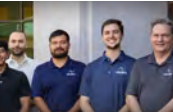


2026



Profiles IN BUSINESS

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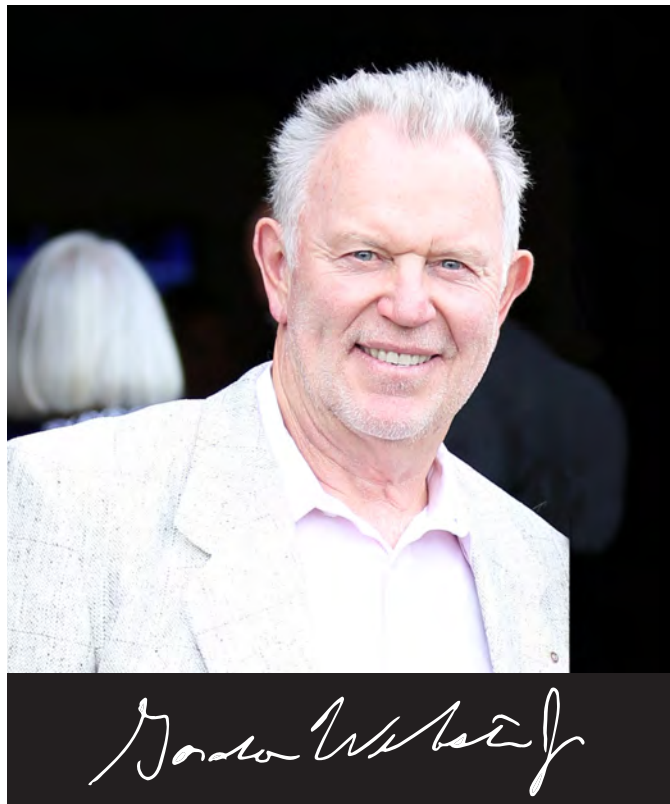
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Publisher's Note



Welcome to the 14th edition of "Profiles in Business," designed to give local companies and organizations a unique opportunity to reach The Business Journal's core audience — in their own words. This publication consists of sponsored profiles about each company, completed by their in-house marketing teams or by The Business Journal's team of freelance writers.

The profiles give our advertisers a chance to showcase products and services our readers may not be familiar with, and to also share the unique stories that make up the character and culture of each firm. This year's edition spans an unusually wide cross-section of the Valley economy — from the civil engineering work behind Precision Civil Engineering and the construction leadership at Harris Construction, to the financial and workforce backbone provided by Payroll People, Inc. and Portfolio Advisors. Readers will also meet the team at Ardurra and hear from San Joaquin Valley Town Hall on its civic role in the region. And the Better Business Bureau and International Agri-Center are represented as pillars of the local business community.

We thank the participating companies for giving us a chance to share their story, and we also thank all the other businesses that invested in this product. We believe the result is a "who's who" of the top companies in the Central Valley.

This year's profiles, as in years past, make for informative and enlightening reading. They detail stories of grit in the face of adversity, generosity and can-do spirit. They are stories told exactly the way those involved wanted to tell them. I hope you enjoy reading this year's edition of "Profiles in Business."

Sincerely,

Gordon M. Webster, Jr.
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Lecture Series Leans on Adaptability, Volunteers Entering 90th Anniversary

COVID-19 made gathering for lectures near impossible, so San Joaquin Valley Town Hall introduced a video streaming setup.

As quarantines lifted and live events resurfaced, streaming was discontinued but quickly brought back after patrons who valued the remote viewing capability urged Town Hall to reconsider.

The willingness to adapt while maintaining the impact of programming has helped Town Hall approach its 90th season as the nation's longest-running volunteer-led lecture organization, said Town Hall Board President Jane Fortune.

"Our parameters for picking speakers haven't really changed," Fortune said. "I do feel like we're not stale—that we're always moving in a direction that more people will want to experience."

Since 1937, Town Hall has brought hundreds of prominent authors, political leaders,

scientists, artists and other public figures to the region. Past speakers include Maya Angelou, Henry Kissinger, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Jimmy Chin.

Fortune said appearances are supported by an extensive selection process intended to ensure that speakers are accomplished and capable of engaging audiences.

A 15-member volunteer committee reviews potential speakers and makes recommendations to the full 25-member board—a process that looks beyond name recognition, and often catches speakers before they become household names, Fortune said.

The selection process is one part of an operation managed without paid staff—a volunteer structure that has remained central to Town Hall's identity. About 75 additional volunteers, known as ambassadors, assist the Town Hall Board with ticketing, hospitality and other responsibilities.

"It takes every volunteer to put

this show on the road," Fortune said.

