

Career Connected

Career Technical Education Program Spotlights

October-December 2024 – Issue No. 12

Athletic Training Students Doing Their Jobs

Roosevelt High School

Health pathway Sports Medicine students work side by side with the Roosevelt Athletic Trainer taking care of injured football players.

George the Goat Visits CTE and STEAM Classes

Terronez Middle School

Students in CTE (Career Technical Education) and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) classes at Terronez enjoyed a visit from Rizpah Bellard, owner of Nova Farming, who shared with students information about careers and opportunities in the field of Agriculture. Rizpah shared about her company and background as a rancher, how she got there, the skills needed in ranching and agribusiness, and what other skills/experiences she has outside of ag that she brought into the field of agriculture.

Students learned specifically about prescribed grazing as a possible career opportunity, a "newer" career in the ag industry but very easy to manage for first-gen agriculturalists, and they also learned about the new CA Legislative Bill 675 that pushes counties/cities to hire goat farmers to improve soil health, reduce fire fuel, and mitigate invasive species/weed management. Students then learned about the ruminant digestive system of a goat, and were able to see it in action with George the goat. For the in-class assignment, students figured out how to run goats on a 100-acre parcel and how to move and rotate their herd to make sure all of the grass was eaten up all while being cost-effective. For many students the highlight of the day was just having George the Goat inside their classroom.

SJVMA Manufacturing Summit

Duncan Polytechnical High School

Duncan Manufacturing students from grades 10-12 attended the SJVMA Manufacturing Summit to learn the latest about manufacturing technology in the Valley. Students enjoyed meeting with industry partners and attending the learning sessions. Duncan's FRC Robotics team, Duncan Dynamics team #3970, also got to show off their 2024 competition robot!

Design Build Challenge

Duncan Polytechnical High School

Six Duncan Construction pathway students took on the Central California Builder's Exchange Design Build experience at the annual Career Tech Expo hosted by FCOE at Chukchansi Park. Students worked on teams with students from construction programs all over the valley to build two types of sheds to practice for the upcoming Design Build Challenge and SkillsUSA competitions that will be in the spring. Two lucky students were also able to partner with SPAN Construction to learn how to pilot drones that are used in the construction process to detect gas and water leaks and electrical problems.

Apocalypse Collaborative

Roosevelt High School

Select students were dressed in moulage makeup, simulating injuries seen in Stop the Bleed, sporting injuries, and medical emergencies. Sports Medicine students triaged injuries in teams, but only some “survived” and the rest became zombies. Once the medical triage was wrapped up, the zombies came alive for a flash mob dance at lunch. This experience allowed medical students to recognize simulated injuries and work in a team capacity to help the victims.

CTE Ambassador Training

CTE Ambassadors from eight comprehensive high schools (Bullard, Edison, Fresno, Hoover, McLane, Patino, Roosevelt, and Sunnyside) joined together and learned leadership growth involving positive mindsets to be role models for incoming students and develop their capacity in active listening, effective presentations, and collaborative problem solving. Ambassadors did a series of improv games and fun icebreaker activities, explored the craft of using storytelling as an effective means of influence, and highlighted how narratives can engage, persuade, and inspire audiences. They also learned and practiced key tools for effective public speaking and design and collaborative problem solving. In their assigned groups, they collaborated and designed a recruitment plan for their pathways and presented to their peers for feedback.

[Watch a video slideshow!](#)

Leadership at Fairwinds

Design Science Middle College High School

Design Science Leadership students volunteered at the Fairwinds Woodward Park retirement community, leading crafts and singing carols to bring holiday festivities to the residents.

Mock Interviews

DeWolf High School

DeWolf organized mock interviews to provide students with valuable hands-on experience in a professional interview setting. These simulated interviews help students step out of their comfort zones, refine their communication abilities, and receive constructive feedback. The goal is to better prepare them for real-world job opportunities by simulating common interview scenarios and improving their confidence and performance in the hiring process. This initiative is part of DeWolf's commitment to supporting student success and ensuring they are workforce ready.

Trunk or Treat

Hoover High School

Hoover hosted its first Trunk or Treat event! Students and community members came out to experience the food trucks, load up on Halloween candy at the trick or treat stations, and brave the massive haunted house. The US Army also showed up in force with their military jeep and E-Sports trailer which housed six play stations for guests to enjoy. While some enjoyed the gaming stations, others were interested in learning about careers and opportunities the military has to offer. The line to get in was never ending and when it was over, more than 2,500 people had entered the gate. This was truly a magical event, and we give much thanks to our Campus Culture Director Cal LaFlam, the leadership students, the US Army, the vendors, and volunteers who made all this possible.

