

Career Connected

Career Technical Education Program Spotlights

January - March 2025 – Issue No. 13

Youth Advisory Council

Edison High School

Edison High School is proud to announce that junior Biomedicine pathway student Anthony Calderon has been appointed to California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond's spring 2025 Youth Advisory Council (YAC). Anthony was selected from a competitive pool of applicants to represent the student body of California with the goal of bringing diverse perspectives and improving school experiences for students state-wide.

As a member of the YAC, he will meet with Superintendent Thurmond and state education leaders over the next few months to advocate for policies that support students. The Youth Advisory Council strives to close achievement gaps, transform the outcomes for students and promote equity by empowering students from underrepresented groups to use their voices for education policy development.

Of his appointment to the YAC, Anthony said, "This is an incredible opportunity for me to advocate for systemic reforms that address disparities in schools across California. All students in California deserve to be given a fair chance, where success is determined not by their zip code but by their hard work. We deserve to be in schools where the only thing limiting us is our own effort, not our circumstances."

Sequoia Porsche Club Donation

Duncan Polytechnical High School

The Sequoia Region Porsche Club donated \$2,500 to the Duncan Automotive program to benefit the students. This is the second donation that the Porsche Club has made to the program, with the last being in 2016. Porsche Club Board members Margie Back, Steve Williams, and Brent Looney presented the check to the Automotive class of 2025.

Seniors Jesus Salas and Robert Tello, and Automotive Teacher, Pat Dutcher, accepted the check on behalf of the program and thanked the Porsche Club for the generous donation. The funds will be used to purchase vehicle parts, equipment, and general supplies and materials needed in the shop.

Multimedia & Marketing Take Senior Photos

Sunnyside High School

Huge thank you and kudos to Octor Vang and the Multimedia & Marketing pathway students who graciously gifted their talents and expertise to the Sunnyside senior class. These students took well over 600 photos in just 2 days, providing portraits to seniors for zero sitting fee, using their skills to serve the community.

Hot Rod On Display

Duncan Polytechnical High School

In 2023 Duncan senior automotive students and teacher Dale Dutcher assembled a 1935 Factory Five Racing hot rod. Students inventoried 42 boxes of parts, then built and hand-fit each part to assemble the vehicle, including the 550 hp347-stroker motor. Once assembled, the hot rod was entered into the Fresno Fair Industry Competition and won Best in Show!

Future Ford of Clovis has fostered an incredible automotive internship partnership with Duncan for over a decade, and currently has the hotrod on display in their main showroom, proudly displaying the accomplishment of the Duncan students and showcasing their commitment to providing students opportunities to practice hands-on skills, a greater understanding of the industry, and a sense of purpose as they pursue their career goals.

Donations at the Prison

Phoenix Secondary Academy

Mrs. Donat's Sustainable Agriculture class at Phoenix Secondary prepared bundles of eucalyptus to donate to the Land Together program. The Land Together program hosts a free farmer's market to give produce, plants, and other items to the women of the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla. Being a part of this program allow Phoenix Secondary to give back to their community.

Students Test Liver Cells

Roosevelt High School

The health pathway students in AP Biology were doing cell division, cancer, and chemotherapy tests on liver cells with different concentrations of 'chemotherapy". These same students are taking ALHLTH 112 - Pharmacology, which is connecting the 2 courses.

CTE Winter Internships

Over 200 CTE students from Sunnyside, Edison, Bullard, Hoover, Fresno High, and Duncan participated in Winter Internships from December 26-January 10. The internship courses offered were: Building Trades and Construction, Agribusiness, Health Science, Videographer and Producer, Media Artist, Public Safety, and Welding. Students worked alongside industry partners, peers, and teachers to participate in a variety of things such as filming students who were participating in Fresno Unified winter camps, earning forklift certifications, working alongside Athletic Trainers, modifying an existing defunct golf cart to be transformed into a functional vehicle, touring the Fresno County Jail and Superior Court, and participating in an Emergency Vehicle Operation Course at the Fresno Police Department's Regional Training Facility. One student said of the experience, "This was one of the best winters I've had. If I didn't apply for this winter internship, I would have stayed home all three weeks and just rotted in bed. I highly recommend this experience!"