Town Hall recently introduced evening lectures and expanded into Clovis to make events more accessible to working adults and audiences outside of Fresno, Fortune said.

Its marketing this past year has become more targeted. Rather than sending out season information and waiting for audiences to respond, Town Hall now identifies groups likely to connect with individual speakers and reaches them where they receive their information.

The goal, Fortune said, is to continue serving its longtime audience while attracting more young professionals and working adults.

Longtime Town Hall attendee, sponsor, and visitor Sam Lucido said recent changes to Town Hall programming have been fruitful.

"I really appreciate the evening programs and thought that was a stroke of genius," Lucido

said. "People in the Valley want the insight and educational opportunities."

Rising speaker fees and venue costs mean subscriptions alone can't cover the full program, Fortune said. It has heightened the need for greater outreach to different audiences and sponsors like Lucido, who has appreciated the opportunities to meet with speakers as a sponsor.

This year, starting in September, Town Hall is featuring the following speakers:

- Comedian Colin Quinn
- CBS Senior Correspondent Norah O'Donnell
- NASA Chief Engineer Kobie Boykins
- Chef Tyler Florence
- Musician Benjamin Boone
- General Paul M. Nakasone
- Zoologist Lucy Cooke
- Actress Christine Baranski

After nearly 90 seasons, Town Hall's path forward rests on the same balance that sustained it this far—preserving what works while continuing to change how the Valley discovers it.

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MAY 17, 2027
Feed Your Primal Instincts
LUCY COOKE

JAN. 25, 2027
Feed Your Culinary Curiosity
TYLER FLORENCE

APR. 14, 2027
Feed Your A-Lister Appetite
CHRISTINE BARANSKI



Helping Communities Grow

How Precision Civil Engineering evolved from a Fresno engineering firm into a regional partner in economic development

As Kerman began experiencing renewed residential and commercial growth several years ago, city leaders faced a challenge familiar to many smaller communities across the Central Valley.

Interest from developers was increasing, but like many cities of its size, Kerman didn't have the staffing or specialized expertise to manage every aspect of planning, land use, engineering and development in-house.

So, among the contractors they hired to help, the city turned to Fresno-based Precision Civil Engineering, Inc.

"They've been a force multiplier for us," said Kerman City Manager John Jansons. "They've become an extension of our staff."

That relationship has extended well beyond reviewing engineering plans. Precision Civil Engineering has helped the city navigate land-use planning, process increasingly complex development proposals

and move projects forward while protecting Kerman's long-term interests.

Among those projects are Kerman Crossings, which brought businesses including Starbucks, Chipotle and Baskin-Robbins to the community, other commercial developments, and several large residential developments that continue to reshape the city.

That type of partnership has become central to Precision Civil Engineering's own vision and evolution over the past two decades.

Founded in Fresno in 2002, the company has grown from a traditional civil engineering practice into a full-service consulting firm also providing land surveying, planning and entitlements, environmental planning, construction management, landscape architecture and traffic engineering services throughout California.

Today, Precision employs more than 55 professionals from offices in Fresno, Merced and its newest location in Visalia.

Reinvention Through the Recession

The evolution of Precision Civil Engineering was largely

shaped by lessons learned during one of the most difficult periods in the firm's history, said President and CEO Ed Dunkel Jr.

Like many engineering firms established during the early 2000s, Precision initially concentrated much of its work on residential development.

When the housing market collapsed in 2008, that concentration nearly became the company's undoing.

Rather than dramatically reducing his workforce, Dunkel chose to absorb significant financial losses to keep much of his team together. The experience convinced him that the company needed to become more diversified if it wanted to remain resilient through future economic cycles.

Over the following years, Precision Civil Engineering deliberately expanded both its services and its client base. The company built planning and entitlement capabilities, established a construction management division and broadened its work beyond residential development into municipal infrastructure, commercial projects, industrial facilities and public-sector work.

That diversification

fundamentally changed the firm's role in the communities it serves.

Instead of simply preparing engineering plans after a project had already been conceived, the firm increasingly became involved during the earliest stages of development, helping clients navigate planning, environmental review, permitting and project management before construction ever begins.

"We're more than just an engineering firm," Dunkel said. "We're a partner."

That philosophy closely reflects the company's approach to providing turn-key services that allow clients to move projects from planning through construction with a single multidisciplinary team.

Supporting Economic Growth, Responsibly

Dunkel believes engineering and economic development are closely connected.

Roads, utilities, housing developments and commercial centers don't simply appear because land is available, he said. They require city leaders willing to plan for growth, invest in infrastructure, and navigate

Precision | From 4

increasingly complex regulatory requirements.

That's one reason Precision recently opened a new office in Visalia.

