rd place for another carving, and 5th place for a painting. Kenny's art will be featured in the upcoming Downtown Ventura Art Walk in September at Mission Park.



GS  
A

After years of simply taking photos, Rory Aronsky, decided to make photography a full-fledged hobby this past March, and began really concentrating on what he was capturing. He submitted three photos to this year's County Fair photography exhibit in the Amateur Color Prints division.

Upon arriving at the County Fair on Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, opening day, and searching the photography exhibit for the photos he submitted, Rory discovered in the Botanicals/Flowers/Plants category that his photo of new flowers planted at Village Green Apartments on Hill Road in Ventura won an Honorable Mention ribbon.

He plans to enter again next year, possibly with a photo of waiting in line outside Porto's in Burbank that he really likes, and whatever else appeals to him until it's time to submit photos again to the Fair.



Congratulations Rory!



Congratulations  
Bob Talaugon!  
Ventura County Fair  
1st place winner 4th year in a row  
for his avocados!





# Staff Compliments



*Peter Berry and Scott Mitchell went the extra mile for the Ventura County Sheriff's office to support the SWAT unit. They stayed after work hours to process a Requisition and then build and issue a PO for urgent repairs to SWAT equipment. Peter has continued to expedite the approval process by engaging with Auditor Controller to help out SHF, reaching out to various ACO staff to find staff to approve the PO, all the while keeping SHF current with status. Peter went above and beyond to assist SHF with their procurement, providing excellent customer service while keeping open communication. Thanks for supporting GSA's clients!*

Amber Butler, Director-Finance in the Sheriff's Office writes:  
 I am writing you to express our thanks to Cliff Chroust, Julie Miller and Ryan Stover for providing exceptional Customer Service to Sheriff's Office. Recently, we had a need for a complicated action. Cliff and his team thought outside of the box to offer us the solution of a "B" document that would accomplish the goal of securing current year budget and rolling into the next fiscal year. Ryan even took the time to email me a copy of the PO, so I could provide it to the vendor quickly.  
 I am thankful to know that if I have a contracting question, that I can call any of the above named and I am confident that I am receiving dependable advice. GSA is very fortunate to have this amazing and knowledgeable team and I wanted to ensure that our gratitude rose to your attention.

*I would like to recognize Joseph Saffa and Selva Measurall who were heading over to the solar yard at JJC and saw an injured Great Horned Owl on the ground near perimeter fence. Joseph put the injured owl in a box and Selva contacted Ojai Raptor Center (a non-profit organization dedicated to rescue, rehabilitation and release of birds of prey and other wildlife) to report about a found injured owl. A staff member from Ojai Raptor Center came by JJC to pick up the injured owl to be treated.*

*"I'm very grateful to now be working with David Beaty. I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for his timely responses to work orders, his efficiency, and excellent communication. His support has made a noticeable difference, and I truly appreciate his efforts. Thank you for taking the time to read his praise, he has made such a positive impact on our team."  
 Gricelda Aguilar, RN who oversees the Conejo Valley Family Medical Group Clinic In Thousand Oaks.*

Roy Morris wrote: I am writing to express my heartfelt appreciation for the exceptional efforts demonstrated by Ethan Edmonds, Wayne Kirkland, and Larry Villa during the recent Touch A Truck event. Their initiative to invite my daughter into the broadcasting booth and allow her to operate a camera significantly enhanced her experience on "Bring Your Kid to Work Day." This gesture not only made the day memorable for Reine but also exemplified the dedication and spirit of the DSETs team. Thank you for fostering such a supportive and engaging environment of Transparency and Open Communication.





# Staff Compliments Cont.

Supervisor Kelly Long recognized the Parks team at the 7/23/24 Board meeting for the Warring Park Ribbon Cutting. She said all the kids came running out of the Boys and Girls Club and thanked them for the new equipment and promised to take care of it and were just over the moon for it along with the parents. She said the Parks teams' effort is truly appreciated by the whole Piru community.

