

BAYWORK SPOTLIGHT WOMEN IN TRADES



Mera Burton

Education Outreach Program Manager

Mera Burton, from Valley Water, was nominated by the members of BAYWORK for her commitment to service and passion for women in the trades.

Most recently, she hosted a learning session at the training buffet titled, **Aspire. Diversify. Empower. Lead - Creating Career Pathways with Valley Water's Next-Gen Workforce Development Program.**



Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection

As the Valley Water Education Outreach Program Manager, Mera has more than 15 years of experience working in educational leadership and has served as a STEM educator and project manager for NASA's education programs as lead Professional Development Instructor. At Valley Water for 4.5 years, Mera leads a team that provides opportunities for K-12 learners and educators to engage in STEM educational programs through unique content, as well as teaching hands-on activities to various audiences via distance learning.

Certifications and Skills:

Master's degree from Santa Clara University in teaching STEM curriculum development and instruction.

What interested you to pursue a career in the field?

"My passion for promoting education advancements and career engagement led me to pursue a career in the water industry. I aim to increasing diversity for Valley Water's next generation of workforce through the development of a high school internship program for students in Santa Clara County. As a former classroom educator, I understand the importance and impact of being the agency lead for the Valley Water, BAYWORK & Ignited high school teacher externship programs and hope to inspire educators to join the water workforce."

If you can provide one piece of advice for women entering the field, what would it be?

"Professional educators are needed in the water industry because we have the unique ability to connect with a wide variety of audiences and translate difficult subject matters to every-day learners. There are also many opportunities for advancement and public service leadership. "

To learn more about BAYWORK, or how to nominate a woman in trade or water, go to www.baywork.org



Bay area water/wastewater workforce reliability