Dunkel said the company saw an opportunity to establish a stronger presence in municipalities that continue to experience and support steady residential and commercial investment and make tough choices while facing opposition from special interest groups. He praised Visalia's city leadership for recognizing that responsible economic development requires thoughtful decision-making, and "a little intestinal fortitude."

At the same time, Dunkel emphasized that growth shouldn't come at the expense of the community itself.

"Development still needs to be responsible," he said, noting that Precision Civil Engineering is always looking out for the community.

Jansons said that while the firm often considers the interests of developers, Dunkel's team consistently approaches projects with Kerman's long-



Riverstone, a new 2,000+-acre master-planned community in Madera County

term goals in mind.

"They know what our objectives are," Jansons said.

"They're looking out for the best interests of the city and the community."

For smaller municipalities, that expertise can make a significant difference.

Many cities struggle to recruit and retain specialists in planning, engineering and community development

because they compete with larger jurisdictions for talent. Working with Precision allows communities such as Kerman to expand their technical capacity without permanently increasing staffing levels, Jansons said.

Precision has always seen its role as helping communities create opportunities for future residents and businesses alike, Dunkel said.

Nearly twenty-five years after opening its doors, that belief continues to guide the company's evolution—from a Fresno engineering firm focused primarily on residential development to a regional partner helping shape responsible economic growth across the Valley.

Exciting news yet to come!

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Payroll People at 45: Built on Trust, Still Growing

In May, employees, family members, and friends gathered to celebrate Payroll People's 45th anniversary. The milestone honored nearly half a century in business, but it also revealed what has sustained the company through decades of change: the ability to evolve without losing the relationships at the center of the work.

Reaching 45 years in the payroll industry takes more than keeping pace with technology. It requires adapting to new tax rules, changing employment requirements, economic shifts, security risks, and a workforce that expects information to be accurate, accessible, and available at any time. Through it all, employers have continued to need the same essential things: consistency, sound guidance, and someone they can call when a question cannot wait.

Payroll People began in Fresno in 1981, when payroll was still largely a paper process. Today, employers manage connected systems, remote workforces, multiple tax jurisdictions, employee benefits, hiring, onboarding, timekeeping, compliance, and a growing volume of sensitive data. The tools are more advanced. The work is also more complex.

A Broader Family of Companies

Over time, Payroll People

has become the center of a broader family of companies that includes Payroll Tax People, Payality, and HR Ledger. Each brings its own history, expertise, and client relationships, supported by the resources, technology, and 45 years of experience behind Payroll People.

Together, the companies support the many responsibilities that come with employing people, from payroll processing and tax filing to human resources, benefits administration, time and labor, hiring, onboarding, reporting, and compliance. Those responsibilities rarely operate in isolation. A timekeeping issue can affect payroll. A new hire creates tax, benefits, and compliance needs. A growing business needs systems that can keep up without losing accuracy or service.

HR Ledger became the newest member of the family in March 2026, adding another experienced payroll team and a long history of client relationships. HR Ledger continues to serve clients with the personal attention that built its reputation, now supported by the broader resources, technology, and expertise of the Payroll People family.

The purpose is not to replace what works. It is to give strong service a deeper foundation.

Across every company in the

family, the expectation is the same: know the client, get the details right, and be there when questions arise. That standard has earned Payroll People long term relationships in Fresno, across California, and beyond.

Technology With People Behind It

A paycheck may look simple when it arrives, but behind it are hours worked, tax rules, benefit deductions, banking details, deadlines, and a person depending on it. Technology can calculate checks, organize records, track time, support enrollment, and produce reports. It can make a complicated process faster and more efficient.

But when something does not look right, employers need more than a portal. They need someone who understands the issue, recognizes what is at stake, and can help resolve it.

Customer service is not a feature layered on top in this industry. It is part of getting the work right.

Payroll People has kept that emphasis on direct communication and knowledgeable support as the organization has expanded. Clients work with professionals who understand payroll, tax, human resources, and workforce systems, and who also take the time to understand the client's business. That familiarity matters for every employer, but especially for those with complex payroll

structures, multiple locations, different tax jurisdictions, or industry specific requirements.

Good service often happens quietly. It is the question answered before it becomes a problem, the detail caught before a deadline, and the familiar voice that already understands the history behind the issue. Those moments may never appear on a report, but they are often what clients remember.

Fresno at the Center

Fresno remains the center of the company's story and its largest client base. The Central Valley is where Payroll People built its reputation, developed long term business relationships, and learned what local employers expect from a service partner. Those roots continue to shape the company even as its reach has expanded across California and throughout the country.

