

Career Connected

Career Technical Education Program Spotlights

April/May/June 2024 – Issue No. 10

Bakery Visit

Roosevelt High School

Internship students toured Valley Lavosh bakery. This bakery has been in business since 1922, through 3 generations. The students were able to tour the bakery and see how their pita bread and crackers are made. This entrepreneurial 3 generation family owned business has been run in Fresno since 1922. It ships its one of a kind crackers all over the country. The students learned about the process and were able to enjoy a true Armenian snack after the tour.

The Tech Interactive

Roosevelt High School

11th grade Health Pathway juniors take a trip to San Jose to visit the Tech Interactive and participate in a DNA & Genetic lab. Students identified the structure and function of the nucleus and DNA. Students extracted DNA from their cheeks and observed a cell and the nucleus under a microscope. This prompted students to review (or learn) best practices with a microscope. Following students distilled threads of their own DNA from the cheek sample. In the second activity students reviewed inheritance patterns in genetics and expression of traits through protein synthesis. Students compared samples of DNA from prehistoric and modern creatures. Based on the genetic sequences, students identified the proteins that express a trait for the species.

Farmer's Market and Plant Sale

Phoenix Secondary School

Amber Donat and her Agriculture students grew over 800 plants from seed to sell to the community. With partnership of Fresno Metro and local farmers, the event was hosted at Phoenix Secondary. Many people from the community came out to show support, and bought fresh produce from the farmers and thriving plants from Donat's class to add to their gardens.

Carlos Barbershop Academy

DeWolf High School

Carlos Godinez, Master Barber of Carlos Barbershop Academy, showed students and staff the skills they can learn at their academy. Staff and students received haircuts, information on apprenticeships, and tips to growing their own business. DeWolf students were engaged in learning as much as they could from Mr. Godinez and look forward to another visit and possibly enrolling in the near future.

HOSA State Competition

Duncan Polytechnical High School

Congratulations to the 11 Duncan students in the MASH Academy who all qualified to compete at the HOSA State Leadership Competition in Anaheim, California. Duncan students competed in the areas of CPR/First Aid, Nursing Assistant, Medical Spelling, Medical Terminology, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, and Veterinary Technician. This year's event had over 4,000 HOSA students from all areas of California competing in a variety of medical areas.

With excitement we share the 4 students who placed top 5 within the state, in their respective competitions:

- **Physical Therapy:** Junior student Natalie Montalvo placed 3rd and senior student Sadie Cantù placed 5th
- **Veterinary Technician:** Junior student Giovanni Nava placed 4th
- **Medical Spelling:** Charitie Ruiz placed 5th

What an amazing achievement to have Duncan be among other elite future health care professionals!! Duncan has qualified to compete in the HOSA International Competition this June in Houston, Texas! Way to go HOSA students and a BIG thank you to Advisors Mr. Garza and Ms. Ramirez!

Career and Resource Fair

Phoenix Secondary School

A variety of industry partners came together at Phoenix Secondary to provide post-secondary information, career exploration, and to showcase school projects. Students tested their pull-ups with the US Military while others asked about programs through Universal Technical Institute.

Bloomberg Beta

Patiño Entrepreneurship High School

Patiño School of Entrepreneurship juniors had the opportunity to pitch their business ideas to Bay Area venture capitalists and entrepreneurs with Roy Bahat, head of Bloomberg Beta. During the April 17 visit, the group toured the school, learned about its programs and provided feedback to students after their pitches.

[Read an article from ABC30 about the visit.](#)

[Watch a video of the Bloomberg Beta visit](#)

9th Grade Pitches

Patiño Entrepreneurship High School

As part of their Project Management course, 9th grade students at Patiño identified a community partner and designed a product or service to help them deal with extreme heat. Students met with Fresno State professors to hear about mitigation methods and design considerations, designed a solution, created and shared prototypes with their community partners for feedback, and spent time revising their solutions.

At the end of the Fresno is Hot project, teams pitched their business idea for a product to help stakeholders with the extreme heat to families and a panel of judges. Many different business ideas were shared about product ideas for farm workers, pets, pregnant women, children, and other groups. This event exemplifies the core principles of design thinking and applied entrepreneurship that are integral to Patiño.

Fresno State Innovation and Entrepreneurship Summit

Patiño Entrepreneurship High School

Five 11th grade business teams from Patiño School of Entrepreneurship had the opportunity to pitch their business ideas at Fresno State's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Summit on April 25. First place and \$2,500 went to Fortaleza, a high protein ice cream with traditional Mexican flavors. Second place and \$1,500 went to Taste of Tradition, an app to submit and find cultural recipes and the stories behind them. And third place and \$1,000 went to Terracitii, an app to tag trash-filled areas that other users can clean up for compensation or community service hours.

