

San Joaquin County Office of Education

James A. Mousalimas, County Superintendent of Schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
017-014: GVCC Recognition Lunch

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Greater Valley Conservation Corps Recognizes Greatness *Corpsmembers and supporters honored at first annual recognition lunch*

The San Joaquin County Office of Education's Greater Valley Conservation Corps (GVCC) held its first Recognition Lunch on Oct. 24 to highlight the hard work of the members of the corps as well as the clients and partners who helped the program grow as it makes San Joaquin County and the surrounding region a cleaner, greener place to be.

At the event GVCC Crew Lead Ruben Colin Guzman shared how the GVCC helped him improve his life. Once a high school dropout, Guzman first joined the GVCC as a corpsmember in 2012 while completing his high school education at Building Futures Academy, a charter school run by the San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE). During his time at GVCC he said that he worked hard to finally be hired as a crew lead, even though it didn't happen the first time he applied for the job.

"In my time here I've met great people from different backgrounds and have seen first-hand the positive impact that our organization has made in the lives of these individuals, as well as the impact it made on mine and our community. This makes me proud to say: I'm Ruben and I'm a crew lead for the Greater Valley Conservation Corps," Guzman said.

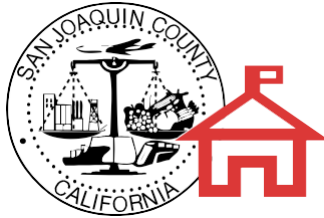
Held at the SJCOE's Wentworth Education Center, the lunch brought together dozens of supporters of the GVCC who applauded the awardees as they received their plaques.

Partner and client awardees:

- River Partners (Natural Resources Sponsor)
- Stockton Police Department Neighborhood Services Section (City Partner)
- Prime Shine Car Wash (Recycling Client)

GVCC corpsmember awardees:

- Efren Mendoza (Natural Resources Division)
- Gabriel Meeker (Recycling Division)



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The GVCC helps youth 18 to 25 years old with academic instruction, employment opportunities, green-job training, life skills, and much more. The GVCC serves businesses, schools, special events, non-profits, municipalities, public works departments, and cities throughout San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Calaveras, Amador, and Tuolumne Counties. The GVCC changed its name from the San Joaquin Regional Conservation Corps earlier this year.

For more information, please visit the website at: www.greatervalleycc.org.

To view a Facebook gallery of photos from the event, [please follow this link](#).

About the San Joaquin County Office of Education:

San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJC OE) provides educational leadership, resources, and services to support schools throughout the county. With its highly regarded programs, innovative staff and community partnerships, SJC OE ensures that every student in San Joaquin County has the opportunity of a quality education. For more information, visit www.sjcoe.org.