24th Annual Student Showcase

Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART)

CART held its 24th annual showcase, highlighting student work from all 13 career-focused labs. Each year, students share their passion and knowledge with the public through products like video games, websites, apps, documentaries, advertising campaigns, and food truck concepts. Other labs featured interactive demonstrations in forensic science, medicine, illusions, rocketry, biotechnology, and watershed science. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our students!

Highlighting Fire Science

Hoover High School

Hoover would like to highlight Johnell Shelton's CTE Fire Science class. Mr. Shelton arranged several activities and guest speakers for his students in the past few months, including:

- January 24, 2025 – Fresno Fire Chief McGuire and Captain Joshua Sellars met with students to discuss their background history, how to prepare for an interview, and the required steps for effective training.
- January 27, 2025 – Completed a forcible exercise training with the Fresno Police Department.
- January 28, 2025 – Participated in physical fitness training with SSgt. Ramos of the US Army.
- February 7, 2025 – US Army National Guard Chief Nauls spoke with students regarding his background, years of service with the US Army National Guard, life experiences, career choices, and available pathways to ensure a successful future.
- February 12-13, 2025 – Fresno Fire Captain Joella Garcia spoke to students about her background in fire services, job experience, details about the 2025 Spring Fresno Fire Camp, and the importance of female empowerment in fire services.
- February 20, 2025 – FPD Officer Darren Miller spoke to students about active shooter scenarios.
- March 13, 2025 – FPD CSI Alyssa Vargas and her guest spoke to students about insights into their careers, educational backgrounds, and the skills required to become a Crime Scene Investigator. They also discussed college credit requirements, the qualifications needed to join the Fresno Police Department, and how interested students can schedule a ride-along to gain firsthand experience.

Thank you, Mr. Shelton, for offering your students many opportunities and experiences.

Students Unite to Combat Human Trafficking Through Advocacy and Education

Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART)

Each fall, students in the CART Law and Policy Lab take on a powerful advocacy project, and this year, one group's mission is clear: to combat human trafficking through education. Bringing together passionate students from both Fresno and Clovis Unified School Districts, their proposal is making waves in the fight against human trafficking by spreading awareness and advocating for lesson integration in high schools. During their research, students discovered Assembly Bill 1227, the Human Trafficking and Training Act, which requires education in recognizing the signs of human trafficking and grooming. Motivated by this legislation, they set out to find an appropriate form of education that could be implemented at the high school level. Their journey led them to partner with Breaking the Chains, Shared Hope International, and OUTFRONT Media—each organization playing a crucial role in their advocacy efforts.

Shared Hope International provided the students with a free lesson, including a short video, to educate their peers on identifying the warning signs of human trafficking. To broaden public awareness, OUTFRONT Media donated billboard space and assisted in refining the group's design, which serves as a PSA and is now displayed on Clovis Avenue. The students took their efforts a step further by piloting the lesson at Edison High School in a Physical Education course. Through this trial, they gathered feedback from both students and educators, refining their approach to make it as impactful as possible. Additionally, they have presented their findings and advocacy efforts to the CART Board, the CUSD Wellness Committee, and two news outlets, gaining support and recognition for their work.

Their ultimate goal? To have this vital lesson formally adopted and taught in both Fresno and Clovis Unified School Districts. By empowering students with knowledge and awareness, these young advocates hope to create a safer community and contribute to the fight against human trafficking. Through collaboration, passion, and dedication, these students are proving that education is one of the most powerful tools in the battle against human trafficking. Their work stands as an inspiring testament to the impact that young people can have when they come together for a cause greater than themselves.

Spring Mock Interviews

DeWolf High School

As the spring semester progresses, many students are gearing up for one of the most crucial steps in their academic careers: finding a job or internship. However, before landing that first role, one of the most intimidating hurdles to overcome is the job interview. For many, the pressure of delivering a perfect interview performance can be overwhelming, especially for those without prior experience in professional settings.