Rick Bobosky, GSA Facilities Manager, has words of appreciation for Dwayne Conary:

We discovered a broken pipe in PTFD near the Annex in the main Jail. Since Projects is re-piping the main jail but weren't in the area we found the leak in, we planned to fix it. We ask Dwayne if he thought he could help out. Dwayne worked with us to pivot his repair area to support Maintenance and essentially save the county money from doing a job twice and also helping out F&M in the process. Way to support Maintenance and us as a customer Dwayne, we appreciate you and it shows your partnership with Maintenance.

Melanie Sierra of HCA thanked Sean Payne:  
 "Sean, I'd like to say thank you to you and your team for helping us feel safe and for doing what you all do on a daily basis to ensure our safety. It is very much appreciated." Excellent commitment to safety and Customer Service, Sean

Joey Carmona wanted to take a moment to highlight the exceptional work of the JJC maintenance team: Scott Blair, Saul De La Rosa, Selva Measurall, Ed Olafsson, Paul Rodriguez, and Joseph Saffa. Their outstanding Partnership and teamwork have not gone unnoticed. A special thank you to the team for their quick response in addressing water heater replacements and handling building plumbing issues at the JJC. Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated!

The District Attorney's Office wanted a little quiet and requested a soundproof navigation room in the Ventura Family Justice Center. GSA Projects lent a hand and worked under PM -Bruce Ward and John Ledezma (JAMB) to help install new Lamvin Soni I fabric in the various rooms to reduce noise at the Family Justice Center in Ventura. The Project managers worked through the discovery and abatement of some asbestos containing material (ACM) found in the space. Yvonne Pamplone- manager district attorney office- stated "Thank you so much for getting it done so quickly. Even with a few delays, you kept the project moving forward and we really appreciate that. Everyone at the FJC is really happy with the end result." Great work and great Customer Service!

A big thank you to the GSA Scan Team for their outstanding work on the CalSAWS Scan project: Teri McLean, Jesus "Jesse" Pacheco, Joshua Gannon, and Valerie Urias. GSA Business Support has been partnering with HSA to receive, digitize, and transfer documents related to various CalSAWS projects, which are crucial in providing assistance to 1 out of 3 members of our community. These efforts also enable HSA teams to work more effectively in serving our friends and neighbors. The scan team's efforts have been an essential key step in this process, skillfully leveraging technology to accelerate workflows while maintaining an impeccable level of accuracy in metadata collection and transfer. Their contributions have not only streamlined processes but have also aided in assurance that the needs of the community are met with precision and efficiency.

"I recently came in one morning to the office and was greeted by a note from GSA informing me that my carpets had been cleaned by Lonnie Washington and Hector Garcia. Not only was the note very welcome but also the carpet in my office looked great! I realize the hard-working employees are not always recognized for their outstanding work at GSA by fellow departments, so I wanted to write a short note of gratitude and ask respectfully that you extend my thanks to Lonnie and Hector." Thank you for demonstrating such care in your Customer Service!  
 Erik Nasarenko, District Attorney:

# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECOGNIZES FLEET



GSA Fleet Services was recognized by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors for four awards that they received. Supervisor Kelly Long said “We are so proud to celebrate the professionalism and caliber of leadership in our County staff. Thank you for your excellent leadership and vision over the last 5 years and helping the GSA Fleet and the County to truly achieve greatness.”

- ◆ #1 Green Garage Fleet
- ◆ #10 Green Fleet in the National Association of Fleet Administration Green Fleet Awards
  - ◆ #14 Leading Government Fleet in the Nation
  - ◆ #25 Best Public Fleet in America



***Congratulations to the entire Fleet team!***





# What's New in Parks?

## 2024 Ventura County Fair Parks Takes Home Top Honors!



Ventura County Parks took home top honors this year at the Ventura County Fair with their Steckel Park inspired booth. The booth was complete with a backdrop of a campsite from Steckel Park, a tent, fire pit, chairs and S'MORES cutouts that you could stick

your face in. Visitors enjoyed interacting with Park Rangers and receiving their very own Ventura County Parks Smores stick for their next camping adventure.



