

COUNTY OF EL DORADO
Board of Supervisors

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WENDY THOMAS
SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT III

February 14, 2024

Sent Via Email

Marie Alvarado-Gil, Senator
California District 4
1021 O Street, Suite 7240
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Women of the Year - 2024

Dear Senator Alvarado-Gil,

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate an extraordinary woman for Senate District 4 Woman of the Year 2024. Without question, the woman that I am proud to nominate is community inspiration and advocate, **Christa Campbell.**

The goal of this distinguished award is to honor someone who has influenced our community to create a better place for all, and Christa's life's work, accomplishments and dedicated service speak to the heart of that intent. I can think of no other woman who works for the greater good as selflessly, tirelessly, and passionately as Christa Campbell.

Agriculture is a critical aspect of El Dorado County's economy and identity. Christa remains an active participant on their legacy family farm, growing quality produce to meet the local need as well as an expanded schedule of farmers' markets that extend to the Bay Area. Known as the "Donut Queen", she can be found from sun-up to sun-down making her famous hot apple cider donuts to the hundreds of thousands of guests who flock to the famed Apple Hill during Harvest Season which ensures that the agricultural industry in El Dorado County remains relevant, compelling, and vital. Christa is also an original founder and co-president of Ag in the Classroom which is the primary outreach to El Dorado County youth to make sure they understand the importance of agriculture in their lives and have access to quality, ag-related educational materials.

Despite her leadership and influence in the El Dorado County's ag industry, Christa's impact to the larger community extends much deeper. From the attached list of accomplishments, you will see that Christa is an engaged and dedicated member of a large array of community non-profit boards that provide critical community services. Whether it is supporting our local health care system, ensuring services and programs for adults with developmental disabilities or empowering leadership in our youth to look outside of themselves and meet community needs, Christa is a hands-on, active, and passionate board member. One of

the qualities I love most about Christa is that her service is “never about Christa”, rather it is always about the mission, purpose, scope, and influence for good on the larger community. She is one of the hardest workers I know, and yet she is always the first to step up and meet a community need if she feels she can be a force for good. Personally, as an El Dorado County Supervisor, I have relied on Christa’s knowledge and expertise to serve with me on several initiatives in my district. Christa is a member of my Harvest Traffic Committee which coordinates with Caltrans, the El Dorado County Transportation Commission and our Department of Transportation to mitigate Harvest Traffic impacts to Highway 50. She is also serving on my grassroots committee to design and fund a beautification project in Camino that was the result of a Caltrans safety project. While the safety improvements were critical, they left an unadorned roundabout in the gateway to the Camino-Fruitridge Ag District, and we are working to create an asset from this “opportunity”.

In 2022, the Mountain Democrat published an article featuring the influence of Christa Campbell entitled, “Meet the mighty Christa Campbell – volunteer extraordinaire.” To me, that is a simple and elegant summation of her impact and legacy. I also believe she is a fitting representative of Senate District 4 as Christa reminds me a lot of you, Senator. You are someone who knows the value of hard work. You embody and value our rural, agricultural roots, and you give tirelessly of your time, skills, and talents to do whatever is in your power to make our Senate District community a better place for all. Christa has spent her life doing the same in El Dorado County.

As a former Woman of the Year in 2014 in Assembly District 5, it is my pleasure and honor to nominate Christa Campbell for Senate District 4’s Woman of the Year 2024.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Thomas". The signature is written in black ink and includes a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Wendy Thomas
Chairman, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, District 3

2024 Woman of the Year Nominee: CHRISTA CAMPBELL

Partial list of community accomplishments:

- **Known as the “Donut Queen”, Christa is the owner of beloved Apple Hill ranch, Rainbow Orchards which she has run with her husband “Farmer Tom” and their family since 1977.** With three generations working the land, Rainbow Orchards is “*Home of the Hot Apple Cider Donut*”, and Christa remains a leading champion of Apple Hill.
- **Original founder and Co-President of Ag in the Classroom** which has a mission of “*Teaching a growing generation by providing high quality educational programs to increase awareness of the importance of agriculture in our lives.*” Her farm, Rainbow Orchards, served as the original Field of Learning pilot site.
- **Christa is instrumental in El Dorado County’s annual Farm Day** where third graders from all over El Dorado County come for a day of hands-on, place-based agricultural education.
- **Board Chair of Marshall Foundation for Community Health** which supports Marshall Medical Center and community health programs to ensure access to health services and programs on the West Slope of El Dorado County.
- During the pandemic, Christa saw that El Dorado County’s migrant population of farm workers could not navigate access to vaccinations. Partnering with community advocate Lexi Boeger and local, independent pharmacy owner Dennis Thomas, Christa **created and hosted a series of drive-thru clinics at Rainbow Orchards where carpools of willing participants left with a vaccination and a famous hot apple cider donut.**
- **Volunteer on numerous, critical El Dorado County non-profit boards:**
 - **Marshall Foundation for Community Health** (*Since 2016*)
 - **Mother Lode Rehabilitation Enterprises, Inc.** (*Serving adults with developmental disabilities*)
 - **El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce**
 - **El Dorado County Farm Trails Association**
 - **Apple Hill Growers Association** (*Founded in 1964, this Association represents over 50 local, family farms and is dedicated to supporting agriculture in our community*)
 - **Camino Community Action Committee** (*Working to keep the Camino community safe, clean and enjoyable while supporting Camino School and helping those in need in the local community*)
 - **California Retired Teachers Association Division 73**

- **El Dorado Ag in the Classroom** (*See description above*)
 - **Images of Hope El Dorado** (*Providing free, healing activities for anyone in EDC impacted by cancer or traumas*)
 - **Pollock Pines – Camino Rotary Club**
 - **Hands4Hope Placerville Center** (*Inspiring and empowering youth to make a difference in their communities*)
- In addition to serving in leadership positions on these non-profit boards, **Christa donates the use of Rainbow Orchards to support a myriad of community causes.**



HARVEST SEASON



M.O.R.E.



CAMINO COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE



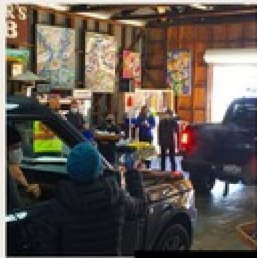
HANDS4HOPE



DONUT QUEEN & FARMER TOM



IMAGES OF HOPE



DRIVE THRU VACCINATION CLINIC AT RAINBOW ORCHARDS



Hot Apple Cider Donuts for the road!



CAMINO CLEAN UP DAY



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

CHRISTA CAMPBELL IN ACTION