

## MDUSD Career Pathways – End-of-Year Highlights

June, 2025

As we wrap up another incredible school year, the MDUSD Career Pathways team is proud to celebrate the innovative work happening across our programs to prepare students for success in college, career, and beyond.

This spring was filled with meaningful work based learning experiences.

- **Allied Health Fair:** Students participated in an immersive experience where they explored healthcare professions through hands on activities and industry engagement. Students also had the opportunity to conduct informational interviews of health care partners.
- **Art & Digital Media Showcase:** This May, Sunvalley Mall partnered with students from Mt. Diablo, College Park, Concord, and Northgate High Schools to host the 4th Annual Art and Digital Media Showcase. Students worked with marketing professionals to develop the advertisement for the event and learned about the different careers at a retail mall.
- **Hospitality Career Exploration Project:** This project provided students with the opportunity to explore possible hospitality careers. It included work readiness workshops, a tour of Cal State East Bay's Hospitality program, and a behind-the-scenes look at the Walnut Creek Renaissance Hotel.
- **Campus to Commerce:** This Career Pathways Showcase brought together students from across MDUSD to share their pathway projects with local businesses, industry partners, local elected officials and district leadership, highlighting the impact of our programs on student growth and readiness.
- **Consumer Services Pathway:** Planning continued to support the launch of the new Consumer Services Pathway at Olympic High School this Fall. This new pathway is designed to prepare students for success in consumer focused industries through hands on learning, real-world work experiences, and strong industry partnerships.



# Allied Health Fair

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On March 20th, over 150 students from the BioMedical and Patient Care pathways at Ygnacio Valley, College Park, and Mt. Diablo high schools took part in the 4th Annual Allied Health Fair, held at Loma Vista Adult Education in Concord. Hosted in partnership with Mt. Diablo Adult Education, the six-hour event provided students with the opportunity to explore different healthcare careers. Participants rotated through six interactive workshops, conducted informational interviews, practiced networking, and heard from industry professionals about post-secondary education and career opportunities in allied health.

Students also had the unique opportunity to step into the labs and classrooms of current Mt. Diablo Adult Education dental assistant, medical assistant, and EMT programs. These firsthand experiences offered valuable insight into daily training routines and equipment. Additional presentations by Diablo Valley College's Community Health Worker program and Pittsburg Adult Education's Certified Nursing Assistant program provided further guidance on educational pathways and professions in the healthcare field.

Participating Partners: **Mount Diablo Adult Education, Martinez Adult Education, John Muir Health, Los Medanos College EMT, DVC Dental Hygiene, Contra Costa Health Services, Gurnick Medical Academy, Dogs for Diabetics, Senior Helpers, Donor Network West, Sutter Health at Home, Association of Operating Room Nurses.**



## Art & Digital Media Showcase

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In partnership with **Sunvalley Mall**, students from Mt. Diablo, College Park, Concord, and Northgate High Schools showcased their creativity at the 4th annual Art and Digital Media Showcase, held in the mall's center court from May 8–22.

Ahead of the event, Sunvalley Mall hosted two collaboration days. One focused on creating promotional materials like the official event flyer, and another on career exploration in mall and business operations. Students heard from mall leaders, including **Wendy Grant**, Marketing Director, and **Luther Daniel**, Operations Manager, who shared insights on planning large events and exploring career paths in mall management. Each school honored one standout student, with gift cards generously provided by Sunvalley Mall.



Congratulations to all the talented participants!



# Hospitality Career Exploration Project

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Fifteen MDUSD culinary students recently took part in a three-part hospitality career exploration project that gave them a closer look at what it's like to work in the industry and how to get there.

The experience started with a series of **Work Readiness Workshops**, where students sharpened their skills in communication, customer service, and professional behavior, key qualities for success in any workplace.

Next, the group visited **Cal State East Bay**, where **Dr. Thomas Padron**, Associate Professor and Program Coordinator, gave them a tour of the Hospitality, Recreation & Tourism program. Students learned about post secondary options and the many directions a degree in hospitality can take them.

The following week, students got an inside look at the **Walnut Creek Renaissance Hotel**. They toured departments like the front desk, fitness center, kitchen, event spaces, and marketing office, meeting professionals along the way who shared what it takes to succeed in each role. Special thanks to **Nicole Hankton** from Visit Walnut Creek, **Jared Asch**, and **Alex Lopez** for guiding the tour and sharing their experiences.

From classroom to campus to hotel, this project gave students a well-rounded view of the hospitality industry and sparked new interest in careers they might not have considered before.

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# Campus To Commerce

MDUSD, in partnership with **John Muir Health**, the **Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce**, and the **City of Concord**, hosted its annual Campus to Commerce Career Pathways Showcase was a district-wide event held on May 1 at John Muir Health's Concord campus, where students from all five comprehensive high schools showcased their hands-on learning and career pathway projects. Featuring display booths and a student-employer panel discussion, the event highlighted how students are gaining real-world experience through internships and partnerships with local businesses. It gave students a platform to share how these opportunities are shaping their future goals, while emphasizing the importance of both technical and soft skills.

