



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
County Manager



**Date:** July 26, 2016  
**Board Meeting Date:** September 6, 2016  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** John L. Maltbie, County Manager

**Subject:** Employee of the Month for September 2016

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Honor Michelle Merola as Employee of the Month for September 2016 and authorize the President of the Board to sign the commendation.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Employee of the Month program was established in December 1984 to recognize and honor County employees who consistently demonstrate an outstanding level of performance.

Our Employee of the Month for September 2016 is Michelle Merola, a Charge Nurse in the San Mateo Medical Center, of the Health System.

**DISCUSSION:**

Michelle Merola started working for the County over two years ago as a Charge Nurse in the very busy Surgical Specialty Clinics. Michelle is an excellent role model for the nurses in her unit, where she provides encouragement, coaching and mentoring. She is always ensuring quality care and excellent customer service for our patients.

Last year, Michelle was nominated twice for Excellence Awards in Nursing at the San Mateo Medical Center and also received numerous BRAVO awards. Michelle never hesitates to help her staff and colleagues wherever and however she can. Her compassion for people and her passion for her profession is clear in her everyday actions.

A few weeks ago after work, Michelle headed to Hillsdale Shopping Center. As she was leaving the mall, she pulled out onto Hillsdale Boulevard and spotted a man lying face down on the sidewalk at the bus stop. Michelle pulled her car to the side, put on her

emergency blinkers and approached the man. Another person had already called 911. Michelle's critical care nursing skills kicked in as she realized that the man was in acute distress. As a crowd began to gather, she began chest compressions and continued to do so until the EMTs arrived about four minutes later. Michelle helped the EMTs get him into the ambulance.

A lot of people would not have stopped to help, but it doesn't surprise us that Michelle did. Despite finishing a long day at work and seeing that emergency responders were already being called, Michelle recognized that her skills could make an impact and indeed potentially save a life. Her response was immediate, decisive, and focused on the needs of her fellow community member. We are happy to report that this man survived and is doing well. Michelle's actions in this situation exemplify what the Medical Center and the County are looking for in their employees.

Our County is fortunate to have Michelle Merola as an outstanding employee.