WHO’S WHO IN NONPROFITS & FOUNDATIONS

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What do these two have in common?

**Michael** is an innovative business leader and philanthropist whose enthusiasm for reinvesting in the community extends to all areas. He is especially passionate about the arts and has been a lifelong supporter of theater, dance, and music. **Kailani** has been dancing for eight years. She continues to take classes at Santa Barbara Dance Arts, a local organization providing contemporary dance education. What Michael and Kailani have in common is they are both connected to the Santa Barbara Foundation.

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Our annual look at nonprofit leaders reflects growth in philanthropic sector

Who’s Who in Nonprofits & Foundations is the last in our series of Who’s Who special reports to be published in 2013. It is meant to be a guide of the movers and shakers in the philanthropic world of the Tri-Counties and it is an important component of the Pacific Coast Business Times’ coverage of this vital economic sector.

As a recent survey of San Luis Obispo County by Beacon Economics underscores, the nonprofit sector employs thousands of people across the region and accounts for billions of dollars in economic activity. But nonprofits are not simply a numbers game. The biographies included in our special report also reflect the myriad roles that community-minded institutions play in Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. These roles have dramatically expanded, given the rising demand for help from families and individuals still struggling through tough economic times.

Leadership in the nonprofit world is diverse and increasingly provides an opportunity for women and minorities to take top jobs. As you can see from the profiles on the following pages, these individuals are driven by a common passion to serve those in need and improve the quality of life not just in the Tri-Counties, but throughout California and around the world.

Researching Who’s Who in Nonprofits & Foundations is a complex task. However, we first look to our own Top 25 lists of community organizations and foundations. We also seek nominations through our website, via email and through advertising in the weekly edition of the Pacific Coast Business Times.

We appreciate the efforts of the leaders in the nonprofit world who took time out from pressing duties to forward biographical information and photos. And this year’s lineup is once again greatly expanded with a greater reach into arts and education organizations.

Who’s Who in Nonprofits & Foundations is a logical extension of special coverage devoted to the nonprofit sector, including regular stories in our main news section and our annual Giving Guide, an advertorial section that is now in its third year of publication. Our annual lineup of editorial Who’s Who special reports will get a major change next February, when we kick off 2014 with Who’s Who in Business Leadership, a showcase for top leaders at chambers of commerce, economic development agencies and the travel and tourism industry. Who’s Who in Business Leadership will join special reports that profile leaders in financial services, professional services, agriculture, commercial real estate, clean technology, health care and insurance services and corporate finance.

This section was produced by Special Reports Editor Erika Martin with cover design by Advertising Graphic Artist Elizabeth Willhite.

Who’s Who in Nonprofits & Foundations would not be possible without the support of our sponsors, Aera Energy, the Santa Barbara Foundation and Rabobank.

Our next and final special report for this year is also a holiday treat for all of our paid subscribers — the 2014 Book of Lists, which publishes on Dec. 27.

A word from our sponsor

Aera Energy is a longtime member of the coastal community. We have been actively producing crude oil in Ventura County since the 1920s through Aera and our forerunner companies. The company has operated as Aera since 1997 when Shell and Mobil combined their California exploration and production operations into a stand-alone company. Today we are jointly owned by affiliates of Shell and ExcoMobil and are one of California’s largest oil producers. Headquartered in Bakersfield with operations in Kern, Ventura, Monterey and Northern Santa Barbara counties, Aera is the largest onshore oil producer in Ventura County.

Aera employees are known and respected for their community involvement. They put their passion into action through community volunteerism and leadership. Aera encourages and recognizes employee participation because we believe in working together with communities to create a better future. Here on the Central Coast, Aera’s involvement includes everything from leadership in major non-profit organizations to working with second- graders to improve reading skills. We are a longtime supporter of United Way where employee pledges are matched by the company and an Aera senior manager serves on the board of directors of United Way of Ventura County. In 2011 and 2013 Aera was recognized by the United Way of Ventura County with the Roy Pinkerton Award, an honor presented for outstanding corporate partnership.