This spring, a new wave of student mock interview partnerships has emerged, offering students invaluable practice and employers a chance to give back to the next generation of talent. The partnership between students and professionals in mock interview sessions has proven to be incredibly successful, providing both groups with numerous benefits.

Career Skills Challenge

DeWolf High School

In today's fast-paced and competitive job market, a well-rounded skill set is crucial for students and professionals alike. Recognizing this, DeWolf, a forward-thinking educational institution, participated in a comprehensive Career Skills Challenge designed to prepare students for the workforce. The event covered a range of essential skills, including proficiency in Microsoft Excel, Word, poster making, and job interview techniques—areas that are fundamental to success in nearly any career. The Career Skills Challenge, held at Fresno City College's campus, provided an engaging and interactive environment where students could hone their technical and soft skills, helping them become more competitive candidates in the job market. The challenge, divided into several skill-specific segments, gave students the opportunity to work on real-world tasks that employers value.

Beyonce and Pearl Visit Phoenix

Phoenix Secondary Academy

On a typical school day, students are used to learning about science, math, and literature, but what happens when a live chicken becomes part of the lesson? Thanks to NOVA Farms, that's exactly what happened at Phoenix Secondary. Rizpah Bellard has made it her mission to engage students with real-world agricultural experiences that challenge conventional ways of learning. The initiative began with a campus visit where live chickens (Beyonce and Pearl) were brought in, along with interactive demonstrations. Students were not only introduced to the chickens but also given the chance to observe them, learn about their care, and collection of fresh eggs. With the help of expert educators from NOVA Farms and Urban, the students learned about the biology of chickens, the anatomy of eggs, and the importance of poultry in our food systems.

Career Skills Challenge

Edison High School

The Sports Medicine team took part in the Career Skills Challenge at Fresno City College. These incredible students showcased their skills and dedication, earning a 3rd Place Team finish in Sports Medicine out of 12 teams and an outstanding 1st Place individual finish in CPR out of 80 competitors!

- 3rd Place Sports Medicine Team: Griffin Duncan, Jocelyn Garcia, Evan Keppler, Jude Hammouda, Carly Bergen
- 1st Place CPR: Trinity Grijalva

CMAC Visit

Patiño School of Entrepreneurship / Edison High School

Students from Patino and Edison got an amazing tour of CMAC's facilities and equipment. They got to see a monthly all staff meeting, as well as hear about many upcoming projects and the work/people behind the scenes putting them together. Students left inspired to continue making their own media projects.

Little Bang Pitch Competition

Patiño School of Entrepreneurship

Patiño seniors participated in the "Little Bang!" Poster and Pitch Competition at UC Davis. Five student business teams each sent a representative to share a business poster and give an elevator pitch to a panel of judges from UC Davis. Students competed against both high school students and college students for their share of the award money. One of the Patiño teams, Fortaleza, a student business featuring a protein ice cream made in Latin-inspired flavors, walked away with a prize! Joshua Felipe, a member of the team that came up with the concept, presented their pitch. Other business partners are students Jacqueline Valdez, Efen Ramirez, Edwin Santiago Lopez, and Benicio Rodriguez. Check out their website, created by the students in class: [Fortaleza Website](#). Another team, Lunar Elixirs, received a job offer while networking with the judges and other participants. Congrats to all the participating teams, and we are excited to see what the student businesses do next.

Entrepreneurship Starts Now

Patiño School of Entrepreneurship

Patino junior business team NEOS shared their business pitch to Fort Miller's 8th grade students. Fort Miller's 8th grade history/social science teachers introduced the concept of entrepreneurship and asked students to come up with a business idea to pitch. In support, Patino Entrepreneurship high school students shared their business concept, model, and MVP pitch to show what the next step could look like. Patino students also gave advice about ideating, researching the market, and how to practice and prepare for the first big pitch. We at Patino are happy to be able to support the entrepreneurial ideas from students in our district and look forward to further collaboration across sites.