At 45, Payroll People has the benefit of experience and the responsibility to keep evolving. The next chapter includes continued investment in technology, deeper resources across every company in the family, and the same commitment to being available when clients need help most.

The tools will keep changing. Payroll People's standard will not. The work has to be right. The support has to be there. The trust behind every paycheck has to be earned again and again.



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THE BUSINESS CASE FOR ETHICS

Why Trust Wins

Trust Is Every Business's Most Valuable Asset

Every business competes for customers.

Some compete on price. Others compete through innovation, convenience, or exceptional service. The organizations that stand the test of time compete on something even more valuable: **trust**.

Trust cannot be bought through advertising or manufactured through marketing. It is earned one interaction at a time—through honesty, accountability, transparency, and a commitment to doing what is right.

Fulfilled promises.

Difficult conversation handled with integrity.

Employees are treated with respect.

Customers served with care.

Those moments become a company's reputation.

In today's marketplace, trust is one of the few competitive advantages that cannot be copied. That is why ethics matter.

Ethics Is More Than a Value—It's a Business Strategy

Ethical leadership is often viewed as a moral responsibility.

It is also one of the smartest

investments a business can make.

Organizations built on integrity tend to earn stronger customer loyalty, retain talented employees, inspire referrals, weather challenges more effectively, and create reputations that last for generations.

Ethics shapes culture.

Culture shapes decisions.

Decisions build trust.

For more than a century, the Better Business Bureau has worked to advance marketplace trust by helping consumers make informed decisions while encouraging businesses to operate with integrity.

That mission comes to life each year through the **BBB Torch Awards for Ethics**—the highest honor presented by the Better Business Bureau.

Unlike awards based solely on growth or financial performance, the Torch Awards recognize organizations whose everyday actions demonstrate ethical leadership and an unwavering commitment to trust.

The Four C's of Ethical Leadership

The Torch Awards evaluate organizations through four guiding principles that define ethical leadership.

Character

Leadership demonstrates honesty, accountability, and integrity.

Culture

Organizations create workplaces where ethical behavior is expected and encouraged.

Customers

Businesses earn trust through transparency, fairness, responsiveness, and exceptional service.

Community

Organizations strengthen the communities they serve through leadership, partnership, and meaningful investment.

Celebrating Ethical Leadership Across Central California

The Torch Awards begin not with applications—but with the community.

Businesses are nominated by customers, employees, peers, and community members who have witnessed ethical leadership firsthand. Qualified nominees then complete a comprehensive application evaluated by an independent panel of respected business and community leaders.

Rather than measuring revenue or popularity, judges look for organizations whose decisions consistently reflect character, culture, customer commitment, and community impact.

The result is a recognition program that celebrates businesses not simply for what they accomplish—but for how they accomplish it.

Honoring Those Who Lead by Example

The Better Business Bureau proudly congratulates the organizations recognized as 2026 BBB Torch Awards for Ethics

Finalists.

These businesses represent a wide range of industries throughout Central California, yet they share a common commitment to conducting business with integrity.

Join Us in Celebrating Ethical Leadership

The **2026 BBB Torch Awards for Ethics winners** will be announced and finalists honored during an evening dedicated to recognizing organizations that are strengthening trust across Central California.

Business leaders, community partners, elected officials, and supporters from across the region will gather to celebrate organizations proving that ethics and business success go hand in hand.

Contact:

nathan.gilbert@bbbcommunity.org

Wednesday, September 23, 2026
5:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Pardini's Catering & Banquets
2257 W. Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California

Together, we can continue building a stronger, more trustworthy marketplace throughout Central California.

2026 Torch Awards Finalists

Business Name	Category
Linguistica Interpreting and Translation, LLC	1-5 Employees
Arsenal Well Drilling Inc.	1-5 Employees
Cosmo Health Resolution	1-5 Employees
JC Transport Refrigeration	1-5 Employees
DTLA Insurance Solutions	6 -15 Employees
Miles, Sears & Eanni	6 -15 Employees
In The Light Urns	6 -15 Employees
Bakersfield Plumbing Company Inc.	6 -15 Employees
SunMade Smart Roofing Solar & Electric	16-30 Employees
Monarch Home Services	16-30 Employees
Integrity Business Solutions	16-30 Employees
Hansen's Moving & Storage, Inc.	16-30 Employees
Expo Party Rentals	31-50 Employees
Can Do Crew Plumbing, Heating & AC	31-50 Employees
Zaks Security One	31-50 Employees
Quality Home Services	51 - 100 Employees
San Mar Properties	51 - 100 Employees
AM/PM Medical Transportation Company	51 - 100 Employees
Lee's Air, Plumbing, & Heating	100+ Employees
Clawson Honda of Fresno	100+ Employees
Solar Negotiators	100+ Employees

ABOUT THE BBB TORCH AWARDS FOR ETHICS

BBB's Highest Recognition for Ethical Business Leadership

- Community-nominated
- Independently judged by respected business and community leaders
- Evaluated using BBB's Four C's: Character, Culture, Customers, and Community
- Recognizes organizations that

demonstrate integrity, trust, and ethical leadership

The Torch Awards embody BBB's mission of advancing marketplace trust and celebrating businesses that raise the standard for our communities.

