METRONEWS

FEBRUARY 23, 2022

WWW.METROCHAMBER.ORG

BLACKWOOD CORNER

"Create the highest, grandest vision of yourself, because you become what you believe." Oprah Winfrey

Taylor Toledo, Chair of Metro EDGE recently reminded the business community of the roles we play in elevating our community as she presented Anna Fontus with an award for Metro EDGE Young Professional of the Year.

Perhaps her reminder was a challenge to celebrate the ripple effect of inspiration we generate. Or, it was a reminder of our authentic abilities to not just dream, but act.

Whatever you take away from these powerful words, never forget to take time to invest in yourself and in endless pursuit of your dreams. Life is too short to wait for things to happen and if we don't capitalize on our abilities now, we never will. We have and always will be catalysts for what is possible.

-In partnership - Amanda Blackwood, President & CEO

TALK OF THE TOWN

The business community was the talk of the town at the Sacramento Metro Chamber's 127th Annual Dinner and Business Awards, presented by UC Davis Health. The Grand Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency was electric. From standing ovations, laughter to reunions two years in the making, the night reflected exactly what business does best. Most importantly, the night was a celebration of what the business community does best: to have an impact.

To relive our momentous night, take a moment to watch our **Award Films** or view pictures from the evening.

During the evening, the Sacramento Metro Chamber named **Bob Swanson**, Shareholder at Boutin Jones Inc. – one of Sacramento's largest business law firms – as Chair of the 2022 Board of Directors. Swanson follows Dave Roughton, President & CEO of SAFE Credit Union, who served the Metro Chamber as Chair throughout 2021. The transition officially took place at the 127th Annual Dinner & Business Awards that occurred on February 11, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento.

From the bottom of our Metro Chamber hearts, thank you to all of our sponsors, our award winners and the business community for bringing the region back to life.

IMPACT REPORT

Inspired by your leadership and the business community, our team of fifteen achieved the highest level of measurable impact in recent years with over $100 million in economic impact in 2021 alone! We were the drivers of economic prosperity in the region that elevated the role we play as a community in regional advocacy.

Read the Sacramento Metro Chamber Impact Report **here**.

LET'S TALK BUSINESS.

It's all about passion.

Valentine's Day may have passed, but act on that feeling of civic love and come with a cadre of the Capital Region's most dedicated advocates to Washington, D.C., for our 50th year of Capitol-to-Capitol.

Cap-to-Cap's mission is a fundamental exercise of democracy. People have descended upon Congress for years advocating for a variety of issues. What sets Cap-to-Cap apart is that we come together and work collectively, with one voice, to move our region forward.

Citrus Heights
Small Business COVID-19
Recovery Grant Program
Educational webinar about applying, Feb 14 @ 3:30 pm
Via Zoom, Register: bit.ly/CH-WEBINAR

HELP IS AVAILABLE

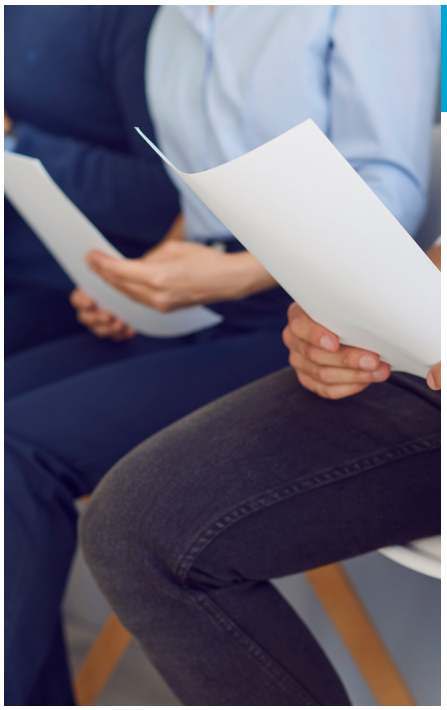
The City of Citrus Heights is launching a new **Small Business COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program**, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The program has been created to support Citrus Heights small businesses impacted by the pandemic and offers grants of $2,000 - $15,000 per eligible business (based on business annual revenue amount), with a total of $320,000 available.

Applications for the program are accepted February 24, 2022 through March 26, 2022. Don't know where to start? Contact the **MetroBusiness Center** for assistance.

LET'S TALK BUSINESS.

Join State Controller Betty T. Yee and the City of Sacramento to talk business! On February 25, small businesses are invited to attend a webinar to learn about resources and funding opportunities available to small businesses in the region.

The webinar will also feature Brandon Black, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy with the Sacramento Metro Chamber. Attendance is open to all and live questions are encouraged! **Register** today.



CALLING ALL TALENT

Join the Metro Chamber Foundation, in partnership with the Office of Mayor Darrell Steinberg, in building our future workforce pipeline through Thousand Strong! Thousand Strong provides high school juniors and seniors employment training and paid internships while adding value and talent to your business. We need employer worksites! Invest in a network of diverse youth and help us build future talent pipelines to advance the prosperity of our city. Contact Jazmine Alop at **jalop@metrochamber.org** to learn about all of the benefits and employer resources available to you.

Earlier this month, the MetroBusiness Center and Valley Vision co-hosted webinar to help businesses **expand their talent pipeline**. The session featured an introduction to the Metro Chamber's business support services, an overview of Sacramento City's Homeless Hiring Tax Credit, and a panel discussion about the various resources and incentives offered by different organizations to expand hiring pools and fulfill diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) goals.

PROJECT

Leadership Sacramento classes have been making a huge impact in the region by supporting a different nonprofit for the past 36 years. Know of a nonprofit that could use extra funds and in-kind services? Have them submit **this survey** for a chance to be selected as the LS22 class project!

MEET YOUR METRO

To know Jazmine is to know kindness in its purest form.

A Sacramento native by way of San Jose, Jazmine Alop, Workforce Development Program Manager for the Sacramento Metro Chamber Foundation has an endless zest for life. When not traveling around the world, Jazmine can be found experiencing the diverse food scene that Sacramento serves up. She is fueled by those that have inspired her – her family, particularly the women in her life, have taught her to pay it forward by acting in service to others. Jazmine honors their teachings by supporting the region's next generation of leaders who are actively contributing to the growth of our region.

When not at work, Jazmine can be found reading a book, surrounded by puppies, or watching her favorite movie, The Godfather. Although we haven't heard her impression of Don Vito, her teammates imagine it to be spot on.

Next up on Jazmine's bucket list is volunteering at a Gorilla Sanctuary, not just to help save the species, but also to hold a baby gorilla. Because who wouldn't want that?