Web Design Guest Speaker

Patino School of Entrepreneurship

In the 10th grade Web and Online Marketing course, students had the opportunity to learn from Mr. Mike Stamps, who shared valuable insights on the dos and don'ts of web design. Drawing from his career experiences, Mr. Stamps offered tips on creating cohesive websites, with special emphasis on choosing appropriate color palettes, finding design inspiration, and building a personal brand. Each student also presented their current progress on their digital portfolio websites, business logos, and the inspiration behind their design choices. Mr. Stamps provided personalized, one-on-one feedback on the first impressions of their websites and logos. He highlighted strengths, suggested areas for improvement, and recommended tools and resources to help students further refine their projects.

Nova Farms

Phoenix Secondary

Rizpah Bellard brought her pony to Phoenix Secondary to teach students with a hands-on experience. Learning about ponies from Nova Farms offers several unique benefits, blending practical knowledge with a deep cultural connection to horseback riding and ranch life. Bellard, who often has hands-on experience working with horses in real-world settings, bring a wealth of knowledge about ponies that goes beyond theoretical or textbook learning.

Holiday Plant Sale

Phoenix Secondary

With cross-collaboration in Mr. Duong's Creative Media class and Mrs. Donat's Sustainable Agriculture class, Phoenix was able to host their 4th annual Holiday Market. Duong's class created marketing images of the mistletoe, kinkadee gourd, peppermint tea, winter vegetable plants, and fresh eucalyptus bundles that were made and grown by Donat's students. It was a huge success- for both classes!

Resume Workshop

DeWolf High School

The resume workshop, designed specifically to help participants refine and enhance their resumes, provided both practical advice and personalized guidance. The session included an overview of the fundamentals of resume writing, emphasizing the importance of clarity, structure, and tailoring each resume to specific opportunities. The facilitator shared tips on how to highlight leadership experiences, skills, and accomplishments effectively, ensuring that students understood how to present their unique abilities in the best possible light.

Project Rebound Guest Speaker

Phoenix Secondary

Project Rebound is a program at Fresno State that supports the successful reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals. Arnold Trevino, a representative from Project Rebound, spoke to students about the challenges and strategies involved in helping individuals rebuild their lives, offering valuable insights into the process of overcoming barriers and achieving long-term success.

Stop the Bleed

DeWolf High School

DeWolf CTE Construction students went through the Stop the Bleed training. They learned the valuable lesson of being able to save someone's life, including their own.

10th Grade Internships

Patino School of Entrepreneurship

Students in the 10th grade Web and Online Marketing class were hired as interns by QUIQ LABS to create a website for a local business. They participated in the Client Networking Mixer to meet prospective clients, ask questions about website and business goals, and learn about the different needs of each client. They also met with upperclassmen (previous student interns) to discuss what the experience was like, receive advice for working with clients, and ask questions about the types of artifacts they would be asked to create. Finally, students signed the internship agreement at Signing Day.

Business Coaching

Patino School of Entrepreneurship

As part of the 12th grade Business Accelerator course, students continue working on their business plans from junior year. This year, we had multiple industry partner coaches ask students to share their business plans, goals, progress towards those goals, and how they intend to take the next steps towards a strong launch. We'd like to thank our returning partners Nathan Gilbert, Katherine Silva, and Tabari Parker, Dr. Salvador Bueno, and Dr. Josh McWealth for asking students to articulate these crucial pieces of information and for their thoughts, advice, and guidance helping students create SMART goals for their businesses.

Business Presentations

Patino School of Entrepreneurship

Dr. Lisa Spencer, Dr. Carlos González, Danielle Quiroga, and Rick Chacon from Fresno State spoke to the junior and senior business classes about college, scholarships and financial opportunities, and programs available in the Craig School of Business (Management, Information Systems and Decision Sciences, Entrepreneurship, and other related offerings). They shared about the benefits available to students and encouraged them to prepare for financial success in life and career.

Entrepreneurial Media Guest Speaker

Patino School of Entrepreneurship

Owner and president of Top Hand Media Jerry Reid presented to Patino's Entrepreneurial Media class. He spoke about his career journey and current role as a business owner. He shared examples of different types of past projects, what the marketing project was intended to do, and how seemingly small design choices affect the way a brand is viewed by people. He concluded with tips for crafting a professional brand that reflects your values and a quick Q&A.

Manufacturing Summit

Patino School of Entrepreneurship

Students attended the San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance "Valley Made" Summit to learn more about manufacturing companies, technologies, and careers. They spoke with many company representatives about how to craft components that can be 3D printed but remain durable, can withstand high water pressure, and can maintain functionality when left outside in the elements. Student received advice on their business ideas and offers of further collaboration after the event.

