



Press Release

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Authority Central Valley Regional Director Receives Fresno State’s Top Dog Distinction

FRESNO, Calif. – Authority Central Valley Regional Director and active Fresno State alumni Diana Gomez has been named the University’s 2015 Lyles College of Engineering “Top Dog”. This annual award is the highest honor bestowed upon an alumni of the college based on the recipient’s personal and professional contributions to the field. Gomez has a record of leadership and a history of inspiring youth to pursue studies in science, technology, engineering and math.

“Diana Gomez, alumna of the Lyles College of Engineering, was chosen as Top Dog for her outstanding contributions and accomplishments in engineering, and for her extensive service in promoting and supporting the participation of diverse students in STEM fields,” said Dr. Ram Nunna, Dean of Fresno State’s Lyles College of Engineering. “She is a great role model - particularly for first generation college students, and women who are entering engineering and other similar programs at universities. Diana has shown that persistence and hard work lead to great careers and rewards.”

Gomez was named the Authority’s Central Valley Regional Director in 2012. Since joining the Authority, she has built and developed new partnerships with local businesses and residents that were potentially impacted by high-speed rail in the Valley. Prior to her work with the Authority, Gomez was part of the California Department of Transportation’s Executive Team in Los Angeles. She has more than 25-years of experience in California transportation policy. In 2013, Gomez was presented with the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) highest distinction, the Jaime Oaxaca Award. Gomez volunteers on the SHPE Foundation Board of Directors and as the Vice President of Scholarship for Fresno State’s Alumni Association Board.

“Fresno State has provided me with the necessary foundation to build my career and make a difference at both the state level and right here at home,” said Gomez. “I am honored by this award and look forward to continuing my work in the community and getting people interested in engineering and the high-speed rail program.”

The Top Dog recognition was first awarded in 1953 as part of the annual commencement ceremony. A selection committee chooses honorees from a pool nominated by faculty, staff and administrators, as well as the public and past Top Dog award recipients. This year, 14 Top Dog awardees will be honored at the Top Dog Alumni Awards Gala on Friday, October 9 at 5:30 p.m.

About California High-Speed Rail Authority

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is responsible for planning, designing, building and operation of the first high-speed rail system in the nation. California high-speed rail will connect the mega-regions of the state, contribute to economic development and a cleaner environment, create jobs and preserve agricultural and protected lands. By 2029, the system will run from San Francisco to the Los Angeles basin in under three hours at speeds capable of over 200 miles per hour. The system will eventually extend to Sacramento and San Diego, totaling 800 miles with up to 24 stations. In addition, the Authority is working with regional partners to implement a statewide rail modernization plan that will invest billions of dollars in local and regional rail lines to meet the state’s 21st century transportation needs. To learn more visit the Authority’s website at <http://www.hsr.ca.gov> and join us on [facebook.com/CaliforniaHighSpeedRail](https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaHighSpeedRail) and follow us at twitter.com/cahsra

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