EECU WiseUp Workshop

Patiño Entrepreneurship High School

Noemi and Val from EECU presented a 2 hour workshop for Patino's senior class where students selected a career, discovered the starting local salary for that career, and calculated their take home pay. After finding out their monthly income, they rotated through multiple stations simulating life events and expenses, such as purchasing transportation, renting or buying a house, determining a suitable entertainment and food budget, and more. Students kept track of the costs in a checkbook register to see if they could afford all the choices they made within 1 month using the starting salary of the original career choice. Students learned a lot about planning for their future.

Quiq Labs Pitch Competition

Patiño Entrepreneurship High School

Three senior business teams and three junior business teams competed against each other at Quiq Labs' Pitch Competition for funding to continue their businesses. Judges from various industry sectors in the central valley chose the top 3 to receive funding, and the crowd selected a fourth People's Choice award. Junior business Taste of Tradition won \$500 for third place, senior business Raices Unidas won \$1000 for second place (and an extra \$500 for People's choice), and junior business Fortaleza won \$1500 for first place.

Raices Unidas Signs Agreement

Patiño Entrepreneurship High School

In early May, student teams pitched their businesses to industry mentors and judges at the Senior Showcase. One team, Raices Unidas, succeeded in convincing one of those judges to formally invest in the company! Glen Schrader invested into the team, citing their ask as reasonable and company goal (increasing financial literacy within the Hispanic community) as a great mission. As part of the agreement, the business will have a workspace within the Water, Energy and Technology (WET) Center at Fresno State. Raices Unidas is the first high-school aged group that the center has invested in.

[Read an article in The Business Journal about this exciting opportunity!](#)

Little Library Installation

DeWolf High School

DeWolf High School's CTE construction class installed little libraries at nearby elementary schools. These book stands are a fun way to give students access to books and to donate books. They used the skills they learned in class to support the project and give back to younger students and our community.

STEP Business Plan Competition

Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART)

CART students claim top prizes at CSU Fresno business plan competition. Jax McLean placed first in the product category, with J's Journals. Ivana Bejar placed second, with Topaz Jewels. In the service category, Anthony Romero Zamero placed first, with The Mad Mexican, Mexican food catering. Oscar Cruz Padilla placed second, with Cafe Santo, Latin American flavored coffee and pastries. In the social enterprise category, Giovanni Ordonez placed third with his children's coloring book company, Jioyos, designed to give students further opportunities to develop their creativity.

Grizzlies Photography Project

Hamilton K-8 and Sunnyside High School

Four Hamilton students in teacher Tamela Ryatt's CTE course, Exploring Arts & Media, got real world experience taking photos at the Grizzlies baseball game at Chukchansi Park on April 23. The students were mentored by some of Tamela's former Sunnyside students who are photo interns for the Grizzlies. All of the students had all-access media passes from the Grizzlies organization allowing them to take turns shooting from the photo well next to the dugout. After the game, the Hamilton students learned from Sunnyside students about editing and processing as the older students chose which shots they would provide to the Grizzlies for social media. Then Hamilton students returned to their campus to edit and process their photos to provide to the Grizzlies.

Career Fair

Jackson Elementary School

On May 24, a multi-industry career fair was held for 4th-6th graders. 24 students from Jackson Elementary chose 3 industry interests and attended a guest speaker in that field. There were Police, K9, Military, Doctor, Sports Medicine (Athletic Training), Nurse, and a Teacher. The students were prepared to ask questions and report what they learned.

Chickens On Campus

Sunnyside High School

The Agriscience and Technology pathway at Sunnyside is now raising chickens! The animals are part of the Agriscience and Future Farmers of America (FFA) programs. Students raise chickens from incubator through egg-laying age, and over 75 students were trained by the Department of Food and Agriculture to be Egg Handlers. Students collect eggs, wash them, check for cracks, and put them in cartons. Collected eggs are currently donated, but they hope to be able to sell them in the future once they receive a license.

[Read a story from ABC30 about the chickens at Sunnyside.](#)

Visit by Bulgarian Dignitary

Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART)

The Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) welcomed an esteemed international delegation on April 23rd, providing students and instructors a rare opportunity to interact with global tech leaders. Led by Milena Stoycheva, Bulgaria's Minister for Innovation and Technology, the 30-member group was composed of local business executives and officials along with business executives from Bulgaria, Taiwan, and Southern California. Their visit aimed to forge partnerships with Fresno State, focusing on semiconductors and agricultural technology applications.

Organized by Robert Lizarraga of Semiconductor Suppliers Technology Entrepreneur Parks Inc. (SSTEP) and local entrepreneur, Pete Weber, the delegation toured CART's facilities and engaged in a Q&A session with Minister Stoycheva and Pete Weber. The minister's remarkable journey from the private sector to spearheading Bulgaria's tech innovation initiatives inspired CART students.