Learn more at torchawards.bbbcommunity.org

“Trust is built through actions that consistently demonstrate integrity, accountability, and service. The Torch Awards for Ethics recognize organizations that understand trust is earned every single day.”



TRUST, BUILT LOCALLY.

The Better Business Bureau is built on **clarity**, **credibility**, and **trust**: values shaped by more than a century of

The Better Business Bureau Torch Awards for Ethics recognize companies that display an outstanding level of ethics and integrity in all of their business dealings.





Valley ROP Students tour the gym construction at Phillip V. Sanchez Intermediate School as the trusses were being installed. This is a Harris Construction jobsite constructing both the Phillip V. Sanchez Intermediate School and Clovis South High School located at the Terry P. Bradley Educational Center, Clovis Unified School District.

Building Futures: Harris Construction Honored for Inspiring Central Valley Students



Harris Construction is proud to announce it has been honored with a 2026 Fresno Compact Annual Business-Education Partnership Award. The recognition highlights the company's ongoing dedication to supporting student success and workforce readiness across the Central Valley.

Known for building educational campuses, civic facilities, and more, Harris Construction has partnered for the past six years with the Valley Regional Occupational Program (Valley ROP) to connect high school students with potential rewarding careers in construction. Through hands-on learning, mentorship, and real-world experience, this partnership helps local students build confidence, master technical skills, and discover their path forward.

"You have to create that bridge immediately for students," said Fabrizio Lofaro, Superintendent for Valley ROP. "Otherwise you lose them."

Inspiring Students through Hands-On Learning

Every year, the collaboration between Harris Construction and Valley ROP reaches over 100 students. Through jobsite

tours, job shadowing, and one-on-one sessions, students get an inside look at how complex construction projects are built.

Harris Construction employees - from project managers to superintendents - volunteer their time to mentor students. During structured annual workshops, team members meet with students individually to evaluate their interests and aptitudes. Whether a student is drawn to construction management, skilled trades, or design, Harris' team members help guide them toward the pathway that best fits their strengths.

"We take each student's passion and excitement and try to broaden it," said Mike Marsh, Vice President of Field Operations at Harris Construction. "The next generation is so invaluable to our industry. Our focus should always be, 'How can we benefit the student?' When the student is benefiting and learning and engaged and inspired, they're going to become more creative."

To support these opportunities, Harris Construction provides safety gear, sponsors lunches, and hosts end-of-year interview sessions that frequently lead to paid summer internships and the opportunity to earn full-time career placements after college graduation.

From Valley ROP Student to Field Engineer: Cesar Rocha's Story

The true impact of the partnership between Harris Construction and Valley ROP is best shown through the success of the young professionals who go through it.

At the 2026 Valley ROP awards ceremony, Cesar Rocha, a Field Engineer at Harris Construction, delivered the keynote address. Born and raised in Selma, California, Cesar discovered a passion for STEM and hands-on learning while attending Selma High School. Through Valley ROP, he joined the internship program with Harris Construction - a moment that launched his career.

Over the past four years, while completing his degree at California State University, Fresno, Cesar has advanced into his current role as a Field Engineer. Working alongside dedicated mentors, he gained the skills, technical foundation, and real-world experience needed to thrive in public works construction.

Cesar's story is a clear example of how early mentorship can turn high school interest into a lifelong career.

Cesar Rocha ended his keynote speech with some advice to the Valley ROP students, "Whatever you choose to do, do it 100%. Doors will open for you, and it's important to seize the opportunities."



(L to R) Harris Field Engineer, Cesar Rocha, with his Harris staff mentor, Steven Valdez, Project Manager at Harris Construction at the 2026 Valley ROP Awards event.

Mentoring is a Benefit to Our Staff as well

"Mentoring our interns isn't only about giving them a leg up; it's also about our staff mentors becoming better leaders," said Wendy Fister, Director of Human Resources at Harris Construction. "Every time our staff mentors break something down to teach it to a new person, they revisit how to do it. Then, by teaching it to someone else, our mentors understand it more deeply themselves. Having to explain things in different ways for different interns, teaches our staff how to read and adapt to different learning styles. Mentoring is a win for us as it makes our staff sharper, more patient, and more effective as leaders. Strong leadership is integral in building this next generation of employees."