Jr. Business Solutions

Patino School of Entrepreneurship

As part of the Business Incubator course, students create a business idea. They begin by identifying a problem in the world, researching that problem and current solutions, and interviewing potential customers. This year, students went to Fresno State to hear about business options, including camps and programs they can get started in now as high school students. They also interviewed college students and community members about the identified problems, collecting valuable information such as: is this a problem, would people be willing to pay for a solution, what already exists and does it work, what are the gaps that a new solution could fill, and is the preliminary idea a good idea. Next, students work on designing a solution that addresses the problem. They sketch or 3-d model what the solution will look like, research preliminary costs to produce and sell the product, and investigate comparable products that currently exist. Finally, they pitch their Problem-Solution business ideas to a panel of industry partners for feedback. We'd like to thank our partners for their thoughtful questions and suggestions as our students work to develop their business plans.

AIMS Center Industry Visit

In the past month, Teacher Academy students at Hoover, Bullard, Edison, McLane, Roosevelt, and Sunnyside got a chance to learn about careers in education alongside industry partners from the AIMS Center. AIMS is a non-profit organization that supports playful, imaginative, creative, human-centered, and socially informed approaches to teaching and learning mathematics and science. CTE students enjoyed engaging in a hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) activity where they created Pull-Up Polyhedras to build the cube and add a circuit. The Teacher Academy students are excited to share the new lesson and their STEAM learnings with the nearby elementary school students they work with each week.

Mouse Trap

Edison High School

Each year the Edison Theater program puts on 2 plays. This year the fall play was Agatha Christie's iconic murder mystery, Mousetrap. It is the most successful and longest-running play and the Theater program was able to secure the rights to perform it this year. Once again the Technical Theater program outdid themselves making the play come to life on the stage with the intricate and detailed set. Many hours went into designing and creating this work of art. Mr. Mark Riedel, Edison's Technical Theater instructor, works hard to teach these skills to his students and the product didn't disappoint! Next set and adventure: Hadestown!

All Things CTE at Computech

Edison High School

Each year, Edison CTE teachers and students visit regional middle schools to show them All Things CTE. Students and staff do a wonderful job showing others the amazing adventures they can have in Edison's CTE programs. All 9 of Edison's CTE programs were represented and brought hands-on items for students to experience. From rocket launchers to picture taking, it was an amazing 2 days visiting future Tigers!

What Farber Means to Me

Farber Educational Campus

[Watch the "What Farber Means to me" video!](#)

Farber Educational Campus is building a culture and school community where students can break through obstacles in learning. The students are beginning to believe in the district's vision of fostering a learning environment that is now designed to engage, educate, and empower all learners; "putting the alternative in alternative education".

Health Youth Corps Project

Edison High School

Biomed students who were involved with the Health Youth Corps program last year have continued a project that stemmed from one they started in HYC last year that has to do with education about Narcan on campuses. Their extensive research led them to the DEA's office and Lisa Smittcamp, Fresno County District Attorney. Ms. Smittcamp met and talked to the students for about 2 hours. She will be visiting Edison as a guest speaker.

Honoring our Veterans

Farber Educational Campus

On Veteran's Day, the video production students captured the stories and events of local Veterans in the community as we honor those who serve to protect this country, and recognized four Farber staff members who served in the United States military.

Winter Wonderland Expo

Farber Educational Campus

The winter wonderland expo offered students the opportunity to engage with administration & staff. It also offered them the chance to learn more about reading, health, and industry partnerships available to them. Everyone had good fellowship and many laughs & much more all in one event! The students and families were so excited and very appreciative for the opportunity to take part in this great event.

McLane Visits Bullard High

McLane High School

After bringing students to visit McLane earlier this year, Bullard generously hosted a group of Highlanders in a tour of their campus. This is part of a mutual effort between CTE Coordinators in Fresno Unified to increase collaboration between ambassador students at different high schools. Students had the opportunity to interact with peers, learn about opportunities and programs, and more generally just broaden their view through first-hand observation of another school site.

The Gift of Life

McLane High School

McLane recently hosted its first blood drive of the school year, involving students from our Medical Education & Research Academy (MERA). The experience was a culmination of coordinated efforts at several levels: a district partnership with Central California Blood Center, integrated work-based learning plans from pathway teachers at each grade level, and active participation from students to learn about, advocate for, and donate blood. Aside from various class projects leading up to the event, learning opportunities for students included Stop the Bleed certification, several guest speakers, and a tour of the donation center. McLane looks forward to hosting a second blood drive in April with goals to increase participation and positive outcomes for our school and community.

