

## SEPC Announces 2021 Next Generation Award Nominees

Millen, GA (August 17, 2021) – Every member of SEPC puts in extra time on the job because of the satisfaction that a better yield in crops, businesses, and relationships brings them. But there are a select few who stand out among them who unite our region through tireless effort, extraordinary instinct, and a genuine love for our industry. The Southeast Produce Council is pleased to recognize several outstanding individuals who have been nominated for this year’s Next Generation Award.

This prestigious award honors an SEPC member 39 years or younger who has been employed in the produce industry for at least four years and has made a significant contribution to the industry. To qualify for the award, members must be in “good standing” with the SEPC through regular attendance and contributions to the council.

The following SEPC members have received a nomination for the 2021 Next Generation Award:

Sydney Allison of IMG Citrus

Ethan Basore of TKM Farms

Matthew Carroll of BJs Wholesale (*nominated posthumously*)

Sabrina Castillo of Fresh Directions

Anthony Consalo of The Fresh Wave, LLC

Brandon Deforest of Todd’s Tomatoes, Inc.

Meghan Diaz of Sprouts Farmers Market

Cody Dolan of J&J Family of Farms

Rebecca Fanion of Stop & Shop

Grayson Ferrell of Vick Family Farms

Austin Hamilton of Southern Valley Fruit and Vegetable

Heather Hart of The Fresh Market

Chris Kaszanits of Southeastern Grocers

Patrick Kelly of The Produce Industry Podcast

Anna Kirsch of Avocados From Mexico

Caitlin Kleefeld of Zaxby’s Franchising, LLC

Hilary Long of Frey Farms

Blaine Markley of Rainier Fruit Company

Rebecca Meyers of Harbinger Group, LLC dba Misionero

Desiree Morales of WP Produce

Noah Robbins of Ark Foods  
Brick Rooks of Southern Belle Organics  
Clark Roper of Piggly Wiggly  
Charles Sinks of Sage Fruit Company  
Carlos Sotomayor of Seald Sweet  
Thomas Wescott of Honeybear Brands  
Jessica Williams of Titan Farms  
Mackenzie Wortham of DMA Solutions, Inc.  
Ines Zejcirovic of Giant Food

“It is an honor for the SEPC to be able to recognize the next generation of produce leaders. These young individuals have proven to their peers that they are ready to take our industry to greater heights than ever before. We are thankful for all their current contributions and their future endeavors to make our world healthier!”

~ David Sherrod, SEPC President & CEO

The 2021 Next Generation Award recipient will be announced at Southern Innovations on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, during the General Session & Keynote Luncheon. Congratulations to each of these deserving candidates!

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#### About Southeast Produce Council

The Southeast Produce Council (SEPC) is a member-driven, non-profit association of more than 2,500 leaders from all facets of the produce industry. It was formed more than 20 years ago to promote the value of fresh fruits and vegetables in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, and Virginia through networking, innovation, community, and education. Today, SEPC is a thriving organization that continues to share and pursue its vision, mission, values, and goals. Learn more by visiting [www.seproducecouncil.com](http://www.seproducecouncil.com).