



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Merced County Fair Board Officers Selected for 2019 *Lori Gallo takes on role as the new President of the Fair Board*

MERCED, CALIFORNIA, January 31, 2019 – The Merced County Fair proudly announces the 2019 officer positions for the 35th District Agricultural Association Board of Directors, which was made official on January 28 after a Board vote at its monthly meeting. Those positions are: Lori Gallo, President; Carol Sartori-Silva, First Vice President; and Lee Lor, Second Vice President. The fair’s CEO, Teresa Burrola said “she is very excited to work closely with Lori as the Board President because of the positive energy she brings. Her enthusiasm is similar to the magical lights of a carnival”.

The focus of the Board’s new President Lori Gallo is to expand the highly popular STREAM exhibit added in 2018 – designed for children and families promoting science, technology, reading, engineering, arts and math – drawing in added involvement from UC Merced, Merced Junior College and other regional educational institutions. In her new role, Lori Gallo also wants to help drive new involvement in the fair’s nonprofit foundation, the Friends of the Merced County Fair to ultimately support the improvement of Merced County Fairgrounds’ buildings and overall grounds for future generations.

“As a child, I grew up loving the fair, food, rides and animals, exhibits, including the hardworking livestock exhibitors during the various sales,” said Lori. “And the incredible thing about the Merced County Fair is that it has all those traditional fair elements I loved as a little girl, but new elements like the STREAM exhibit that draws in a whole new generation of Fairgoers who want to see the latest in science and technology.”

Lori Gallo’s involvement in the fair extends much further than her service on the Board since 2013. She grew up at the Merced County Fair where her mother used to plan and organize the “Mercy Gulch Days” that was held in downtown Merced prior to opening day each year and her father used to be the announcer for the auto races. Lori grew up spending every day at the fair.

“The fair means something different for everyone but one thing is the same – it’s something that our community looks forward to each year. Whether you look forward to the five days where you can get the most amazing food – think corn dogs, tacos, burgers and incredible BBQ from local vendors, local wines and more – or the exhibits that showcase the talents and agriculture’s ‘bounty of the county’ in the various exhibit buildings or the live entertainment from music to tractor pulls and more, we can all agree there is something magical about the Fair. I’m thrilled to continue my involvement in such a beloved tradition, helping to further develop and improve the Fairgrounds for future generations,” added Lori.

Lori Gallo was appointed to the Merced County Fair Board by Governor Jerry Brown in 2013. In addition to her involvement in the Merced County Fair, she helps with the family business, Joseph Gallo Farms, maker of



Joseph Farms Cheese, is a UC Merced Diplomat and serves on their Early Childhood Education Advisory Council. Lori is involved in many other various civic and charitable activities such as volunteering at Our Lady of Mercy School. Lori resides in Merced with her husband Mike and their son Marco. She is joined by a dynamic team of leaders on the Merced County Fair Board who occupy the two other officer positions for 2019.

First is Carol Sartori-Silva, of Atwater who also has a longstanding relationship with the fair, having served on the Merced County Fair Board since 1998. Carol has served as a fiscal supervisor for the Merced County Welfare to Work Department, as well as a civil assistant in the Merced County Marshal's Office. She has previously served as a member of the California Women in Agriculture, Merced County Historical Society and the Western Fairs Association. Carol was also a charter member of the Friends of the Merced County Fair, which was created to support the fair through fundraising efforts year round.

Second is Lee Lor of Merced who was first appointed to the Merced County Fair Board in 2013. She held multiple positions at the Merced County Office of Education including Executive Director of the Merced County Education Foundation. Lee is a former board member of the Merced Lao Family Community and Mercy Medical Center Merced. She is a member of the American Leadership Forum – Great Valley Chapter and Chair of the First 5 Merced County. In 2016, she was elected to the Merced County Board of Supervisors representing District 2, a position she proudly holds. Lee looks forward to growing the Fair and supporting President Lori Gallo.

Highlights:

- **Get Involved** | Celebrate the official kick-off of the 2019 fair season and support the fundraising efforts of the Friends of the Merced County Fair at the February 22 Merced County Fair pre-party. Tickets are \$40 for this event that features a live and silent auction, dinner and hosted drinks, plus plenty of entertainment. For more details go to: www.mercedcountyfair.com/merced-fair-preparty
- **Stay In The Know** | Want to be the first to know about concerts, food vendors and new featured food items, admission discounts and more? Then sign up for our email newsletter at (www.mercedcountyfair.com/contact-us) or connect with us on Facebook (facebook.com/mercedfair) , Twitter (twitter.com/Merced_CA_Fair) or Instagram (instagram.com/mercedcountyfair)

RESOURCES:

Board Photos + 2019 Merced County Fair Theme Logo: <https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/ovSRpid8QL>

About The Merced County Fair:

The Merced County Fair, first founded in 1891, represents the 35th District Agricultural Association and is celebrating 128 years of operation this year. More than 70,000 people from throughout Merced County and beyond attend the five-day Merced County Fair each June. Members of the Board of Directors include: President, Lori Gallo; First Vice President, Carol Sartori-Silva; Second Vice President, Lee Lor; Vicky Banaga; Mark Erreca; Emily Haden and Kim Rogina. Teresa Burrola heads up the daily operations in her role as CEO. The 2019 Merced County Fair will run June 5 - 9. For more information about the Merced County Fair, please visit www.MercedCountyFair.com. Connect with the Fair on Facebook (@mercedfair), Twitter (@Merced_CA_Fair) and Instagram (@mercedcountyfair).

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