TOP IMAGE: Interns, mentors, and management gather for a Welcome Interns event. SECOND IMAGE: Students tour the interworkings of a local Harris jobsite.



Investing in the Central Valley's Future

For Harris Construction, investing in local students is both a passion and a vital responsibility.

"Developing our future workforce is an opportunity," said Mike Spencer, President of Harris Construction. "The bigger piece is that every employer in the Central Valley has this obligation to develop that future."

Harris Construction is proud to be recognized by the Fresno Compact. By continuing its partnership with Valley ROP, Harris Construction remains committed to building both incredible community facilities and strong futures for the youth of the Central Valley.

Built on Trust. Measured in Generations.

The relationships behind meaningful financial planning.

By Tina Mistry, CFP®

Walk into Portfolio Advisors, and you'll notice something a little different.

Yes, you'll find conversations about retirement, taxes, investments, and estate planning. But just as often, you'll hear stories about grandchildren, career changes, aging parents, new businesses, or families preparing for life's next chapter.

That's because financial planning has never been just about money.

It's about helping people navigate life with confidence.

For more than 35 years, Portfolio Advisors has served individuals and families throughout the Central Valley by providing independent, fee-only fiduciary financial advice built around relationships—not transactions. Founded in 1990, the firm was established on a simple idea: people deserve objective financial guidance from an advisor whose recommendations are driven solely by their best interests.

While the financial industry has evolved dramatically over the last three decades, that philosophy has never changed.

Planning Beyond Investments

Many people assume financial advisors simply manage investments.

Investment management is certainly important, but it represents only one piece of a much larger picture.

Every financial decision is connected. Investment choices influence taxes. Tax strategies affect retirement income. Estate planning impacts future generations. Insurance decisions protect the plans

families work so hard to build.

At Portfolio Advisors, those conversations are brought together through comprehensive financial planning that helps clients understand not only what decisions to make, but why those decisions matter.

Rather than focusing on products or quick fixes, the firm works with clients to build thoughtful strategies that evolve as life changes.

Education Comes First

Financial planning can feel overwhelming.

Markets fluctuate. Tax laws change. Retirement rules seem to grow more complicated every year.

That's why Portfolio Advisors believes education should come before recommendations.

Clients should never feel pressured to make decisions they don't fully understand. Instead, the firm's advisors take time to explain concepts in plain language, answer questions, and help clients become confident participants in their own financial future.

Whether discussing retirement planning, investment diversification, Social Security, Medicare, tax planning, or estate strategies, the goal remains the same: empower people through education.

An informed client is often the most confident client.

Why Fee-Only Matters

One of the questions Portfolio Advisors hears most frequently is, "What does fee-only actually mean?"

Simply put, fee-only advisors are compensated directly by their clients rather than through commissions from selling financial products.

As fiduciaries, Portfolio Advisors is legally and ethically obligated to place clients' interests first. That independence allows recommendations to be based on what's best for each client—not on incentives or sales quotas.

In an industry where compensation models can vary significantly, the firm believes transparency builds trust, and trust forms the foundation of every successful advisory relationship.

Relationships That Span Generations

Perhaps the greatest compliment Portfolio Advisors receives isn't a testimonial—it's an introduction.

Many clients eventually bring their adult children, aging parents, siblings, or grandchildren into the relationship.

Over time, the firm has had the privilege of helping multiple generations within the same families navigate major life events—from preparing for retirement and selling businesses to managing inheritances and building financial confidence for the next generation.

Those long-term relationships allow advisors to understand not only a family's finances, but also their values, priorities, and hopes for the future.

Because financial planning isn't a one-time event.

It's an ongoing relationship that grows and changes alongside the people it serves.

Guided by Purpose

Portfolio Advisors' mission is simple: Enriching Lives Through Transformative Actions.

That mission influences every

client conversation, every recommendation, and every relationship the firm builds.

It also reflects the firm's core values: putting clients first, embracing continuous learning, serving as thoughtful stewards of the trust clients place in them, and valuing relationships over transactions.

Those principles have helped shape the firm for more than three decades and continue to guide its vision for the future.

As financial planning becomes increasingly complex, Portfolio Advisors believes the need for trusted relationships has never been greater.

Technology can provide information.

Algorithms can build portfolios.

But neither can replace a trusted advisor who understands your family, your goals, and what matters most to you.

Start the Conversation

Whether you're building wealth, preparing for retirement, navigating a major life transition, or simply looking for an objective second opinion, choosing the right advisor can make all the difference.

