

The Big Fresno Fair

Hall of Fame

2022 NOMINEES

Joseph Colvin Jr.

Michael J. Giovannetti

Jim Yovino

Rick Ransom
Brooks Ransom Associates

Christina Estrada

From: info@fresnofair.com
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2022 3:03 PM
To: Christina Estrada; info
Subject: Data form data: Hall of Fame Nomination

Nominee Information

First Name: Joseph
Last Name: Colvin Jr
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City: fresno
State: CA
Postal Code: 93710
Phone Number: 5592859286

Your Information

First Name: Crystal
Last Name: Colvin
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City: Fresno
State: CA
Postal Code: 93720
Phone Number: 15592148213

Reason For Nomination: Joseph Colvin Jr is the lead driving instructor for the Central Valley Fresno California Postal Service. He started out as a regular mail carrier. Where he served for over a decade. he was usually the first to arrive and the last to leave. Joseph made sure every single trainy that comes through his station is safely trained so they can properly deliver the mail needed especially during these tough times. All of his friends, coworkers, family, members, and Associates would say Joseph is one of the good guys. He's honest, loyal, always has a good dad joke to make you smile and laugh, innovated and a very hard worker. I believe Joseph Colvin Jr deserves this recognition for the outstanding job he does for Fresno County Citizens. Because of him there's customers that appreciate the local postal worker. He goes above and beyond in every situation. Joseph Colvin Jr is also the president of the Fresno Mustang Club. He helps set up fundraisers and car shows where the donations go toward our local veterans. Joseph Colvin Jr is the one that everyone calls on but also the one that never asks for anything from anyone. I believe he deserves this recognition to show him how much he is appreciated and loved by everyone. Joseph Colvin Jr is an upstanding person who makes positive changes in our community.

Christina Estrada

From: info@fresnofair.com
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2022 10:36 AM
To: Christina Estrada; info
Subject: Data form data: Hall of Fame Nomination

Nominee Information

First Name: Michael J.
Last Name: Giovannetti
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Your Information

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City: Fresno
State: CA
Postal Code: 93702
Phone Number: 559-240-2277

Reason For Nomination: Michael Joseph (Joe) Giovannetti was born in Pieve di Compito, Lucca, Italy on May 19, 1947. In 1959, his aunt and uncle who had immigrated to the United States, asked for Michael to come live with them. At the young age of 11, Michael left his home to travel to America by ship, leaving behind his parents, nine siblings, extended family and friends.

When he arrived, Michael had to learn English, and new ways of a completely different culture and life. His aunt and uncle were very good to him, he grew up, attended school and ultimately stayed in the Fresno area.

Michael earned a BA and MA in Spanish from Fresno State, and then devoted his life to teaching. He served in the Central Unified School District. In 2001, he earned a Joint Doctorate degree in Educational Leadership at Fresno State and UC Davis. He taught educational leadership classes at Fresno State and was the Executive Director of the Renaissance Group, a national consortium of colleges, universities, schools/districts with a commitment to the preparation of educational professionals.

In 2018, he was awarded the Top Dog Award for the College of Arts and Humanities. He has a love of learning and serving his community.

Now, 64 years after his arrival from Italy, he considers himself truly blessed, and the beneficiary of two very different, but equally special worlds. He is very proud to be Italian-American.

I first got to work with Michael when I asked him to join me as the Vice Chairman of the Italian Heritage Museum Exhibit expansion project in 2019. However, I first met him at a fundraising event for the Italian Studies program at Fresno State. Of course, Michael was instrumental in getting that program established, as well as the Italian Language program at San Joaquin Memorial High School.

The San Joaquin Memorial and Fresno State program efforts, along with the Museum Expansion Project brought two things together that are very important to Michael - his love of education and of his Italian heritage.

Michael has been critical to the development of and recruitment for the Community Advisory Committee for the expansion. He raised money in the community for the expansion project, as well as helped create the content to fulfill the vision for this exhibit. He's read, reviewed and edited all of the approximately 150 narratives in the touchscreens, as well as helped me create the "Road of Dreams" wall that is part of the exhibit. This was all part of a three-year effort to complete Phase One of the exhibit that was publicly revealed in 2021. He has not stopped work on the exhibit though, throwing himself into working with Exhibit Committee Chairman Nat DiBuduo to expand the Oral Histories videos as part of Phase Two that tell the stories of Fresno County Italian families - preserving them for future generations and the general public to discover and enjoy. Phase Two also features bringing the Exhibit to even more people with online videos, allowing users to experience the exhibit, touchscreens and incredible educational content from the comfort of their homes.