Minister Stoycheva has been an advocate for cross-border collaborations in technology, positioning Bulgaria as an innovation hub. Her leadership of this delegation underscores the drive to establish meaningful global connections in the Central Valley.

One of the highlights of the visit was the opportunity for students to interact directly with Minister Stoycheva. Mikayla Leyva, a CART and Edison student, seized the moment to engage in a discussion with Minister Stoycheva, exemplifying the valuable exposure to global perspectives that such visits provide.

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, these cross-cultural exchanges hold immense value. Our next generation of innovators were inspired, and they gained insights into the developments shaping our technological landscape.

Fresno Airport Triennial Emergency Drill with ARFF

Students from Bullard, Cambridge, DeWolf, Edison, J.E. Young, Hoover, McLane, and Roosevelt participated in the Fresno International Airport Triennial Aircraft Emergency Drill. Students engaged in hands-on activities learning about careers as first responders and portrayed airplane crash victims. They were triaged and "treated" by first responders from American Ambulance, Fresno County Fire, Fresno Fire, Fresno Airport Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) and Police, and other first responder teams.

Presentation Day at Fresno State

Edison High School

Through our Engineering program's relationship with Fresno State's Engineering program, some of our seniors were invited to present their Capstone projects at Fresno State's Presentation Day. This gave our students an opportunity to present to a wider audience and to experience the Fresno State campus. They even had a visit from former Edison Engineering students who continued on to the Engineering program at Fresno State. In the future, we are looking to expand the number of students who attend and present at this event.

Tech Expo

Edison High School

Edison High's annual Tech Expo featured student project presentations from 5 of the CTE programs, including Computer Science, Engineering, Green Energy Academy, Technical Theater, and Digital Photography. This is a culminating event, and for our seniors, their last CTE project as a Tiger. Much of what they learned throughout the year was applied to this event where they were able to show off their skills and hard work. Guests were able to immerse themselves in a variety of experiences at the Expo. They could take a turn on the driving simulator, learn about the tools used to build the amazing theater sets, watch the vex robots battle it out, follow the kiddie car powered by solar, or take a look at student interviews on the big screen. The CTE students did an amazing job and as always showed their Tiger Pride.

[Watch a highlight video of the Expo](#)

Heavy Metal Internship

Fresno High School

Four Fresno High 2024 graduates (Juan Salas, Miguel Cortes, Presley Hoogasian, and Samuel Bravo) participated in a two week internship with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Training Center. These graduates completed hands-on projects in HVAC, pipefitting, sheet metal, and electrical to compete for a place in one of the unions. Construction pathway instructor Joel Osuna recommended the grads for their good work ethic, excellent communication skills, and being team players and top performers.

Railroad Project

Tenaya Middle School

Students completed their Railroad Project, an end of year culminating project for their Exploring Engineering and Design course.

Trade Exploration

Roosevelt High School

Students interested in trades were given the opportunity to see demonstrations and hear about careers in trades, such as welding, plumbers & pipefitters, and electricians. They were also able to test out their own skills.

Tournament of Technology

Fresno Unified middle school students squared off in technology-based competitions as part of the 17th annual Tournament of Technology on April 6 at Sunnyside High School, with a throw-back theme this year of Y2K. Students competed in 19 events in the categories of Robotics, Drones, Coding, Video Production and Design.

Winners:

- Division 1 Grand Champion: Sequoia Middle School
- Division 2 Grand Champions: Scandinavian and Tehipite middle schools

[Watch a video of the Tournament of Technology competition](#)

Innovation Day

Our annual Innovation Day event brought together 3rd through 6th grade students from schools across Fresno Unified for an engineering and career-based competition at the Save Mart Center. This event was a culmination of our THINK Program that engages teachers and students with career-based challenges throughout the school year. Students showcased their creativity and innovation skills by working together to solve a design challenge in front of an audience of family and friends, with this year's challenges centered around the theme of agriculture.

This year's winners were:

3rd grade: Bullard Talent "Stars"

- Coach: Delia Martinez
- Students: Nathan Lopez, Noemi Rubio, Quinn Olsen-Short, and Simon Vanwagenen

4th grade: Birney "The Science Wizards"

- Coach: Susana Tzintzun-Lopez
- Students: Daisy Bahena, Jaymee Arnold, Ezra Yang, and Jessie Hargis

5th grade: Rowell "Rowell Rockets"

- Coach: Sulema Qunitanilla-Mares
- Students: Eric Villegas, Esmae Gonzalez, Perla Reyes, and Aaron Becerra

6th grade: Kirk "Ingenuity"

- Coach: Mike Harris
- Students: Alina Aguilar, Rey Damian, Ximena Bojorges, and Anthony Reyes

State Seal of Civic Engagement

Cambridge High School

For the first time, students from Cambridge High School have earned the state Seal of Civic Engagement for community service. In addition, students from Peter Fortuna's Cybersecurity course who took part in the "Seniors Helping Seniors" project presented at the Civic Education Center's Fresno County Youth Showcase.

