



### *Outstanding Woman*

## **Olga Valencia Cardeñas**

Olga Cardeñas' career and passion has been focused on literacy, expanding resources for the underserved and increasing access to literature and education in our community. As Youth Services Outreach Librarian for Stanislaus County, she has advocated for and promoted early intervention, literacy training for parents, and worked to remove the barriers faced by those in need. Olga developed and implemented training for library employees, and worked to create more effective policies and procedures and enhanced literacy centers at each library. In 2016, Olga received national recognition for serving youth from the American Library Association, the Carnegie Corporation and the NY Public Library. Olga used the \$5,000 prize money to create a library for teens incarcerated at Juvenile Hall. Since 2016, Olga has continued to hold bi-weekly book club meetings for youth in juvenile hall.