

# County of Santa Clara

## Registrar of Voters

Public and Legislative Affairs

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## **SANTA CLARA COUNTY REGISTRAR & STAFF GRADUATE AS CERTIFIED ELECTIONS/REGISTRATION ADMINISTRATORS (CERA)**

*CERA is the Election Center's Highest Designation  
Available to Elections Officials*

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIF.** – Registrar of Voters Shannon Bushey is being designated as a Certified Elections/Registration Administrator (CERA), the Election Center's highest professional achievement, in ceremonies at The Westin Galleria in Houston, Texas at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, August 21, 2015. Joining Ms. Bushey as part of the 2015 graduating class will be Public and Legislative Affairs Manager and Media Officer Philip Chantri and Election Materials and Voting Systems Manager Michael Fong.

CERA designation is achieved only through a multi-year course of study conducted by the Election Center's Professional Education Program and completion of twelve core courses taught by the Master's in Public Administration faculty of Auburn University (Auburn, Alabama). These courses include subjects such as ethics, voter registration and elections law, planning, communications, and voter participation, among others. The intent of the program is to promote and preserve public trust in the democratic process by professionalizing the management of voter registration and elections administration.

"This is the highest designation available to elections and voter registration officials," said Tim Mattice, director of the Center. "This graduating class of 57 professionals takes us to 906 election officials and election vendors who have achieved the CERA or CERV (Certified Elections/Registration Vendor) status. This is an outstanding accomplishment."

Mattice elaborated on the achievement of the Registrar of Voters' Office, stating: "Santa Clara County is indeed fortunate to have Shannon Bushey, Philip Chantri and Michael Fong complete the certification process and be designated as among the top professionals in America."

It is a measure of their dedication to making democracy work in Santa Clara County, Mattice noted. "It takes an unusual commitment to have several people within an office pursue a demanding and



challenging educational program. It also ensures Santa Clara County that the very best in management techniques, technologies and processes will be implemented.”

“It is my great honor to guarantee that the public’s will is accurately reflected in our elections. I see my role as accommodating all potential voters and removing as many barriers as possible to participation in the democratic process,” stated Registrar of Voters Shannon Bushey.

Philip Chantri, with nearly 20 years of elections experience, said, “The CERA Program has allowed for the sharing of knowledge, experiences, elections practices and professionalism. It has given us the ability to instantly reach out to a network of vast expertise. The work of Democracy is a never-ending responsibility and the program reinforces and reinvigorates the enormity of that immense obligation and duty.”

Michael Fong added, “This is one of the most challenging education programs I have ever participated in. We covered the law and ethical considerations in how to better serve the public in an ever-changing industry. We realized how important it is to continue to nurture and care for the democratic process through idea exchanges, collaborations, and learning from different points of view and process approaches.”

The Professional Education Program is sponsored by the Election Center, a non-profit association of voter registrars and elections administrators throughout America. Its membership is comprised of township, city, county and state elections officials and other election related corporations. The Center’s primary purpose is education for local and state voter registrars and elections officials, with an eye toward promoting and improving the democratic process.

Professional Education Program participants receive continuing education credit from Auburn University as well as professional training credits from the Election Center. The Professional Education Program was recognized in 1996 as the top continuing education program in America by the National University Continuing Education Association.

For more information, contact the Registrar of Voters’ Office at 1-408-299-VOTE (8683) or toll-free at 1-866-430-VOTE (8683), or visit [www.sccvote.org](http://www.sccvote.org).

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