

Career Connected

Career Technical Education Program Spotlights

April-June 2026 – Issue No. 17

SkillsUSA State Competition

Duncan Polytechnical High School

Four students from Duncan Polytechnical High School placed first in the state at the SkillsUSA competition in Ontario April 9-12, with an additional four students placing among the top three in their competitions.

- Residential Construction Wiring: Carlos Bedolla, state champion; John Jimenez, third
- Sheet Metal: Carmi Vasquez, state champion; Matthew Morales, third
- Diesel Equipment Technology: Yasin Nijmeddin, state champion
- Nurse Assisting: Alexis Reyes, state champion; Jonaven Souksamlane, second
- Welding: Leonardo Gallardo Mercado, third

Congratulations to students and advisors for their hard work and for showcasing their skills in career themed competitions, aligned with our life skills district goal. The state champions also moved on to represent California and Duncan at the national competition in Atlanta in June.

CRMC Showcase

Roosevelt High School

Health Pathway seniors showcased posters they made in the lobby of Community Regional Medical Center (CRMC) to employees and visitors. Their posters were an end of year project sharing what they learned in the various departments during their internship.

Disaster Simulation

Roosevelt High School

Students took part in a simulated disaster event on campus: Attending an outdoor concert, a crash caused a fire and gas leak exposing victims to a range of injuries - some missing limbs and others just wounded. Students from Fashion Design and Costuming were the moulage crew, preparing patients for the scene. First on the scene with breaking news was Roosevelt's own Teddy TV, reporting live. At the same time, EMT students assessed the situation and got the injured to the right care. Some were taken care of at the scene, others in the ambulance to the ER, and unfortunately, some were not as lucky.

Student Success Story

Farber Educational Campus

The Farber Child Welfare Attendance Specialist met with a student who said he didn't like Farber at first until he found out the school is not "diploma only". He now really likes the school and wants to graduate because of Mr. Self (the CTE Public Services Instructor) and the field trips to Gilroy and dispatch centers making the class come alive. The student is very thankful to CTE and has an A+ in both of his CTE classes.

PLTW Recognition

Bullard and Edison High Schools

Bullard and Edison High Schools have been recognized as 2025-26 Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished Schools. They are among a select group of high schools across the U.S. to receive this honor for their commitment to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in career-connected learning. Through their PLTW Biomedical Science and Engineering programs, they are helping students develop transferable skills needed to succeed in an evolving future.

To be eligible for the designation, schools had to meet multiple criteria in the 2024-25 school year, such as the number of PLTW courses available to students, the percentage of students enrolled in PLTW, and the percentage of students taking more than one PLTW course.

Career Skills Challenge

Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART)

Business and Finance Lab student Edwin Guardado placed 2nd in Personal Finance at the Career Skills Challenge in April.

Vernal Pools Research Project

Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART)

Each spring, before most people notice the landscape change, students from the Environmental Science Lab at the Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) are planning out their work in the field; boots muddy, data sheets in hand, and standing at the edge of one of Central California's vernal pools. For a few brief months, these shallow depressions hold rainwater, transforming dry grassland into a thriving, temporary ecosystem.

For Gabriela Caldera, Kendal Daggett, Kelly He, and Carly Samarin, these pools are the focus of a student-led research project at the UC Merced Vernal Pools and Grassland Reserve, an ongoing partnership with CART for the past five years. Their goal was straightforward, but not simple: understand how differences in water quality and habitat conditions influence which species are able to survive there.

This year, the project took a step further -- new technology at CART has opened the door for six total Spring Project teams to incorporate environmental DNA (eDNA). eDNA, for the Vernal Pools Project,

served as a method to detect species through trace genetic material left behind in the water. With this approach, they were able to identify organisms like fairy shrimp and the threatened California tiger salamander, even when those species weren't easily visible.

After collecting samples, students moved to interpretation. Their work suggested that factors like turbidity, temperature, and salinity may have an influence on where species are found, while also revealing how challenging it is to draw conclusions in short time constraints. These students weren't following a script; they were making decisions, revising methods, and working through uncertainty in the same way professional researchers do.

Nevertheless, what makes this work stand out isn't just the science, it's the level of ownership. On April 15, this group of students will present their findings at the Swarth Fogel Undergraduate Research Symposium, sharing their work with UC Merced undergraduate students and a broader audience. For more information on the project, or if you have questions about CART, visit www.cart.org and check out the Environmental Science Lab.

New Cameras for Middle School

Ahwahnee Middle School

Students in the Multimedia Program at Ahwahnee Middle School recently received new Canon EOS R50 cameras from Fresno Unified Career Technical Education to support their Photography Unit.