Career Pathway programs represented at the event included:

- College Park High School: Art & Digital Media
- Concord High School: Art & Digital Media, Engineering, Transportation
- Mt. Diablo High School: Art & Digital Media, Engineering, Information & Computer Technology, Patient Care
- Northgate High School: Art & Digital Media
- Ygnacio Valley High School: Education, Engineering, Health Care

These pathways are part of MDUSD's commitment to connecting education to career readiness through hands-on, meaningful experiences.



MDUSD Superintendent, Dr. Adam Clark spoke to participants. He said MDUSD is working to teach students both technical skills, as well as "soft skills" needed to pursue careers, such as showing up on time, being able to work with diverse people, and critical problem-solving. Partnering with local businesses gives them an opportunity to help shape their future workforce, while giving students valuable exposure to real life careers. "I see it as a symbiotic relationship between our schools and our business partners," he said.






# Consumer Service Pathway @ Olympic HS

We are excited to announce the launch of the new Consumer Services Pathway at Olympic High School in fall, 2025, led by educator Danya Townsend. This innovative Career and Technical Education program is designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and real world experiences needed to thrive in consumer-focused industries.

Students will engage in hands-on, work based learning opportunities, including project-based activities, community engagement, and potential workplace experiences that reflect real industry standards. The pathway will also offer access to industry recognized certifications, helping students build a competitive edge as they prepare for their future.

With a strong emphasis on equity, student voice, and career readiness, this program will empower learners to develop both technical and professional skills while forming valuable connections with local businesses and community partners.




## THE FOUNDRY

A CTE/BPL PROGRAM @ OLYMPIC HIGH SCHOOL


### ★ Enrolling Fall 2025 ★

STUDENTS WILL:


Earn credits, acquire job skills, participate in mentorships.




**PROGRAM**  
Students will spend time exploring their education journey, what they want for their future, skills to help them be successful, and how to apply learned skills



**INTERNSHIPS/ MENTORSHIPS**  
Students will spend time exploring jobs and careers, doing shadow days, and ultimately setting up long term (3+ week) mentorships with businesses



**CAPSTONE**  
Students will leave their mark on their community by completing a capstone project. This project is student interest based and will give back to their school or community.




Students will graduate with a robust resume, interview skills, job skills and connections to the community and businesses.

Student learning is interest based. Students will show and present their learning through interest based means and students will tie learning to their real world experiences.

STUDENTS INTERESTED IN ENROLLING

Please Contact:

Danya Townsend  
townsendd@mdusd.org



OPPORTUNITIES FOR:


College Enrollment and COLLEGE CERTIFICATIONS

### The Foundry Cornerstones

★ **CURIOSITY**  
We lead with questions, not answers.  
At The Foundry, students explore their interests, passions, and the world around them. Through real-world learning, hands-on projects, and Leave to Learn, curiosity is what guides the journey.

★ **CONFIDENCE**  
We build belief through doing.  
Confidence comes from taking risks, solving problems, finishing something hard, and reflecting on how far you've come—academically, emotionally, and personally.

★ **COMMUNITY**  
We are never alone in this work.  
No one grows in isolation. At The Foundry, students are surrounded by a team—peers, staff, mentors, and community partners—who see them, support them, and expect greatness.



## THE FOUNDRY

A CTE/BPL PROGRAM AT OLYMPIC HIGH SCHOOL

### What is The Foundry?

The Foundry is a new learning space within Olympic High School that reimagines what continuation school can be. It's not about catching up, it's about stepping into your power. Students here are building. And like any strong material, that transformation takes heat, pressure, and care.

### Why "The Foundry"?

Because that's exactly what this space is. A place where students reshape their path, reclaim their voice, and forge a future they actually want to live. It's gritty, real, and unapologetically human. Students come in with raw potential—and through relationships, real-world learning, and radical trust, they leave with tools, confidence, and purpose.

★ A place where raw potential gets refined into strength, skill, and purpose

★ A community that recognizes the power in pressure—that struggle and challenge forge character


★ A space where students design, build, and own their learning journey

★ A culture that values curiosity as fire and confidence as fuel to connect real world and their community

WE ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING BUSINESS PARTNERS TO BE MENTORS, HOST MENTORSHIPS/ INTERNSHIPS, BE GUEST SPEAKERS, OR PARTICIPATE IN INFO SESSIONS WITH GROUPS OF STUDENTS.

IF YOU ARE AN INTERESTED BUSINESS PARTNER PLEASE CONTACT:

DANYA TOWNSEND  
thefoundryatohs@gmail.com



# MDUSD CAREER PATHWAYS

*Preparing Today's Students for the Jobs of Tomorrow*

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For more information regarding  
MDUSD Career Pathways

Heather S. Fontanilla, Ed.D.  
Director, College & Career Readiness

<https://mdusd.org/careerpathways>