

Inaugural Don and Rosemary Vial Awards for Digital Inclusion Exemplary Individual Performance Nominee

Louis Nava

**Director of Community Technology Programs
San Diego Futures Foundation**



Louis Nava has made an exemplary contribution towards Digital Inclusion by his work in managing the day-to-day operations of the highly successful San Diego Broadband Initiative. (SDBI). SDBI was formed to provide technology and technical resources to San Diego's underserved and low-income families. Through the San Diego Broadband Initiative, more than 2,480 low-income and “disconnected” families, including 400 individuals with disabilities, received computer training, a refurbished computer with updated operating systems, discounted Internet access, and six months of help desk and repair

assistance. As the SDBI Manager, Louis was responsible for organizing an effective coalition of non-profit service providers. Louis built strong, mutually beneficial relationships with SDBI partners who formed the foundation from which 2,480 families received the full array of services and equipment needed for in-home connectivity.

Louis helped establish SDFP as trusted leader with SDBI partners. He worked to respond to both partners and participants' needs and continually improved SDBI's services and reach. Louis designed and developed the SDBI website and ensured that all outreach and information materials are available in Spanish. It is to his credit that 30 community computer labs were established. Under his leadership, disadvantaged low –income families and individuals received over 550 hours of basic computer training, 556 clients received help desk assistance and hardware repairs and 470 discounted connections representing \$129,120 in savings.

In addition to his strong technical background, Louis is committed to advocating for disadvantaged populations to bridge the Digital Divide.