VPA Student Self-Publishes Novel

Sunnyside High School

Sunnyside High School graduate Sonia Valeria Lara has self-published a teen novel in Spanish, "Miradas que Delatan." Sonia has been working on the novel since she was 14. It's a story of three sisters who move from Texas to New York after their parents die and the twists and turns their lives take. Sonia was in Sunnyside's Video Production Academy, a member of her school's Danzantes folklorico dance group, and dances with another dance group as well.

Students Pick a Peck of Pickled Olives

Baird Middle School

For these Baird students, learning the basics of curing olives was far from the pits. Students picked olives and learned how to cure them using salt water brine before later moving them to Olive oil and canning them. The preserved olives were then sold at Baird's farmer's market.

Fire Chiefs Training Symposium

Video and photo students from McLane, Fresno, Sunnyside, and Roosevelt high schools partnered recently to document the Fire Chiefs Training Symposium, delivering high quality photos and videos for the Fresno Fire Department to use. Students visited multiple locations, including the Clovis Fire Training Center, the San Joaquin River Gorge, the Cal Fire station in Del Rey, the Fresno City College First Responders campus, and Pick-N-Pull.

State SkillsUSA Competition

Duncan Polytechnical High School

Students from Duncan Polytechnical High School brought home eight medals from the [SkillsUSA](#) state competition April 4-6 in Ontario, including three gold medals. The three gold medalists will take their expertise to the next level at the national competition in Atlanta in June. Each could come home with a scholarship, tools, and possibly a job offer off the competition floor. [Read a news article from KMPH about the three gold medalists.](#) Thirty-six students from Duncan competed. The competition tested students in hands-on career technical education skills. Duncan had a total of eight medalists at the state competition.

Gold:

- Lariah Hernandez - Plumbing
- Samuel Martinez - Advanced Welding
- Aaron Gamez - Diesel Technology

Silver:

- Irene Torres - Electrical Wiring
- Elliot Garcia - Diesel Technology

Bronze:

- Zhanii Osby - Welding Sculpture
- Adalberto Hernandez - Plumbing
- Ethan Ceja - Introductory Welding

In addition to the Duncan students, Bullard High School also sent a contingent of four students to compete, and Hunter Ellis brought home a silver medal in Public Speaking.

Duncan brought home more medals than ever before this year, and had more young women competing in male-dominated fields. Coordinator Cara Jurado says, "They really wanted to promote that this is something that everyone can do, not just males. Females can do it too, and we can do it well." Check out [this article from ABC30](#) to learn more about the three young women who took home medals from this year's state competition.

Doctors Academy Graduates

Sunnyside High School

A ceremony was held May 16 to recognize the 30 seniors from Sunnyside High School who completed the Doctors Academy. The academy is a partnership with The UCSF School of Medicine regional campus in Fresno. The group of academy students included 22 valedictorians, 20 Fresno Unified Scholarship recipients, and three Dell Scholars. 100% of graduates will be continuing their education at postsecondary institutions in the fall of 2024. Students were also recognized for community service and special awards that will advance their journeys to medical careers. Mariela Lozano Bustos was admitted to the eight-year San Joaquin Valley PRIME+ Baccalaureate-to-MD pathway, a partnership among UC Merced, UCSF School of Medicine, and UCSF Fresno. Among thousands of applicants, she joins the second cohort of 15 students to be admitted. [Read more in The Fresno Bee.](#)

CTE In the News

- [CART Psychology students finding solutions](#)
- [Emergency Services Career Fair and the Fairgrounds](#)
- [CART Environmental Science Lab partners with Chaffee Zoo to provide enrichment](#)
- [Fresno Unified awards \\$30,000 in Amazon scholarships to three students - two of them from CTE \(Christian Delgado, Bullard High Digital Photo, and Kimmy Liu, Edison High Engineering Design & Development\)](#)
- Duncan students partner to help build Trion Nemesis Supercar
 - [ABC30](#)
 - [GV Wire](#)
 - [Your Central Valley](#)

Biology Trip to Yosemite

Edison High School

Dual enrollment students from the Green Energy Academy's biology class took a trip to Yosemite. Students took two short hikes up to waterfalls and heard from a dynamic and famous park ranger who spoke about the history of national parks. The park ranger encouraged students not to just find a job, but a calling.

Public Service Expo

Roosevelt High School

Industry partners from Fire, Police, Ambulance, and military came out to review and comment on Roosevelt Public Service students' pathway projects. Each grade had a specific area they were focused on and several teams presented their problem, findings, and solutions.

Year in Review

Keep an eye out for our annual Year in Review, coming this fall!

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New website coming soon!