Within the current unit, students are learning foundational photography techniques including the rule of thirds, framing, backgrounds, and leading lines to help create strong and visually engaging photographs.

Mrs. Francis, Ahwahnee's CTE Multimedia Teacher, shared her excitement about the impact the cameras are already having on students. She stated, "My students are absolutely loving our photography unit, and it has been amazing to see their excitement and creativity grow each day. Some students have even shared that they want to start saving up to buy a camera like the ones we use in class."

She also added, "Moments like this are exactly what I love most about CTE — giving students real-world experiences that spark passion, creativity, and future goals." Through hands-on learning experiences like photography, our students are developing technical skills, creative confidence, and career awareness while exploring opportunities in multimedia and beyond.

Idea Fest

Phoenix Secondary Academy

The Phoenix Secondary Design & Marketing class had an amazing month with a few Wins at Idea Fest for their Fresno Loteria project. The Fresno Lotería Project is a redesigned 52 card deck that connects Fresno's local history with universal human rights and values of the Constitution, created in recognition of the U.S. 250th anniversary. The project showcases a hands-on blend of graphic design, advanced manufacturing, and strategic marketing. Students also submitted poems and 5 of their poems made it to top 10, including 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards for the Poetry competition. The class also won 2nd place for best booth. The class was invited to do a product pop up at the downtown Instruction Office on June 1st.

CTE Students Earn Gates Scholarship

Three students from Fresno Unified School District have been awarded the highly competitive Gates Scholarship, one of the nation's top academic honors. The scholarship covers the full cost of college, including tuition, housing, and books.

Juan Morales Lopez of Sunnyside High School, Eliana Palomera of McLane High School, and Bryan Cabrera Garcia of Duncan Polytechnical High School were all selected from more than 61,000 applicants, with only 750 students nationwide receiving the award.

All three students participated in CTE programs:

- Lopez was in both the Doctors Academy and the Multimedia and Marketing pathway, and completed summer and winter Health and Media Artist internships, taking senior photos and learning from UCSF doctors. He plans to attend UC Davis.
- Palomera was in McLane's Medical Education and Research Academy (MERA) pathway, completed an internship at the VA Hospital during the school year, and completed a summer Health internship with Anthem. She will head to UCLA to study neuroscience.
- Garcia was in the Heavy Truck Technology IDATA pathway, completed an internship with Thermo King, and took part in the summer Teacher Academy program. He will attend UC San Diego to pursue a career in healthcare.

District officials say the recognition highlights the students' leadership, academic excellence, and dedication to their futures.

FUSD Superintendent Misty Her says, "Being selected for The Gates Scholarship is an extraordinary accomplishment that speaks to our students' hard work, leadership and perseverance. This recognition is more than an academic achievement, it's a life-changing opportunity that opens doors, lifts financial burdens and directly aligns with our goal of college and career readiness."

[Read the news article here.](#)

Health Corps Project Showcase

Edison High School

On April 28, the Health Corps team made up of Biomedical Pathway students presented their topic about Fentanyl awareness and the importance of Narcan on FUSD school campuses at the Fresno County Civic Engagement Project Showcase. They competed against other student civic engagement projects from Sanger West, Hoover High, Quail Lakes Environmental Charter, Farber Educational Center, State Civic Foundation team, and a few others.

They were awarded 1st place for their presentation and received recognition for their hard work in the community, training people on how to properly administer Narcan, working with industry partners, and attempting to make our community a safer place.

Sunnyside Farmers Market

Sunnyside High School

The farmers market at Sunnyside High School, open seasonally from April to November, is in partnership with the Asian Business Institute & Resource Center. The market includes a booth operated by Sunnyside Ag students, selling products they have grown or created. This market provides the students with hands-on experience in entrepreneurship, marketing, customer service, and agricultural business practices.

This community-focused market features local farmers and vendors, offering fresh seasonal produce, arts and crafts and food trucks. The farmers market is held in the Sunnyside stadium parking lot (corner of Kings Canyon Road and Peach Avenue) every Wednesday from 4-8 p.m.

Career Skills Challenge

Edison High School

The team of Chloe Pallares, Trinity Grijalva, Kaiyadaye Sharpe, Jocelyn Montano, and Colby Horseman competed in the FCC Career Skills Challenge and took First Place in Sports Medicine! These students spend a lot of extra hours practicing with the instruction of their very dedicated coaches, Steve Guererro and Carissa Aflague.