Career Exploration Month

Duncan Polytechnical High School

March has been an exciting month at Duncan as they celebrated Career Exploration Month with a series of Mini Career Fairs every Friday! These events provided students with valuable opportunities to explore a variety of career pathways by connecting directly with industry professionals. By hosting weekly career fairs, Duncan welcomed a diverse group of community partners from fields such as healthcare, construction, automotive technology, public safety, and more. Students engaged in meaningful conversations, asked insightful questions, and gained firsthand knowledge about potential career paths, internships, and job opportunities. These events are a vital part of Duncan's mission to prepare students for success beyond high school by offering real-world insights and connections to professionals in their fields of interest. Thank you to all our guest speakers and industry partners for investing in our students' futures!

College & Career Fair

Roosevelt High School

Roosevelt's annual College and Career Fair occurred in the Gymnasium on Friday, March 14, 2025. This was an amazing opportunity for 9th-12th students to be able to explore all options available to them during and after high school, whether college, career, or volunteering!

Live Taping of America's Got Talent

Fresno High School

Fresno High School's Warrior Entertainment students experienced a live taping of America's Got Talent in Pasadena. A few lucky students won prizes and got to sit in the front row. Students learned valuable insights into productions and look forward to a career in the entertainment industry.

Silhouette & Magazine Designing Workshop

Farber Educational Campus

9-12th graders attended a workshop on Graphic Silhouette, Magazine Cover Designs. At the end of the workshop the students were allowed to create their own theme, and they made each cover to showcase something they were interested in!

Spring ASVAB Test

Roosevelt High School

Roosevelt hosted its Spring ASVAB test in February. This was the last test opportunity offered at Roosevelt for students to take the test before the school year ends. About 45 students participated this time around! This amazing group was determined to do well so that they could pursue a career in the military, or were seriously considering the military as a backup plan possibility!

Farber & Phoenix Elementary Partnership

Farber Educational Campus

Students from Phoenix Elementary came by the Logistics classroom and learned about careers in the transportation industry. Farber students partnered with our guests to teach them about order integrity, inventory control, and food insecurities, utilizing our partnership with the Central CA Food Bank backpack program.

CTE Teams Up With Monster Jam

Duncan Polytechnical High School

Duncan's Heavy Truck Senior Class had the ultimate hands-on learning experience this March with a special field trip to the Monster Jam Truck Pit at the Save Mart Center! Students got an exclusive, up-close look at the massive Monster Trucks, met with Pit Mechanics, and even had the rare opportunity to watch a private tech rehearsal—a behind-the-scenes experience that brought their classroom knowledge to life.

Monster Jam's generosity didn't stop there! They extended a special discount code to all Duncan students and staff, ensuring more of our community could join in on the excitement. To make it even more thrilling, Monster Jam donated 10 family four-packs of tickets, which were raffled off to students who demonstrated outstanding commitment to their education. Entries were earned by:

- Perfect attendance in the weeks leading up to the event
- Maintaining a C or better in all classes
- Actively participating in guest speaker presentations

A huge thank you to Monster Jam for this incredible partnership, rewarding our hardworking students, and inspiring the next generation of skilled professionals!

[Watch a video of the Monster Jam visit!](#)

Cooking Club Volunteers at Ronald McDonald House

Design Science Early College High School

Cooking club and Mr. Enriquez volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House. They partnered with Meals from the Heart to prepare homemade food for guest families who may have members at Valley Children's Hospital.

Otis College of Art & Design

Design Science Early College High School

Design Science and Heaton Elementary teamed up to provide students with a unique educational experience by organizing a visit to Otis College of Art and Design. This exciting partnership aims to inspire young minds and expose them to the world of art and design, offering them the opportunity to explore cutting-edge creative fields and see firsthand how design impacts the world around them. During the visit, students engaged in hands-on activities, interacted with faculty and students, and gained a deeper understanding of the creative processes that shape various design disciplines. This collaboration fostered creativity, critical thinking, and a greater appreciation for the arts, enriching the students' educational journey.