At Portfolio Advisors, we believe financial planning is about more than growing assets—it's about helping people make confident decisions throughout every stage of life.

If you're looking for a long-term financial partner who leads with education, acts as a fee-only fiduciary, and is committed to serving your family's best interests for generations to come, we'd welcome the opportunity to start the conversation.



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Our Mission: Enriching Lives Through Transformative Action



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From Local Central Valley Show to Regional Economic Engine

For much of the year, the International Agri-Center's Farm Credit Dairy and Livestock Center in Tulare

operates as an equestrian venue, hosting everything from horse competitions to livestock events.

Then December arrives, and the facility begins its transformation for the International Agri-Center's biggest undertaking: World Ag Expo.

The annual conversion is one example of how the nonprofit has evolved beyond the world-renowned three-day agricultural show—the International Agri-Center has steadily built a year-round operation around its facilities, programs, events and rentals.

"We're a 501(c)(3) nonprofit focused on connecting people through agriculture through education, innovation and business," said Megan Lausten, Assistant General Manager of the International Agri-Center.

That mission will reach a milestone in February, when the International Agri-Center produces the 60th World Ag Expo, with staff currently looking for ways to honor those who have been a part of the show since its inception.

The show began in 1968 when it was known as the "California Field and Row Crop Equipment



Show" at the Tulare County Fairgrounds. As the event grew, the International Agri-Center became the show's permanent home in 1982.

During the 2026 World Ag Expo, more than 100,000 people visited alongside roughly 1,200 exhibitors representing agricultural businesses and technology from around the world.

"(The World Ag Expo) gives visitors a look not only at what agriculture is today, but where ag is headed," said Lausten.

The scale of the World Ag Expo has also helped make the International Agri-Center an economic driver for the surrounding region.

A 2025 Beacon Economics study estimated that World Ag Expo and the International Agri-Center's year-round operations

together generated \$101.3 million in statewide economic output, supporting 725 jobs. Specifically, year-round, non-Expo Agri-Center activities independently generated an estimated \$23.7 million in economic output and supported 190 jobs.

More than 1,000 volunteers and a staff of 25 help the organization produce World Ag Expo, while local nonprofits work concessions and other portions of the event.

Tulare Chamber of Commerce CEO Donnette Silva said some organizations can raise \$50,000 to \$80,000 during Expo, while the Beacon study found nonprofit concession partners have collectively generated more than \$1.1 million in recent years.

"The impact really extends further than people realize," Silva said.

The International Agri-Center has expanded its equestrian and livestock business, with the California Youth Ag Expo becoming a major event.

Facility rentals add another layer—the grounds and buildings hosting business meetings and public and private events. A newer outdoor venue has already accommodated monster truck shows and tractor pulls.

Agricultural education remains a main pillar of the nonprofit's mission. The International Agri-Center operates its AgVentures! Learning Center and museum, hosts school tours and displays antique farm equipment.

The organization has been preparing for further growth, Lausten said. Its plans include the new Highway 99 interchange serving the campus, a road extension and continued development all part of a master plan for the facility.

The nonprofit has also announced an RFP for the construction of a hotel on the International Agri-Center grounds.

Those investments reflect the same evolution that has taken place across the International Agri-Center over nearly five decades as the nonprofit continues to grow and represent the Central Valley across the world.



MKN Joins Ardurra to Complete the “Smile”



MKN & Associates (MKN), a water resources focused civil engineering firm, started in 2012 when founder and CEO, Michael Nunley (Mike), wanted to start an engineering company that was hyperfocused on delivering exceptional engineering services for its clients. Coming from a Fortune 500 company, Mike wanted MKN to be people-centered instead of profit-centered. MKN's humble beginnings started from a card table setup in Mike's living room in Arroyo Grande, CA.

Over the next several years, MKN expanded its services throughout California. In August of 2017, MKN opened its doors in Fresno when long time Fresno resident, Henry Liang, MKN's Chief Development Officer, started MKN's Fresno office. Henry and Mike had tremendous history having worked together dating back to 2001 when both worked for Boyle Engineering



Corporation, a national water and transportation engineering firm that had an office in Fresno since the 1980s. Over a cup of coffee at Kuppajoy in Old Town Clovis, Mike shared his vision for MKN with Henry, and Henry decided to join Mike and start something special in the Valley. In 2017, Henry was the 12th employee to join the company and opened the MKN Fresno office, which was MKN's third location at that time. MKN Fresno's very first client was Valley Children's Hospital. MKN developed a Water Master Plan to map out the hospital's

potable water distribution system. Fast forward to 2025, MKN continued to expand across California and grew to nearly 90 employees across 9 offices throughout the state from San Jose down to San Diego. Locally, MKN Fresno is grateful for the opportunity to

serve clients such as Westlands Water District, several local municipalities such as Fresno, Clovis, and Madera, Selma-Kingsburg-Fowler County Sanitation District, and UC Merced.