Film Festival Season Success

Sunnyside High School

Seniors in the Video Production Academy had a successful film festival season winning two Slick Rock awards and sweeping the PSA category in the Picture the Valley film festival. Students also were awarded for best cinematography and best sound design. Two students also won cash prizes for 2nd and 3rd place in the 9th Circuit Civics Video Contest.

Sheet Metal Workers Training Facility

Hoover and Sunnyside High Schools

Students from Hoover and Sunnyside Construction Programs gained hands-on experience at the Sheet Metal Workers Training Facility, learning about the different areas of the training facility and the valuable skill sets developed within the sheet metal trade. Students completed a hands-on project while learning how to use the tools that shape sheet metal, read blueprints, and explore career opportunities in the construction industry. Experiences like these help students build real-world skills and prepare for high-demand careers in the skilled trades.

A special thank you to our valued partner, Eric Priest, for his continued guidance, expertise, and dedication to supporting our students. His mentorship and industry knowledge provide meaningful learning experiences that help prepare students for success in the construction field. We also want to recognize instructor Justin Priest for his commitment to connecting students with industry partners and ensuring they develop a strong understanding and appreciation of the skilled trades.

Casting Lab

McLane High School

McLane's Sports Medicine interns participated in a casting lab where they learned casting techniques and cast removal. Students applied casts on the arms of their peers, learned about types of breaks, then learned how to remove casts.

Health and Career Fair

McLane High School

McLane MERA students hosted another successful Health and Career Fair. Senior MERA student projects focused on injury prevention in partnership with Valley Children's Hospital's Mobile MayDay. Projects will be kept for future use by other schools and include the presentation board, hands-on component, and instructions for those who will use the project at their event.

Mother's Day Class

Sunnyside High School

Floral Design students put together a Mother's Day floral design lesson including their very own created recipe, created their own step by step video, and taught the parents at the Sunnyside Cafecito con padres on May 6th.

Fresno High Film Festival

Fresno High School

Fresno High celebrated its annual FHS film festival and senior recognition night on May 13th, an event that honors students' creativity and contributions over the year. The evening's top honor went to the student short film "American Dreamin'", produced by the team of Guadalupe Alva Ortiz, Diego Jimenez, Hugo Meza, Liam Dunbar, Josue Cortez, and Diego Gutierrez.

[Watch the winning festival entries](#)

Ninth Grade Product Development

Patiño School of Entrepreneurship

Ninth-grade students worked to help the Valley beat the heat through innovative product designs. After selecting a specific community group to focus on, each team conducted research, interviewed stakeholders, and built prototypes tailored to their users' needs. Students then refined their ideas and prepared professional materials to communicate their solutions. The project wrapped up with a business pitch event where teams presented to partners and community members for authentic feedback.

Yearbook “Divorce” Party

Hoover High School

May 20th, Hoover Yearbook & Digital Photo II classes officially celebrated the end of a long, stressful, and slightly toxic relationship between Yearbook Deadlines & Sanity.

After months of late nights, missing photos, broken links, last-minute doodles & edits, and emotional damage, Yearbook staff gathered for one final goodbye at their Yearbook “Divorce” Party and cord ceremony.

There were laughs, snacks, dramatic moments, and plenty of memories shared as they celebrated surviving another unforgettable year together. From chaos to completion, this staff truly made magic happen.

Swede Fest Jr.

Hoover High School

Swede Fest Jr. brings student filmmaking to the big screen! In partnership with Fresno Unified School District and CMAC (Community Media Access Collaborative), Swede Fest Jr. continues to give K–12 students the opportunity to showcase their creativity through homemade, low-budget recreations of popular films—known as “sweded” films.

This year marked only the 2nd year ever of Swede Fest Jr., making the accomplishments even more exciting! Students demonstrated incredible creativity, collaboration, storytelling, and media production skills through their film trailers and projects.

Congratulations to Hoover students for their outstanding achievements:

- 2nd Place winners for their trailer recreation of Bad Boys for Life
- Overall Founder Favorite Award winners for their trailer recreation of Terminator 2

These recognitions highlight the incredible talent, creativity, and hard work of Hoover students and the power of hands-on learning through CTE. A huge thank you to CMAC for continuing to partner with Fresno Unified to provide authentic opportunities for students to explore filmmaking, editing, storytelling, and creative expression!

Business Academy Teacher Publishes Financial Literacy Books

McLane High School

McLane Business Academy teacher Carlos Gonzales has published four Financial Literacy books. Three are children's books: one on saving, one on budgeting, and one on investing. The last is Financial Literacy 101 for Teens, which has a forward written by Business Academy students. You are never too young to learn about Financial Literacy!

