

# **Transition Services Panel**

*Orange County Community Partners Support  
Alex in His Journey to Full-Time Employment*

## **Alex Zavala** – Presenter



Alex Zavala, a 37 year-old with autism, is a graduate of Goodwill of Orange County's Project SEARCH program. Alex joined Project SEARCH in 2019, with support from Regional Center of Orange County. He graduated from the program in 2021 and was hired at Kaiser Permanente in Irvine in the Environmental Services department. After a year working part-time, Alex was promoted to full-time employment. He was recently honored with Regional Center of Orange County's Spotlight Award for Self-Advocacy for his strong work ethic and positive attitude. When he is not working, Alex enjoys playing video games on his PS5 and Nintendo Switch.

### **Panelists**

**Linda O'Neal** - Transition Specialist, Thompson Policy Institute on Disability

**Arturo Cazares** - Associate Director Employment, Regional Center of Orange County

**Trinh van Erp** - Staff Services Manager / Team Manager, Department of Rehabilitation, Anaheim Office

**Diana Nevarez** - Program Manager Project SEARCH, Goodwill of Orange County

**Stephanie Alire** - Instructor/Supervisor, Project SEARCH Kaiser Anaheim Medical Center, Goodwill of Orange County

**Nick Cardinal** - Skills Trainer, Goodwill of Orange County.

**Lorri Guy** - Workforce Development Program Coordinator, Disability Support Services, North Orange Continuing Education

**Charles Lamb** - Department Administrator - Environmental Services, Kaiser Permanente Irvine Medical Center

### **Moderators**

**Dr. Richard Rosenberg** - Transition Consultant, Thompson Policy Institute on Disability

**Kathi Millett** - Program Director, Goodwill of Orange County

## ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERS



**Thompson Policy Institute  
on Disability**

The **Thompson Policy Institute on Disability** engages in technical assistance and research to improve the lives of people with disabilities and, in doing so, improve life for all of society. We accomplish this by creating new knowledge and innovative solutions through our work and by disseminating these findings through technical assistance and written reports to the field. [Chapman.edu/tpi](http://Chapman.edu/tpi)

**Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)** administers the largest vocational rehabilitation and independent living programs in the country. Vocational rehabilitation services are designed to help job seekers with disabilities obtain competitive employment in integrated work settings. Independent living services may include peer support, skill development, systems advocacy, referrals, assistive technology services, transition services, housing assistance, and personal assistance services. [www.dor.ca.gov](http://www.dor.ca.gov)



**DEPARTMENT of  
REHABILITATION**

Employment, Independence & Equality



REGIONAL CENTER  
OF ORANGE COUNTY

**Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC)** is one of 21 private, nonprofit organizations contracted by the State of California to coordinate lifelong services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

[www.rcocdd.com](http://www.rcocdd.com)

The mission of **Goodwill of Orange County** is to help people who are facing barriers find and keep jobs, which provides purpose, pride and dignity. In order to fulfill this belief, Goodwill of Orange County provides a comprehensive variety of education, training and employment services to assist individuals to overcome barriers to employment to succeed at home, work or school. [www.ocgoodwill.org](http://www.ocgoodwill.org)



Project SEARCH

Since its inception, **Project SEARCH** has grown from a single program site at Cincinnati Children's to a large and continuously expanding international network of sites. Project SEARCH's primary objective is to secure competitive employment for people with disabilities. [www.projectsearch.us](http://www.projectsearch.us)

**North Orange Continuing Education (NOCE)** has been serving the community since 1973 with free, noncredit educational programs and services to empower our community. Students enroll in NOCE's noncredit programs to enhance basic skills, gain employable skills, prepare for credit courses, for self-sufficiency or to enhance civic participation. [noce.edu](http://noce.edu)



**Kaiser Permanente** is one of the nation's largest not-for-profit health plans, serving 12.6 million members. At Kaiser Permanente, physicians are responsible for medical decisions. The Permanente Medical Groups, which provide care for Kaiser Permanente members, continuously develop and refine medical practices to help ensure that care is delivered in the most efficient and effective manner possible.



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