



The Panetta Institute for Public Policy

April 26, 2016

James Irvine Foundation
One Bush Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, California 94104

To: 2017 Selection Committee, Irvine Foundation Leadership Award

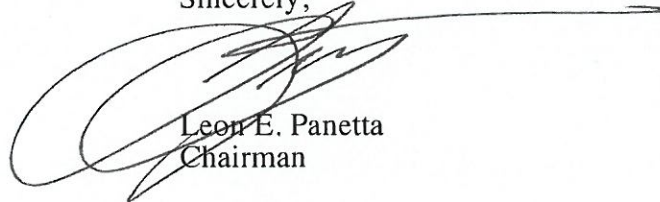
I am writing to request your favorable consideration of Jacob Martinez for a 2017 James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award.

In January I spoke at the grand opening of the Digital NEST's expanded location in Watsonville, California. As the founder and leader of this unique organization, Jacob demonstrates the passion and pragmatism that are essential in pressing for change.

Through the work of Digital NEST, Jacob is directly confronting the social and economic barriers that have locked Latinos and other minorities out of technology. As a thought leader, speaker, and representative of his community, Jacob advocates persuasively for a diverse tech workforce while underscoring that the responsibility for creating an inclusive society belongs to each of us as citizens, government leaders and community members. I share Jacob's belief that when all are contributors, we amplify our knowledge and power in ways that improve all of society.

I urge you to grant Jacob and the Digital NEST the distinction of this award, and am confident that its benefits will be multiplied many times over for the betterment of the people -and future- of our state.

Sincerely,



Leon E. Panetta
Chairman

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