In 2012 Aera was honored as a Top Corporate Partner. Aera was also honored as “business of the year” by Project Understanding earlier this year. In the business community, Aera managers serve on the boards of directors of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce and the Ventura County Economic Development Association. Additionally, local education is supported through Aera’s charter sponsorship of the Impact II migrant program and employee involvement in the Community Reading Project at Sheridan Way Elementary.

Community involvement is a value Aera employees live and generously share with those in the non-profit community who give of themselves to improve the lives of others. We invite others will join us to help create opportunities for a brighter tomorrow.

A word from our sponsor

Santa Barbara Foundation — the Steward of Santa Barbara County’s Aspirations

The Santa Barbara Foundation has been harnessing the energy of our county’s dedicated population for over 85 years, and today we are doing that with more intentionality and more flexibility than at any time in our past. Now more than ever we bring to bear every resource at our disposal — financial and intellectual capital, community knowledge, and multi-sector partnerships — together with the ability to unite individuals and institutions to tackle the greatest community challenges.

There is an urgency driving our efforts to create the next generation of leadership. The Santa Barbara Foundation is investing heavily in and partnering with the best efforts countywide that are showing concrete results in preparing our children to be ready for kindergarten and then moving forward on a pathway for success. We are also designing focus areas in the environment; concentrating on the intersection of the arts, small business, and affordable living; and working to ensure that seniors have access to the services necessary to live independent lives.

It is a privilege for all of us at the Santa Barbara Foundation to be stewards not only of the financial capital that has been entrusted to us, but also of the aspirations of this community to be the best it can be. The thrill and the magic comes from the energy, the inspiration, the ingenuity, and the problem solving genius that is always connected to when people come together to build, nurture, and yes, sometimes redefine their community.

Aera Energy
Claudia Armann has been the executive director of the McCune Foundation since 2008. She began her work in philanthropy at the Santa Barbara Foundation, where she coordinated education and cultural grant-making and student aid programs for eight years.

Armann is on the board of the Ventura County Citizens for Hillside Preservation and has been active in land preservation, wildlife protection and alternative transportation advocacy during her nearly 20 years on the Central Coast.

The McCune Foundation makes grants for community organizing in the Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. It was established in 4B 1990 by George McCune and Sara Miller. Claudia Armann has been the executive director of the McCune Foundation since 2008, and counseling services to individuals and families regardless of their ability to pay. During Asbell's tenure, more than $10 million in improvements have been made to the historic theater, which was built in 1924. The Lobero Theatre Foundation has completed three major renovations in recent years and will complete the latest in December 2013.

Asbell received a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Denver. He spent 15 years as the Atlanta Ballet's operations director and was director of the Fert Center for the Arts during the 1996 Olympics.

Fred Bauermeister is the co-founder and executive director of the Free Clinic of Simi Valley, which provides medical, dental, legal and counseling services to individuals and families regardless of their ability to pay. During his decades at the clinic's helm, he has brought the nonprofit from a single-service program operating two nights a week, to a five-day, multi-service organization.

Bauermeister is president of the executive board of Free Clinics of the Western Region, an association of free clinics that he co-founded, and a member of the board of directors of the National Association of Free Clinics. The NAFC is the only national voice working on behalf of free clinics throughout the U.S., and Bauermeister is the treasurer and chair of the membership committee.

His awards include the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award. On Jan. 16, 2002 he carried the Olympic Torch in downtown San Luis Obispo.

Rich Block has been the Santa Barbara Zoo's CEO since 1998, working with the board of directors, management staff and donors to direct development and ensure future needs are met. Since 1999, the zoo has invested more than $21 million in capital improvements, including landmark exhibits such as Cats of Africa. Its latest, the Discovery Pavilion, a $7.5 million, 9,500-square-foot education center, will open in March 2014. Block has also overseen conservation programs and helped bring California condors to the zoo.

The zoo attracts more than 480,000 guests annually. Block was previously vice president for scientific and program development at the Indianapolis Zoo. He received his bachelor's degree from Principia College in Illinois and master's degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.