Guest Speakers from Federal Correctional Institute Mendota

DeWolf High School

Correctional Officers Garcia and Lopez visited DeWolf to share their experiences and insights about their roles at FCI Mendota. They provided students with a deeper understanding of the correctional officer profession, explaining the responsibilities and challenges they face in their daily work. They also discussed the personal journeys that led them to pursue careers in corrections, outlining the steps they took to enter the field and the skills required for success. The officers offered valuable advice to students interested in similar careers, inspiring them to explore opportunities in law enforcement and public service.

Visit to the Capitol

Roosevelt High School

The 11th grade Race and Social Justice/Criminal Justice students went to Sacramento to speak with law makers and tour the capitol. They had a meeting with Senator Caballero's office and were able to ask questions that pertained to their Public Service pathway project, along with learn what goes into making or changing laws that directly related to their civic process. Students also learned about the legislative process and how the chambers work.

CTE New Teacher of the Year

Farber Educational Campus

On March 4, 2025, Jonathan Hinojosa was recognized for his outstanding work in the Logistics and Warehouse Management Program. He received the CACTE New Teacher of the Year Award, presented at the Education for Careers Conference in Sacramento CA.

CTE Signage

Farber Educational Campus

After much anticipation, our school has received amazing signage promoting different areas on campus. Now future students will come to campus and know that Farber is changing the perception on what an alternative education school can be, along with the "Farbertunities" of success.

Wise Up with EECU

Farber Educational Campus

Senior Students from the online, independent studies, and credit attainment schools learned needed financial concepts and strategies to understand personal finances and what life at high school can cost.

Career Fair

Patiño School of Entrepreneurship

A big thank you to students, staff and community partners involved with this year's Career & Resource Fair. Students met with representatives from various organizations and received valuable information about student funding, volunteer opportunities, and current hirings for summer employment. Job well done!

Stakeholder Meeting

Patiño School of Entrepreneurship

The Freshmen are working with industry professionals on creating effective designs for their prototypes. Students use the feedback to design an industry-aligned prototype to better serve customers with their future entrepreneurial goals.

Career Thursdays

Fulton School

Great job Fulton! Students continue working on CareerSafe courses during Work-Thursdays class meetings with CTE staff, Mr. Main and Ms. Sanchez. Each week students log-on with their laptops and begin a new course. A few CareerSafe courses have included Bloodborne Pathogens and Personal Protective Equipment. Keep up the great work Fulton! We are extremely proud of you!

Discovering and Visualizing Your Career Path

McLane High School

The Career Center and the Rising Scholars Program collaborated to support 60 Rising Scholar juniors through a two-day Career Exploration Workshop. The workshops helped students discover their strengths and interests, explore various industries and job opportunities, and identify the required education levels for different careers. Additional guidance was provided to help students develop a clear post-high school plan. The event concluded with students creating career vision boards, a creative activity to help them visualize their future goals and aspirations.

Growing Health Leaders Conference

Farber Educational Campus

A group of Farber First Responder Public Services students attended the Growing Health Leaders Conference at California Health Sciences University. They were able to gain hands-on experiences with different forms of medical equipment, connecting health and public services career paths.

Career & Health Fair

McLane High School

The annual Career & Health Fair connected students with various representatives from the city, state, military, and educational agencies. These representatives shared valuable insights about various career paths and also offered job and volunteer opportunities for students. Additionally, MERA Pathway students showcased their health project presentations. Their peers, teachers, parents, and other observers provided valuable feedback. It was a great chance for students to network, gain insights, and learn more about potential career opportunities.

HOSA State Competition and Leadership Conference

Duncan Polytechnical High School

This year Duncan Poly High School had 9 students compete in the HOSA California state competition during the annual Leadership Conference. This organization is focused for students in medical pathways and this year's event was held in Sacramento, CA. There were over 4,000 students from across California who competed in a variety of categories.