Students Design T-Shirts

Bullard High School

Students in the Introduction to Graphic Design class at Bullard learned how to design with Adobe Illustrator. They were tasked with creating a Bullard design for T-shirts that they could sell at the student-run store. Students were then able to order the designs they created and transfer them to t-shirts. Each student was able to wear their shirt for marketing promotions. A few of the designs were chosen by the student body to be printed and sold in the store next year.

Foods and Nutrition Classroom Success

McLane High School

This year in Foods and Nutrition 1, students truly lived by the motto: “Rise like a Highlander, cook like a chef!” From the very first day, students committed to building not only their culinary skills, but also a positive mindset that extended beyond the kitchen and into our school and community. The diverse, mixed-grade classroom, welcoming students from 9th through 12th grade, including Special Education and ALP students, became a space where collaboration thrived. Together, students learned the foundations of food preparation, nutrition, and essential kitchen safety protocols, while also supporting one another’s growth every step of the way.

Their dedication paid off in remarkable ways. Of the 100 students enrolled, 98% earned their Food Handlers Certification, demonstrating their commitment to professionalism and safety. Many students also went above and beyond by completing additional certifications, including Stop the Bleed, First Aid, AED, and CPR, preparing them with real-world, life-saving skills.

Students had the opportunity to explore career pathways through visits to the FUSD Nutrition Services Department and the Fresno State Culinary and Nutrition Program, gaining insight into future possibilities in the culinary industries. They also engaged with community partners through programs like YLI (Youth Leadership Institute), where they earned stipends while building leadership and advocacy skills. Students proudly gave back to the community as well. On Read Across America Day, they visited local elementary schools to read nutrition-themed books, inspiring younger students to make healthy choices. Throughout the year, they also learned from guest speakers representing careers in culinary entrepreneurship, fitness, and dietetics, expanding their awareness of the many paths available to them.

The highlight for many was stepping into the kitchen, where creativity truly came alive. From preparing snacks to crafting drinks and full meals, students embraced hands-on learning with enthusiasm. The classroom buzzed with excitement, teamwork, and the delicious results of their efforts. “As their teacher, my favorite moments were witnessing their growth, seeing their creations come to life and hearing them confidently present and reflect on their work. Their pride, resilience, and passion were evident in every dish and every discussion,” said Maria Salinas.

This year, students didn’t just meet expectations, they rose above and beyond them and without a doubt, they proved that they could cook like chefs.

Industry Showcase

Farber Educational Campus

The Farber Industry Showcase highlighted the innovation, professionalism, and real-world problem solving taking place within the SmartStack Logistics program at Farber Educational Campus. Students presented two major projects that demonstrate how classroom learning can directly connect to industry application. The first project, PrimePoint, challenged students to think critically about last-mile delivery solutions, package security, and customer convenience. Students explored how underutilized commercial spaces could be transformed into secure community distribution hubs, reducing package theft while improving accessibility for customers.

What began as a classroom idea has continued to gain momentum, with PrimePoint currently progressing into a second level of presentations within Amazon for additional discussion and consideration. This opportunity has allowed students to see firsthand that innovative ideas developed in a classroom setting can spark meaningful conversations at one of the world's leading logistics companies.

The second featured project focused on our QR code equipment inspection and tracking forms developed in partnership with industry practices. Students demonstrated how digital forms are being used in our warehouse to improve safety, accountability, measurable data, and equipment tracking. By replacing paper documentation with direct electronic communication, students showcased how technology and AI can better interpret clean, accurate data while reducing errors commonly caused by handwriting or incomplete forms.

Most notably, Lyons Magnus has recognized the effectiveness of this system and has adopted similar digital inspection practices into operations at one of their warehouse locations. This partnership represents a significant milestone for our program, showing students that the systems and ideas they are building are not simulations, but meaningful contributions with real-world industry impact.

[Watch a video of the showcase](#)

Graduation Live Broadcast

McLane High School

A culmination of the work of talented students, the live broadcast of the McLane graduation ceremony demonstrates exactly how talented pathway juniors have become at broadcasting live events.

The broadcast had over 1.5k views during the ceremony, and more than 3.2k viewers total including after the broadcast aired. This awesome service to the community demonstrates how Art Venture can reach all families to bring them important moments, no matter where they may be at the time events are happening.