Aviation Club

Tenaya Middle School

Shout out to Tenaya Middle School teacher Cliff Mickelson, who leads the Young Eagles Aviation Club. Every month, weather permitting, he takes students to Sierra Sky Park to learn about aviation and take an airplane ride over Fresno. This experience is provided through Experimental Aviation Association, an organization that, once a month, helps youth ages eight to 17 take their first ride in a small aircraft. It's completely free, and Mickelson says it was life-changing for many students who had never been on a plane before. In October, the club had a record number of students participating. Each time they fly, students are credited with hours toward a pilot's license and eligibility to begin flight school. Cliff aspires to ignite an enduring passion for aviation in his students, nurturing the next generation of pilots!

New Donated Car for Auto Program

Duncan Polytechnical High School

A new car was donated for the first time to the Automotive Technology program at Duncan, creating more opportunities for hands-on learning for students. Along with donating the Lincoln Aviator, Future Ford will provide original manufacturer training, which can lead to certification recognized by auto shops and help students obtain jobs in the industry. Duncan and Fresno Unified recognized the dealership for the donation and for ongoing support through internships, donations, and providing advisers to the auto program. The program also recognized Duncan Automotive Technology teacher Pat Dutcher for his efforts working with Future Ford to make this donation possible for students.

Career Ready Wednesday

Fulton School

Mr. Main guided Fulton students through Minecraft activities to practice collaborative learning, critical thinking, and problem solving. Mr. Main fostered a teambuilding environment to build qualities for students to use in the classroom and workplace.

DeWolf and Sunnyside Win Big at Fresno Fair

DeWolf High School CTE construction students showed up BIG at the Big Fresno Fair. Teacher Samuel Laplaca and his students worked diligently for the first few weeks of the school year crafting wood benches and lanterns to enter in the fair. They worked in groups measuring, cutting and constructing, as well as texturizing, staining and sealing, for a beautiful final project. They won first place for both benches as well as second place for all three beautifully decorated lanterns.

Students from **Sunnyside High School's** Agriscience & Technology pathway earned top prizes at The Big Fresno Fair for poultry and ag mechanics projects, including:

- Supreme Champion - Best of Show (Old English Game hen raised by Mckenzie and Kyley Workman)
- Best of Breed (Old English Game rooster raised by McKenzie Workman)
- Reserve Champion (Black Copper Maran raised by Anaiah Castellano)
- Advanced Showmanship
 - 2nd Place- Rachel Vang
 - 3rd Place- Getsemani Alvarez
- Intermediate Showmanship
 - 2nd Place - Kyley Workman
- Novice Showmanship
 - 3rd Place - Anaiah Castellano
- 51 1st Place Plant Projects
- 1st Place Chicken Coop Group Project
- 2 1st Place Hitch Receiver projects entered by Ashton Workman and Junior Ascue

Capital Cities Classic

Duncan Polytechnical High School

The Duncan Robotics team attended the Capital Cities Classic off-season robotics tournament. This was a tremendous opportunity for the team members to gain competition experience and hone their skills. The team came in 2nd place to the #1 alliance that had two robots that played in the Einstein finals of the 2024 FIRST Championships. They persevered through problems, always focusing solutions and working together towards one goal: "Doing our best and getting better every day". In the playoff bracket that they lost their first match, reviewed their performance and strategies, made adjustments, and proceeded to win their next four matches.

ACSA Administrator of the Year

Grady Lane has been honored as an Administrator of the Year in Career Technical Education by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA). This award recognizes outstanding performance and achievement by individual administrators, classified managers, or confidential employees. Recipients demonstrate commitment to an equitable education system and to meeting the diverse needs of all students and school communities; exceptional leadership in implementing, managing, and supporting school programs; commitment to educational quality and student achievement; commitment to professional growth, ethics, and innovation; and commitment to nurturing and sustaining a safe and inclusive learning environment.

US House Rep Visits Farber

Farber Educational Campus

US House of Representative Jim Costa (CA 21st District) made a stop by Farber Educational Campus and took time to speak with students in the Logistics and Warehouse Management program. He spoke about the growth of the Valley with jobs in warehouses, agriculture and shipping along with the integration of technology in those fields.

Lemoore Naval AFB Visit

Roosevelt High School

Public Service students toured the base in Lemoore. They were able to sit in the cockpit simulator and learn what all of the buttons and dials are used for. Besides flying, a big job at the AFB is painting the planes. The students were shown the steps in painting.

Latin Expo

Patino School of Entrepreneurship

Patino students had the opportunity to meet with representatives from participating colleges/universities at the 2024 Latino Expo.

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