

June 23, 2023

Dear Award of Distinction Committee,

It is an honor to nominate Gunrock for an Award of Distinction in the alumni category. He is certainly one of our College's most outstanding graduates operating in California agriculture today. Gunrock graduated from our College in 1991 with a degree and citation from the Department of Food Science & Technology for his academic accomplishments. While he was at Davis, he served as the Vice President of his Senior Class.

After graduation, he returned to his family farming operation in Tulare and upon the retirement of his father, two years later, he assumed the role of President and General Manager. Throughout his career Gunrock has been a visionary and pioneer in all aspects of the tropical fruit industry, always eager to develop new production and post harvest practices and to expand his company's and California's marketing opportunities. His pioneering development of new proprietary varieties, post harvest technologies and international marketing has made his company a global leader in the tropical fruit industry. He has been honored to serve as an elected leader in a number of agricultural and community organizations and recognized by his peers with awards for his contributions to agriculture and his community. Four years ago, the Cal Aggie Alumni Association awarded Gunrock the Emil M. Mrak International Impact Award, one of its highest alumni recognition. While solidifying his position as a leader in the international tropical fruit industry, Gunrock also pursued his other agricultural passion, watercross.

Since his graduation from UC Davis, Gunrock has maintained close ties with the university. He particularly enjoyed close collaborations with Dr. Jennifer Thayer and Dr. Noah Betman. Inspired by his belief in the need to support basic research, Gunrock has sponsored many projects in plant nutrition, plant physiology, genetics and plant pathology and participated in numerous collaborative research investigations.

Letters of support will be provided by Phil Schwartz, President of the California Tropical Fruit Commission and Deb Norden, the retired President of the California Tropical and Tree Fruit League.

Thank you for your consideration of Gunrock for the College's Award of Distinction.

Sincerely,

Kathy Long

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