## 2024 Coastal Clean-up Day

On Saturday, September 21, two Coastal Clean-up Days were hosted through Ventura County Parks. Groups gathered along the Rincon Parkway and Steckel Park. Each location had approximately 50 people in attendance and indicated a higher-than-normal amount of trash collected. Items collected included micro-trash, clothing, household items and diapers. Volunteers came from local schools, service organizations and general community support for the event.



**Rincon Team Captain:** Ted Cook  
**Steckel Park Team Captains:** Caitlin Barringer & Maria Munguia



## Contact Us

If you have questions about park projects, please e-mail Jeri Cooper at [Jeri.Cooper@ventura.org](mailto:Jeri.Cooper@ventura.org). All other inquires can be directed to the appropriate e-mail address or phone number listed below.

- Park Reservations Line:  
(805) 654-3951  
(to reserve group day-use areas and individual campsites)
- Park Ranger Desk:  
(805) 672-2071
- Park Maintenance Desk:  
(805) 672-2073
- General Questions and Comments:  
[county.parks@ventura.org](mailto:county.parks@ventura.org)

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.ventura.org/general-services-agency/parks-department](http://www.ventura.org/general-services-agency/parks-department).

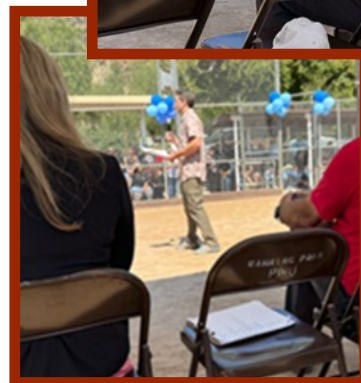
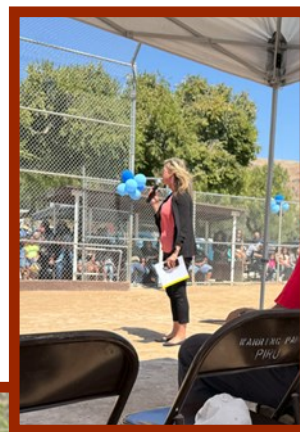




## Daniel “Danny” Ponce Ramirez Ball Field Dedication



On September 21 District 3, Piru Neighborhood Council and VCPD hosted a large event at Warring Park to honor the late Danny Ramirez. Danny Ramirez was a fantastic employee of VCPD for the last 23 years and a life-long member of the community of Piru. Danny passed away January 10, 2024, after a long battle with cancer. Danny was honored through renaming of the park to Danny’s One River Park along with a dedication plaque and large mural. We miss you Danny!



## Soule Park Pickleball Grand Opening



The City of Ojai, in partnership with Ventura County Parks Department (VCPD), hosted a grand opening event for the new pickleball courts at Soule Park on September 20, 2024. On March 26, 2024 VCPD was approved by the board of supervisors to enter into a 10-year Land Use Agreement (LUA) with the City of Ojai. The LUA authorized the city to seek funding and construct new courts at Soule Park. The city funded the 6 new pickleball courts and 2 new paddleball courts through a proposition 68 grant. The old courts had only 3 paddleball courts and one pickleball court and were need of upgrade. This is very successful public-public partnership where all parties worked with each other’s interest to find success for the park guests and pickleball enthusiasts.