In 2025, Mike Nunley was contacted by Ernesto Aguiar, the President and CEO of the Ardurra Group (Ardurra), a national engineering firm focused on water resources and transportation engineering. At that time, Ardurra had over 1,900 employees across the US, but its presence in California was limited. One of Ernesto's priorities for Ardurra was to complete the “smile”, which meant he wanted Ardurra to have a strong presence in key markets across the US starting from the Pacific Northwest, down through California, span across the US along the south through Texas to Florida, and then return to the northeast along the eastern coastline. If you drop dots throughout these states across the US on a map, you form a smile and California was the missing left side of the smile. Ernesto saw MKN as an opportunity to

complete the smile. The MKN board of directors saw Ardurra as a tremendous opportunity to join forces with a national powerhouse to better serve its clients and team members, and in October of 2025, MKN became part of Ardurra.

The Ardurra-MKN partnership allows MKN to maintain its core principles and continue delivering the high level of quality and responsiveness our clients expect, while expanding our capabilities and resources to better support the evolving needs of public agencies. Today, Ardurra includes more than 2,600 employees nationwide, with 250 based in California, and operates 14 offices across the state and 120 offices nationwide. We bring deep expertise in complex engineering design and construction management services. Ardurra is ranked #75 on Engineering News-Record's (ENR's) Top 500 Design Firms list and consistently places among the top 20 firms in ENR's Water Sourcebook rankings for water and wastewater services.



Healthcare expands its footprint among Central Valley's largest private employers

By The Business Journal

Healthcare organizations strengthened their position among the Central San Joaquin Valley's largest private-sector employers in 2025, while manufacturers, professional services firms and other longtime employers continued to demonstrate the diversity of the regional economy.

The Business Journal's 2026 Private Sector Employers list ranks 40 organizations by the number of full-time employees in 2025, with part-time employment used as a tiebreaker.

Community Health System remains the Valley's largest private-sector employer with 11,700 full-time employees, up from 11,000 in the previous ranking.

Healthcare also claimed the

next two spots. Kaweah Health debuted at No. 2 with 4,237 full-time employees and 1,051 part-time employees. Valley Children's Healthcare moved up to No. 3 with 4,000 full-time employees, compared with 2,625 in the previous year.

Together, the three largest healthcare organizations reported nearly 20,000 full-time employees.

Healthcare's presence extends further down the rankings. Adventist Health Reedley entered the Top 20 at No. 5 with 882 full-time employees. Palm Village Retirement Community ranked No. 14 with 153 full-time and 110 part-time employees. Sierra View Homes Retirement Community ranked No. 22 with 115 full-time employees,

while Central California Nikkei Foundation, doing business as Vintage Gardens, ranked No. 34 with 37.

Employers report workforce gains

Several employers appearing in both years reported increases in their workforces.

Wawona Frozen Foods climbed from 250 to 346 full-time employees, moving from No. 13 in the previous ranking to No. 9. Kraزان & Associates increased from 277 to 290 employees, while TETER grew from 126 to 144.

Boos & Associates reported 118 full-time employees, up from 96 in the previous year.

Newcomers also reshaped the upper end of the rankings. In addition to Kaweah Health and Adventist Health

Reedley, Valley Wide Beverage Company entered the Top 20 at No. 7 with 425 full-time employees.

A diverse employment base

Outside healthcare, the rankings illustrate the breadth of the Valley economy.

Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino ranks fourth with 1,018 full-time employees, while EECU ranks sixth with 542. Valley Wide Beverage Company and Geil Enterprises follow with 425 and 400 full-time employees, respectively.

Manufacturing and industrial employers remain prominent. Wawona Frozen Foods, Betts Company, Barnes Welding Supply/Fresno Oxygen, Pana-Pacific, The Brownie Baker and La Tapatia Tortilleria are among the companies represented.

Engineering, architecture, accounting, law, technology and other professional services firms also populate the rankings, including Kraزان & Associates, Blair, Church & Flynn Consulting Engineers, TETER, Boos & Associates, Xobee Networks and Darden Architects.

The mix shows that while healthcare organizations dominate the top of the rankings, the Central Valley's private-sector workforce remains spread across industries ranging from manufacturing and financial services to construction, hospitality, agriculture and professional services.



Adobe stock image | Healthcare organizations continue to rank among the Central San Joaquin Valley's largest private-sector employers, while manufacturing, professional services and other industries contribute to the region's diverse employment base.

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