

County of Santa Clara



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WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY BREAKFAST HONORS OUTSTANDING LOCAL LEADERS

SAN JOSE, CA — Today, a handful of local women were honored at the Wyndham Hotel for their outstanding contributions, during the Women's Equality Breakfast, the annual celebration of women's and girls' achievements that once again gathered a dynamic network of hundreds of women, and the men who support their goals.

Women's Equality Day commemorates the anniversary of women's right to vote and honors women who have distinguished themselves as outstanding leaders. This year the Commission on The Status of Women, organizer of the event, chose the theme "Women of Strength and Spirit" to honor the tenacity and determination of the human spirit.

"This annual breakfast not only helps the Commission celebrate the successes and achievements of local women," said Lata Patil, Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women. "It also raises awareness in the community about some of the critical issues concerning women and girls."

This year the honorees were:

Nonprofit: **Marlene Bjornsrud**, Bay Area Women's Sports Initiative
Community: **Martha Kanter**, Chancellor, Foothill-DeAnza Community College District
Business: **Kathy Levinson**, Investor, Philanthropist
Government: **Sandy Martinez**, Rehabilitation Officer
Young Leaders: Shivani Sopory, Wen Wen Lam, Shaherose Charania,
and Angie Chang

The event featured keynote speaker **Noni Allwood**, Senior Director of Human Resources at Cisco Systems and Co-Chair of the Women of Color Action Network.

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“We are so inspired by these extraordinary women we honor today,” said County of Santa Clara Supervisor Liz Kniss. “They represent many women that overcome, with passion and dignity, the obstacles they encounter to achieve their goals in their personal and professional lives.”

Proceeds from the event will benefit the work of the **Santa Clara County Commission on the Status of Women** (CSW). The mission of CSW is to advise the Board of Supervisors on all issues that affect the lives of women and girls and to investigate and advocate for the equal participation and treatment of women and girls in Santa Clara County.

“For more than 30 years The Commission on The Status of Women has been a relentless champion in our county's efforts to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against women,” says Santa Clara County Supervisor Blanca Alvarado. “The commission continues to be our eyes and ears in areas related to the wellbeing of women and all that they hold dear.”

A special cultural performance by the dance group *Folklórico Nacional Juvenil* added a festive note to the celebration.

Sponsors included: Semi, The Pinnacle Company, LifeScan, Fry's Electronics, United Printing Co., Cisco Systems, Silicon Valley Community Newspapers, NBC 11, Telemundo 48, and radio stations KLIV and KRTY.

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