



To honor National Procurement Month, PlanetBids announces this year’s “Breaking Barriers” Award winners. This award is designated for those clients exhibiting innovation and success in leveraging the PB System™ for their organization and customers. Below are the three 2021 awardees -congratulations!

Mina Hernandez, Director of Purchasing and Material Management
MiraCosta College



Mina Hernandez oversees contracts and procurement, ensuring everything complies with a multitude of local, state, and federal regulations. It’s a job she is well suited for, as Hernandez led the development of the California Community College’s first-ever Purchasing Best Practices Guidebook and the California Community College’s Facilities-Procurement Guidebook. In January, the team implemented PlanetBids, a platform for electronic bid submissions that will provide MiraCosta College and its Measure MM \$455 million bond management team the opportunity to engage with a broader pool of vendors and contractors. Her team also is working with Academic Information Services to provide District end-users PunchOut catalog—an e-procurement solution—that will be integrated with Workday this spring. PunchOut makes it possible for end-users to access a supplier’s website from Workday, which will automate purchase requisitions. Hernandez also serves on the Foundation for California Community College’s Legislative and Advisory committees.

Sashi Muralidharan SBE Administrator
Port of Long Beach



Sashi works diligently to ensure inclusion of minority and woman owned businesses in Port of Long Beach Contracting opportunities. When asked about his biggest challenge, he states, "like most in procurement, the biggest challenge was getting adjusted to working from home and how it affects my daily communication across all divisions of my department and of course, our vendors who now have limited access to our assistance." Sashi's efforts ensures inclusion of all suppliers in contracting - breaking barriers in the process!

Jana Vargas, Director
San Diego Regional Airport Authority



Jana serves as the Director, Procurement and Contract Services, overseeing all procurement, including construction projects for the San Diego Regional Airport Authority. When asked what her biggest challenge over the past year, she states, "My biggest challenge has not been my e-procurement system because the team at Planetbids was proactive in holding webinars and creating a community that allowed its users to share best practices and resources during the pandemic. Instead, my biggest challenge was ensuring that we held on to our culture of supporting both on-site and remote procurement team members. You realize just how important teamwork and communication are during a crisis. While it was a challenge, I was very impressed with the resiliency, commitment and innovation of our procurement team.