

Monterey County BUSINESS

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Name dropper



George Tanimura, who in his mid-90s stays active in the **Tanimura and Antle** produce company, was named winner of the E.E. "Gene" Harden Award for lifetime achievement by the **Grower-Shipper Association of Central California** last week.



Tanimura

Tanimura was called a true "gentleman farmer" by **Sam McKinsey** of **Growers Express**, the association's chairman, at the group's annual meeting.



McKinsey

Other new officers are vice chairwoman **Margaret D'Arrigo-Martin** of **D'Arrigo Brothers of California** and treasurer **Mark Borman** of **Taylor Farms**, who is also on the board of directors.

Other directors for 2011-12 are **Phil Adrian** (**Coastline Produce**); **Butch Corda** (**Ippolito International**); **Mike Costa** (**Anthony Costa & Sons**); **Craig Dobler** (**Dobler & Sons LLC**); **Ernie Farley** (**Sundance Berry Farms**); **David Hart** (**Royal Packing Co./Dole Fresh Vegetables**); **Chris Huntington** (**Hilltown Packing Co.**); **Bob Martin** (**Rio Farms**); and **Steve McIntyre** (**Monterey Pacific & McIntyre Vineyards**).

Shawn Bakker, owner of **Bakker Construction** in Salinas, has earned the Entrepreneurial Success Award from the **Small Business Development Center's** Merced regional office.



Bakker

Bakker started his company in 2008 after working with the Small Business Development Center at CSU Monterey Bay. By September 2010, Bakker hired eight new employees and increased sales by more

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than \$800,000.

He continues to work with the center and expects to reach \$1 million in business this year.

Susie Brusa, executive director of **Rancho Cielo**, a program for youth

offenders, has won a full scholarship to Harvard Business School's executive education program "Strategic Perspectives in Non-Profit Management."

The scholarship was awarded by the HBS Alumni Community Partners of Northern California. Brusa will attend the weeklong program in July.

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A GANNETT COMPANY

Small Business Award goes to Shawn Bakker

Central Valley small businesses and business advocates were honored for their positive example and undy-

ing spirit at the annual Small Business Awards Program in Fresno.

Shawn Bakker of Bakker Construction, in the Salinas-Monterey area, received the Entrepreneurial Success Award.

In light of a difficult economy and imploding construction industry, Bakker Construction far exceeded the sales goal for 2010 by 292 percent.

He took his company from a small startup with one helper to a well-managed, self-sustainable enterprise with an impeccable reputation of seven employees and growing.

The University of Merced, Small Business Development Center Regional Network, brought together business and community leaders, government dignitaries and economic experts to congratulate the winners for their entrepreneurial success.