

Sally Cardenas Emerging Professional Conference Scholarship

The Sally Cardenas Emerging Professional Conference Scholarship recognizes those with three years or less of experience in the field of internships and cooperative work experience education, who have a desire to connect with other professionals in the field and learn how to make their college programs stronger.

This award, previously known as the New Professional Award, has been renamed in honor of Sally Cardenas, a lifetime member of the California Internship and Work Experience Association and a recognized leader and mentor in the field. The award is presented annually to one practitioner from a two-year college and one from a four-year college. The 2015 Sally Cardenas Emerging Professional Award recipients are:

2015 two- year college recipient: Tara Dale Sanders, Community Partnership Liaison in Workforce and Economic Development at Los Medanos College

For the past 15 months Tara's charge has been to evaluate, improve, and grow the work experience program at LMC. In doing this she evaluated programs throughout the Bay Area and applied what she learned to LMC. Most notably she helped improve the online application and management system to be more user friendly, and has seen an almost three fold increase in student enrollment and increased employer engagement in both internships and advisory committees.