



# COUNTY OF MONTEREY CAO Weekly Report

## In This Edition:

- > Diversity training in full swing
- > Parker scholarship winners
- > A special graduation story

## SPECIALREPORT



*Attendees of the Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination/Diversity Training class work collaboratively on a case study scenario.*

## County Notes

- > The Libraries' Summer Reading Program starts June 13<sup>th</sup>. [Read for the Win](#) details, reading log and program calendar are online.

# Groundbreaking Diversity Training Underway

In February of this year, the Equal Opportunity Office launched Phase 1 of its Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination/Diversity Training. Monterey County is the first county in California to offer this kind of training to all employees.

To date, 632 employees from 22 departments have taken part and trainings will continue in July. The course is facilitated by trainers from the law firm of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore which specializes in employment, education and labor laws.

The course is broken into two parts with non-management employees attending a morning training session and managers and supervisors attending an afternoon session.

After each training session, attendees receive an online survey to complete. More than 200 employees have provided feedback so far and it has been extremely positive. The majority of feedback centered on the high quality of content, the interactive activities and the facilitator’s knowledge.

What are people saying about the program? Here are some comments received from the survey:

*“The whole training was very informative. Really enjoyed the instructor, best class I’ve attended regarding Discrimination. Enjoyed the class so much I would enjoy taking it again.”*

*“The entire course was very valuable and eye opening. There were a lot of things I was not aware of.”*

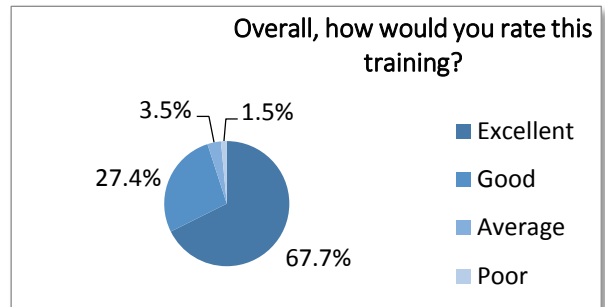
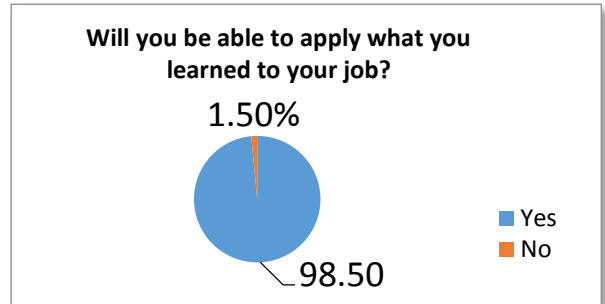
*“Hearing from others in attendance, their experiences and how they handled or addressed various situations, was very helpful.”*

*“It was an excellent training and you get to hear from other staff’s specific scenarios when you have in-person versus computer training.”*

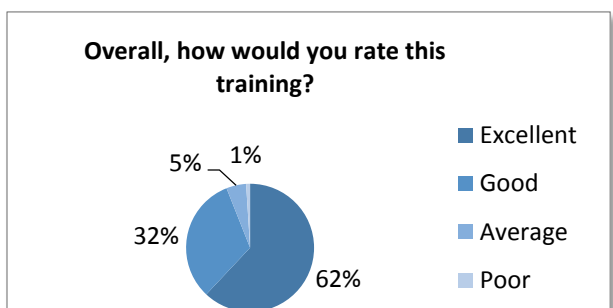
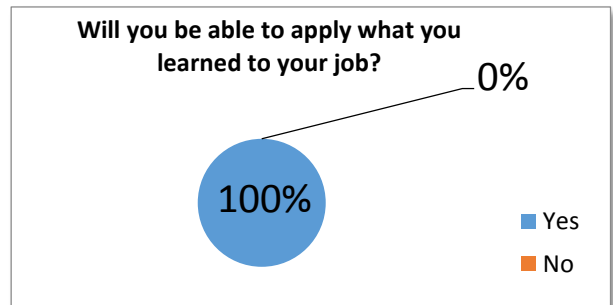
*“Grateful for the opportunity to receive the training, and thankful that the County of Monterey values and invests in their employees.”*

*“Honestly, everything about it was valuable. There were a lot of things that I did not know that could be considered harassment, etc. I really enjoyed this training.”*

Attendance for this program is being monitored by the Equal Opportunity Office.



Feedback on the training has been overwhelmingly positive. These charts show feedback from Non-Management (above) and Management employees (below).



# Parker Excellence, Scholarships Awarded

Each year, 4<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor Jane Parker singles out high school students within the district for scholarships, which she calls the Jane Parker Instigator of Excellence Scholarship.



As the name implies, Parker recognizes seniors who have showcased tremendous academic and personal excellence. This year, three outstanding seniors were selected:

## ←←Jenna Garden

Jenna Garden is a resident of Salinas and a graduate of Salinas High School who plans to continue her education at Stanford University. She is described as self-motivated, helpful, wise and a tremendous leader with a phenomenal determination to succeed. Jenna received her award of a \$500 scholarship along with a ceremonial proclamation at the Salinas High School Awards Ceremony.

## Allyson Cruz Galan⇒⇒

Allyson Cruz Galan is a resident of Seaside and a graduate of Monterey High School who plans to continue her education at Monterey Peninsula College. She is described as mature, eager to learn, intelligent and compassionate. Allyson received a \$500 scholarship and her ceremonial proclamation at the Monterey High School Awards Ceremony.



## ←←Lorena Juarez Cabrera

Lorena Juarez Cabrera is a resident of Marina, a graduate of Central Coast High School and will continue her education at Hartnell College. She is described as an outstanding student, diligent with her class assignments, resourceful, responsible and determined. Lorena received her \$500 scholarship and ceremonial proclamation at the Central Coast High School Graduation Ceremony.

For more information about this scholarship program and application information, visit [www.janeparker.org/scholarship](http://www.janeparker.org/scholarship).

# A Special Graduation

This time of year is filled with graduation ceremonies. Every one of these events is special because whether large or small, what matters most is the job well done.



*Shelena Webb.*

One very special graduating senior earned her diploma despite some challenging circumstances. This story with a happy ending comes from the Monterey County Sheriff's Office.

Shelena Webb became eligible to earn her high school diploma while serving time in the Monterey County Jail. She enrolled in the HiSET (High School Equivalency) program which is offered through the Jail's Inmate Programs Unit in collaboration with the Salinas Adult School to help better prepare inmates to re-enter the community. During her classes, Webb told her teacher she had attended high school but had not graduated.

That teacher researched her status and found that Webb did have the appropriate amount of high school credits. The Salinas Adult School made the necessary connections and Webb became eligible to receive her diploma as part of the Adult School commencement last month.

Unfortunately, Webb wasn't eligible to be released from jail until after the date of that graduation ceremony so teachers and jail staff held a small ceremony for her complete with cap and gown. She is now released from jail with so much more than she came in with - her diploma and the pride that all graduates feel about this accomplishment.