



HEAL Spring Learning Community 2014

Wednesday, April 23, 2014 | Cathedral Plaza, Downtown LA | 9:30AM – 3:00PM

Biographies

Julie Dorey

Julie Dorey has been involved in the Healthy Ontario program since its inception in 2006 and served on the steering committee on behalf of the City of Ontario. She has been involved in city government since 1981 and has served the Ontario community for more than 29 years. As Assistant Director of the Ontario Recreation & Community Services Department, Dorey has worked closely with elected officials at all levels. She is also an active partner with organizations such as Kiwanis and the Kids Come First Community Health Center. Currently, she assists with the coordination of the Ontario HEAL Zone Initiative and partners with community centers and parks that encourage healthy eating and active living. Dorey graduated with a bachelor's degree in Health and Physical Education from Loma Linda University.

Marlen Garcia

Marlen Garcia served as a member of the Baldwin Park City Council for over a decade, and has the distinction of being the first Latina elected to the Baldwin Park City Council. In 2005, she was selected as the 57th California Assembly District Woman of the Year for her outstanding community contributions and dedication to addressing the national childhood obesity epidemic. As Chairperson of the Recreation and Community Services Commission, she spearheaded the building of the Baldwin Park Teen Center, which encourages physical activity and offers healthy snack alternatives to the youth of Baldwin Park. Garcia was instrumental in the creation of Baldwin Park's People on the Move Collaborative, a joint effort between city employees, the school district, and various community partners. She successfully implemented the Baldwin Park PRIDE Platoon Program, which utilizes proactive and innovative techniques for positive redirection of at-risk youth. Garcia has served the public education system of Baldwin Park as a member of the Baldwin Park Unified School District Middle School Task Force, and Chairperson of the Advisory School Site Council and Parent Advisory Committee at Foster Elementary School.

John Guastaferrero

As Vice President of Development for the Anaheim Family YMCA, John Guastaferrero leads the organization's marketing, fundraising, and strategic planning directives. He also oversees the Activate Anaheim coalition and the Anaheim HEAL Zone, where he engages community leaders, frames key messages, and advances the initiative's progress. Guastaferrero received his marketing degree in 1992 and has worked as a marketing professional and graphic designer for both for-profit and non-profit organizations. He lives in Yorba Linda, CA with his wife and two daughters, and is an accomplished magician. Guastaferrero authored the book "One Degree" and has performed and lectured across the U.S. and in Europe.

Miguel Rodriguez

Miguel Rodriguez currently serves as a Community Organizer for the Ventura and Santa Paula regions of the Central Coast Alliance United for A Sustainable Economy (CAUSE). In 2011, he formed the Ventura Avenue United Leadership Team (VAULT), a collaboration of grassroots leaders working against the financially unsound annexation of unincorporated county land. VAULT has also preserved the neighborhood's promised pool money, incorporated a park overlay in the community development plan, and secured Spanish language translation for Ventura City Council meetings to better incorporate the voice of the west Ventura neighborhood. Rodriguez has also organized a successful city council candidate forum on Ventura Avenue, which had not been done in the neighborhood for almost a decade. Rodriguez credits the opportunities and challenges of his social justice work at CAUSE as inspiration for building character, inspiring change, and taking leadership to a higher level.