



**California/Nevada Section  
Bimonthly Update  
May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Sixty Second Edition**

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❖ **CDFM Farm Visits Underway!**

The California Farm Demonstration Network (CFDN) is hosting a series of farm visits for agricultural producers during the months of May and June that will demonstrate how long-term goals for healthy soil are being achieved at each farm—without compromising production. Farmers using various soil health practices (such as cover crops, conservation tillage and more) will discuss their soil health management systems and experiences. Network partners, including representatives from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, UC Cooperative Extension, Resource Conservation Districts and other partners will also be on hand to explain monitoring and evaluation work being done on the farms. For more information, please see the attached file.

❖ **Jordan Agricultural Research Center Grand Opening at Fresno State!**

Fresno State officials and donors broke ground on April 13, 2014 for the \$24-million Jordan Research Center to serve as a hub of collaboration to solve agricultural challenges. The 30,000 square-foot facility will feature wet and dry labs, lab support space and meeting areas in which students can study as well as collaborate on research projects.

Fresno State President Dr. Joseph Castro and other university officials will open the Jordan Agricultural Research Center with a ribbon cutting ceremony on the corner of Woodrow and Barstow Avenue on May 13, 2016. For more information, contact Geoff Thurner ([gthurner@csufresno.edu](mailto:gthurner@csufresno.edu)) or Dr. Balaji Seth ([balajis@csufresno.edu](mailto:balajis@csufresno.edu))

❖ **New Student Branch in the CA/NV Section!**

We are pleased to welcome a new ASABE student engineering branch, at [California State University-Bakersfield](http://California State University-Bakersfield). The branch, recently approved by the Membership Development Council, exists to promote professional relationships for engineering students. Activities that familiarize students with engineering interests and developments provide a basis for professional development and for transition from academic to professional careers. This new branch joins more than 50 universities across North America, Puerto Rico, Ghana, Mexico, and Nigeria that have previously established student branches.

❖ **UC Davis BAE Professor Ruihong Zhang elected Fellow of ASABE!**

The ASABE California/Nevada Section is proud to congratulate Dr. Ruihong Zhang, on her election as a Fellow of ASABE. ASABE defines a Fellow as a member of unusual professional distinction, with outstanding and extraordinary qualifications and experience in, or related to, the field of agricultural, food, or biological systems engineering. They possess a minimum of 20 years of active practice in, or related to, the profession of engineering; the teaching of engineering; or the teaching of an engineering-related curriculum and a minimum of 20 years as an active Member-Engineer or Member in ASABE. This is ASABE's highest honor. Congratulations Dr. Ruihong Zhang!

❖ **Students Present Bio-fertilizer Research at National Design Expo!**

A UC Davis biological and agricultural engineering student team shared their research project at the 12th Annual People, Prosperity, and Planet (P3) National Sustainable Design Expo in Washington, DC last month! Their U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant-funded project aims to transform manure from the nation's largest dairy producer, California, into renewable energy and profitable bio-fertilizer products. For the full article, please click [here](#).

❖ **Navigating the CyberSEES!**

Congratulations to a team at Cal Poly for receiving a National Science Foundation Award! They were featured in the Cal Poly Agriview Magazine in an article that can be seen [here](#).

❖ **Career Development – Mock Interviews!** - Article by Your Career Development Chair, Josh Peppers

You probably wouldn't walk into an important exam without preparing in advance. For those who took the EIT/FE exam, you probably remember all the nights you spent reviewing course notes and exam prep materials. On test day, you were calm, confident, and relaxed because you had prepared! Well, job interviewing should be no different. Who wants to blow a great job opportunity by not having a polished presentation of themselves? Because interviewing is not natural for most people, going through a mock interview is a great way to hone your self-selling skills to a potential employer.

For those who are still in school, your local university should have practice interviews available at its career center. For alumni, contact your alma mater to see if they offer this service for you too. Before going into a mock interview, you should take time to evaluate 1) why this job is a good fit for you 2) your overall career goals 3) what skills you bring to the employer 4) what sets you apart from the other candidates. Thinking these things though ahead of time will help you deliver a fluid, cohesive response that will make you look good. Employers often ask for succinct stories that illustrate your skills so have some of these ready as well. You should also research the employer ahead of time so you can ask intelligent questions to the interviewer and show that you really are interested in the company. Doing these things as an exercise in a mock interview will give you the foundation and experience to "knock 'em dead" during the real thing.

❖ **We Want to Hear From YOU!**

This is a bi-monthly update to keep our CA/NV Section informed about what is going on in our section and in the ASABE. YOU are a part of that! If you have anything for the next update (May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016), please share it! Articles/ideas/accomplishments/updates/anything can be sent to [Noelle Arredondo](#).

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- For previous editions of the Update, please visit [www.asabecanv.org](http://www.asabecanv.org).
- If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact Noelle at 661-978-9452 or [nopenner@gmail.com](mailto:nopenner@gmail.com)
- If you have ideas for Update items or would like to get involved in the leadership team, please let us know!