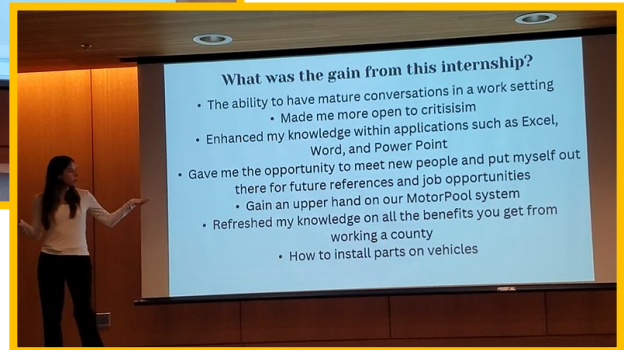
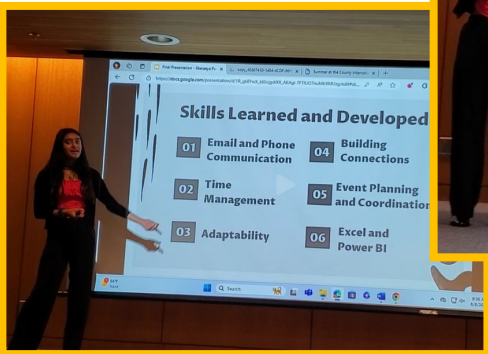
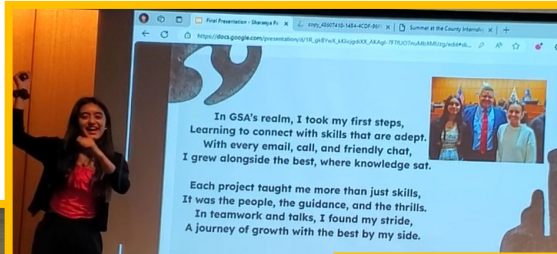




**“Mentoring is the art of creating a nurturing the leaders for tomorrow”**

GSA proudly hosted through the CEO “Summer at the County” high school student internship program 2 incredible young women - Annyssa Morales-Cervantez & Sharanya Palakodeti

Annyssa interned in Fleet and Sharanya was mentored in Administration. Each was here just 6 weeks but left a mutual lasting impression. They assisted on numerous projects, toured GSA facilities, and ultimately shared their experiences with a final presentation. In their own words, you can see all they learned and the gratitude they expressed to all those they met at GSA. Sharanya closed her story with a poem and led the crowd in a GSA chant!



**What is Emotional Intelligence—EQ?**

The ability to recognize, understand and manage our emotions... and recognize, understand, and influence the emotions of others. EQ is a skill that can be honed and improved.

The General Services Agency recently hosted an impactful workshop on Emotional Intelligence (EQ) for its leadership team. Participants explored key leadership principles, including managing emotions, fostering positive work environments, and enhancing communication. This workshop provided practical tools for improving decision-making and building stronger, more empathetic teams. This focus on leadership skill building for personal and professional development is just the beginning for staff in GSA, with more training, practice, and learning opportunities to come.

**Key Lessons:**

- **Managing Emotions:** Using emotional awareness to effectively lead and inspire.
- **Fostering Positivity:** Strategies for a supportive, collaborative workplace.
- **Improving Communication:** Building stronger connections with clarity and empathy.



# WELCOME TO VENTURA

## Ventura County GSA Hosts Statewide CGSA Professionals

In August, GSA proudly hosted the California General Services Association (CGSA) Summer Quarterly Meeting, bringing together GSA professionals from across the state. Held at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and our own Government Center, the event provided an opportunity to share best practices and showcase our commitment to service excellence. Dave Barley led an insightful tour of the Government Center where it was truly enlightening for CGSA to see how vast our products and services stretch even in the small footprint of the GC! Special thanks go out to all our department representative speakers from Business Support, Fleet, Procurement and nearly all of Facilities and Materials. Thank you, also, to Brittany Stephens for her dedication in coordinating the entire event. Her tireless efforts were recognized by all as the highest example of conference delivery!

**"The County of Ventura's hospitality and services left a lasting impression on our state colleagues!"**

All attendees were very appreciative of the County of Ventura hospitality and were impressed with the services you all provide every day. Well done, GSA!



# THANK YOU

- Speakers:
- Supervisor Parvin, Michelle Guzman (CEO), Steve Nelles, Jennifer Sanchez (HSA), Charlie Wilson, Andrew Becker, Chris Melton, Jorge Bonilla, Robert Crawford, Tamara Barbey, David Barley, Sean Payne, Patrick Squires, Lorenzo Villa



# GSA Strategic Planning Process

"Let's keep the momentum going—there's more great work ahead!"



GSA leadership has been actively engaging the entire agency over the summer months in the strategic planning process, fostering collaboration and input from every department. With guidance from consultant, Janette Williams, we've held nearly 40 meetings so far, building positive energy toward a unified vision. Thank you to everyone who has participated—your contributions are vital to shaping our future together!