With a lot of hard work and dedication to the competition, Duncan had 2 students place within the top three of their respective categories. Giovanni Nava took 1st place in the Veterinary Science category and Timothy Lee took 2nd place in the Nursing Assistant category. Next stop will be the HOSA Nationals in Nashville, Tennessee, this June!

EECU Wise Up

DeWolf High School

DeWolf High School is participating in EECU's Wise Up financial literacy program, a unique initiative designed to equip students with essential money management skills. The program offers engaging, hands-on lessons on topics like budgeting, saving, credit and financial goal setting, helping students gain practical knowledge to make informed financial decisions. Students completing the program earn a certificate of financial literacy and take away valuable skills to help them navigate their financial futures.

Exploring Solar Careers

Edison High School

Edison High School students in the Green Energy Academy pathway learned about solar installation with the non-profit GRID Alternatives over five days of training.

[Watch a video of the GRID Alternatives training.](#)

Scout Island Service Learning

DeWolf High School

DeWolf High School is proud to announce a dynamic service learning partnership with Scout Island, a beloved outdoor education and recreation site in Fresno. This collaboration provided students the opportunity to apply their skills while giving back to the community through meaningful projects, blending CTE with community service by fostering both skill development and civic responsibility. Under the guidance of CTE construction teacher Samuel Laplaca and multimedia teacher Peter Chaney, students worked on a series of hands-on initiatives to enhance Scout Island's facilities and visitor experience, including:

- Creating custom wood signs to improve navigation and provide key information throughout the site.
- Repairing facilities, ensuring Scout Island remains a safe and welcoming destination for outdoor learning.
- Developing an interactive digital map to assist tour groups in exploring Scout Island's natural features and educational zones.

"These projects showcase the incredible talents of our students while addressing real-world needs," said Mr. Laplaca. "It's inspiring to see their craftsmanship make a lasting impact." Mr. Chaney added, "The interactive map was a great way for our multimedia students to apply design and technology skills. It's rewarding to see their work enhance the visitor experience."

Teacher of the Week

Duncan Polytechnical High School

Douglas Urabe is a teacher at Duncan Polytechnical High School, and he is doing it all. When stepping inside Urabe's classroom, you'll find students out of their seats, working hard. From learning technical systems to building robots, Urabe wants to give students a head start in their future career paths. Urabe has his hands full teaching computer-integrated manufacturing. Student Jaspreet Kaberwal heard about the coursework in Urabe's class and knew what he had to do his last couple of years in high school.

When students aren't building the next advanced robot of their time, it's the soft skills learned from teamwork. "I instill a work ethic that is based upon respect of their peers and their clients and that they have a sense of urgency," Urabe said. Students like Kaberwal have benefited from the real work inside the classroom and know that as graduation nears, it will help them in the real world. "Urabe always encourages students to do something better; he always pushes us to achieve more," Kaberwal said.

[Read the full article by YourCentralValley.](#)

Excellence in Education

Excellence in Education is Fresno Unified's employee recognition program designed to celebrate and honor the many outstanding employees who serve the district's students and their families. Candidates are nominated by their peers and evaluated by a selection committee through an interview process. This year, out of 60 finalists, there were 7 CTE teachers and staff, and CTE teachers were winners in all three teacher categories! Congratulations to all of our finalists and the 3 winning teachers!

- Certificated Elementary:
 - Leanne Cervantes-Johnson, CTE Department (winner)
[Watch Leanne's acceptance speech](#)
- Certificated Middle School:
 - Robert "Bob" Donat, Scandinavian
 - Roderick Smith, Terronez (winner)
[Watch Roderick's acceptance speech](#)
- Certificated High School:
 - Amber Donat, Phoenix Secondary
 - Jonathan Hinojosa, Farber Educational Campus (winner)
[Watch Jonathan's acceptance speech](#)
 - Terence Brown, Fresno High
- Department Leaders:
 - Amy Koehler, CTE Department

Jonathan Hinojosa was also selected as the nominee to represent Fresno Unified in the Certificated category at the county level.

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