Michael's contributions have made the Italian Heritage Museum Exhibit at The Big Fresno Fair the finest Italian exhibit on the West Coast. Putting the exhibit, the Museum and the Fair on the map in a different spotlight for this historical treasure - and further connecting the Fair to the community it serves. That's why I am nominating him to be inducted into The Big Fresno Fair's Hall of Fame.

Christina Estrada

From: info@fresnofair.com
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2022 12:19 PM
To: Christina Estrada; info
Subject: Data form data: Hall of Fame Nomination

Nominee Information

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Your Information

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Phone Number: 559-994-3129

Reason For Nomination: Jim Yovino has served as head of the Fresno County Office of Education since 2013. During that time, he has overseen rapid growth in the office's mission. Jim has championed for children by advocating for programs and initiatives addressing issues of poverty, intervention, homelessness and the importance of early education.

The Fresno County Office of Education oversees 345 schools in 32 school districts in Fresno County with more than 205,000 students. Under Jim's leadership, the FCSS has been heavily involved with numerous local organizations tackling a variety of issues including the initiatives undertaken in Jim's tenure, which include the \$111 million "All 4 Youth" behavioral health initiative, adult transition student-run Downtown Fresno eatery Kid's Café, the Career Technical Education Charter High School and Lighthouse for Children Child Development Center, to name a few.

Jim has long been a supporter and advocate of The Big Fresno Fair's Fair Education Program, which welcomes more than 30,000 students, teachers and parents to the Fairgrounds for free. This annual educational field trip bridges the gap between rural and urban life -

teaching students about the Valley's rich agricultural heritage and allowing them to see livestock up close – a first for many of these students.

Jim was also a pivotal part in the creation of another educational program – the Fair's 4.0 & Above Program, which honors Fresno County 8th – 12th grade students with a 4.0 or higher GPA with the opportunity to come to the Fair for free and participate in the 4.0 & Above Program Rally. At this rally, students have the chance to win VISA gift cards, laptops, iPads and \$1,500 or \$3,000 scholarships, plus 9th – 12th grade students have the chance to win a new Toyota Corolla. Since its first year in 2011, Jim has personally championed this program and its importance to publicly celebrate the hard work of these students. He believed in its purpose to encourage and incentivize students to work hard in school for the chance to be entered into the 4.0 & Above Program drawing! The grades pulled are for the Spring semester each year, not cumulative. So, each year, regardless of their fall semester grades, students can work hard and have the chance to qualify.

Every year for the past 10 years, Jim has been out at the Fair, celebrating the hard work of Fresno County students and drawing names of each year's lucky winners – congratulating them all with a big smile! Not only is Jim there at the Rally event each year, but he and his team help our Big Fresno Fair team to execute this program – reaching out to school superintendents, principals, site leads and others to make sure all our Fresno County 8th – 12th grade students who have a 4.0 or higher GPA have the chance and information needed to participate.

In the 10 years of the Fair's 4.0 & Above Program, Fresno County 8th – 12th grade students have won over \$550,000 in scholarships and 10 Toyota Corollas (a \$182,222 value), among other prizes! This amazing program would not be possible without the incredible generosity of our sponsors and donors – and of course, Jim Yovino and the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools team. For his role in the creation of the 4.0 & Above Program, along with his support of the Fair and our educational programs, I proudly nominate Jim Yovino for The Big Fresno Fair Hall of Fame.

Friends of the



Big Fresno Fair

Tax ID# 77-0441647



— Fresno County —
Historical Museum
— Founded In 2015 —

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Dear Board Members,

I would like to personally recommend Rick Ransom as a 2022 Big Fresno Fair Hall of Fame candidate. Brooks Ransom Associates has been the structural engineering firm representing the Big Fresno Fair for over a decade. Rick is an amazing individual to work with, and his support and donations to our facility and the museums is unparalleled! He also has engineered and supervised the construction of the new museum and all of the iconic signs located around the Paul-Paul theater.

Additionally, Rick Engineered the “Ripley’s Believe It or Not” Tractor Tree, which has been touted as an engineering marvel in the world of structural engineers.

It’s people like Rick that truly make a difference in our community, but most importantly our home town fair. Thank you for your consideration to honor Rick Ransom as a 2022 Hall of Fame Candidate.

Respectfully Submitted,

John C. Alkire; CEO, FOF