



**GRIMM FAMILY CENTER FOR
AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS**
CSU BAKERSFIELD™

SAVE THE DATE!

GFCAB EVENTS - SPRING 2026

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

GFCAB Speaker Series: Farmer Focus

6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Walter W. Stiern Library, Dezember Reading Room

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

GFCAB Speaker Series: Women in Ag

6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Walter W. Stiern Library, Dezember Reading Room

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

GFCAB Sip 'N Scholarship

6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Alumni Park, Advance registration is required.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026

GFCAB Student Research Symposium

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Walter W. Stiern Library, Dezember Reading Room

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

GFCAB Carrot Festival

12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Alumni Park

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2026

GFCAB Speaker Series: Faculty Research

6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Walter W. Stiern Library, Dezember Reading Room



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GFCAB SPEAKER SERIES 2025-26

Almond Joy: Analysis of the Almond Market



ABE PADILLA

Entrepreneur, Consultant, Educator

Abe is a seasoned agribusiness and analytics professional with nearly 30 years of experience in the almond and pistachio industry. After leaving The Wonderful Company in 2015, he co-founded nut processing and export ventures and also founded Spectrum Data Analytics, LLC, serving public and private sector clients across multiple industries. He is a professor of Agribusiness and Data Analytics at CSU Bakersfield and a former lecturer at Loyola Marymount University, having successfully placed over 180 students in analytics and management roles and guided many others into top MBA and graduate programs. Academically, Abe

holds dual bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Economics, dual MBAs in Finance and Computer Information Systems, a Master's in Predictive Analytics, and is currently pursuing a doctorate in business focused on applied analytics in California agriculture.



BRIAN EZELL

Senior Director of Operations, Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella

Brian Ezell is the Sr. Director of Operations at Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella in the Southern San Joaquin Valley of California. Brian has worked in the Tree Nut Industry for over 35 years and has extensive knowledge of growing, processing, and marketing both Pistachio's and Almonds. Prior to joining Setton Pistachios Brian was the Vice President of the Almond Division of the Wonderful Pistachio & Almond company.

Brian has served on many committees in various tree nut organizations including the Peanut & Tree Processors Association (Board of Directors for 20 years), the Almond Board of California (Marketing Committee for over 15 years and served as Chairman of this committee for 6 years). Brian currently serves on the Board of Directors for American Pistachio Growers Association and the current treasurer and chair of the finance committee. He received a BS Degree from California State University, Bakersfield in 1988 with an emphasis in business finance. Brian and his wife Cheri live in Bakersfield, California and have three adult children.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

6 P.M. TO 7 P.M.

Dezember Reading Room at the Walter W. Stiern Library