[Watch the graduation broadcast recording](#)

Art Venture Student Spotlights

McLane High School

- **Julia Uribe** and **Uelynn Moua**, lead anchors for Highlander Highlights, the weekly news broadcast produced by students in the Art Venture Production Academy. Julia has been a part of the Art Venture Academy since her freshman year, and Uelynn joined as a junior. Julia's favorite part of the academy was learning about cameras, the Arts Media and Entertainment industry, the field trips, and of course making friends. Uelynn felt that the Art Venture Academy helped her graduate from high school, and gave her something to look forward to every day at McLane. She said that it helped her build a community of friends at McLane, which is important for any student.
- **Celeste Jimenez**, a member of the Art Venture Academy, helped to produce stories for Highlander Highlights. Celeste, a junior, has been involved with the Art Venture Academy since her sophomore year, and she enjoys working with her fellow classmates to create news packages, sports broadcasts, and short films.
- **Delanee Chavez**, an Art Venture Academy senior who graduated this year, acted as Technical Director during a live broadcast. Delanee has been a part of the Art Venture Academy since her sophomore year, and she has been the technical director for live broadcasts since her junior year. Delanee loved making new friends and learning real-world skills in the academy, and she plans to come back as a mentor while she attends Fresno State.

HOSA State Competition

Duncan Polytechnical High School

This year Duncan High had 11 students compete in the HOSA state competition, in Ontario CA. There were over 4,700 students across California who competed in a variety of medical areas.

Out of the 11 medical students, 7 moved forward to the second round. Duncan had 4 students place within top 5 of their respective health competitions, and all 7 placed top 10 in the state! Savannah De La Fuente placed 1st in state in the Physical Therapy category. Duncan HOSA qualified to compete in HOSA internationals this year which is in Indianapolis, Indiana.

SkillsUSA National Competition

Duncan Polytechnical High School

Four Duncan seniors earned 1st place at the SkillsUSA State competition, allowing them to compete at the National SkillsUSA conference in Atlanta, Georgia in June 2026. These students competed against the other 1st place winners from across the nation:

- Carmi Vasquez - Sheet Metal Fabrication
- Yasin Nijmeddin - Diesel Equipment Technology
- Alexis Reyes - Nurse Assisting
- Carlos Bedolla - Residential Construction Wiring

Construction Internship

Duncan Polytechnical High School

Duncan senior construction students [interned with NexGeneral Construction](#) to help renovate and build a new restaurant in downtown Fresno: Moses McQueen's. Instructor Ash Jones coached the students, and in rotating teams of 7, students assisted with leveling/grading the site, pouring concrete, building fencing, landscaping, painting, and also assisted a seasoned electrician with minor electrical work.

NexGeneral Construction's owner Philip Kliewer said that the students "...listen well to direction. They do things right the first time. They're hard workers."

The students took a lot of pride in working on a project that they knew the community and their friends and families would be able to enjoy. "I'm definitely going to bring [my friends and family] here once the whole construction is finished... I'll show them around, tell them maybe a few of what I did." said senior, Joseph Preciado.

Auto Body and Collision Repair

Duncan Polytechnical High School

Duncan junior and senior automotive students were able to see another side of the auto industry when Luis Zaragoza of Z-Boys Customs and The Grind LTD partnered with automotive technology instructor, Arnold Lopez, to teach some basics of auto body and collision repair. Students learned about vehicle customization and the general process a vehicle must go through to be repaired. Students were then able practice a new hands-on skill of polishing a vehicle, which is the final step in the repair process once the vehicle is painted. This gave students a great opportunity to learn about other automotive career paths from an expert in the industry.

Student Press Conference

Bullard High School

Students from Bullard's Biomedicine and Law & Social Justice Pathways hosted a press conference at Bullard High School attended by senior FUSD Leadership, Fresno Police Department, California Highway Patrol, and organized by Valley Children's Hospital to promote National Bike to School/Work Day.

Speakers from each organization, as well as a student from the Law pathway, spoke about the dangers of riding bikes without proper safety equipment. The student, Michelle Bustos, highlighted the work Biomedicine and Law had done all year long to promote helmet safety as well as avoiding distracted driving.

Teddy TV Junior Edition

Roosevelt High School and Sequoia Middle School

Roosevelt Video Production teacher, Sam Ruiz, went to Sequoia Middle School for CTE Summer school exploration and taught Videography to gain interest and share CTE skills. They produced their own news cast highlighting CTE too!

[Watch Teddy TV Junior Summer Edition](#)

Ambassador Award Ceremony

The 2nd CTE Ambassador Recognition Ceremony was held on April 21, 2026, at Fresno High School Royce Hall, to recognize outstanding CTE ambassadors from alternative and comprehensive high schools: Bullard, Duncan, Edison, Farber, Fresno, Hoover, McLane, Patiño, Roosevelt, and Sunnyside. Throughout the school year, these student leaders played pivotal roles in elevating the visibility and impact of CTE programs across their campuses, from leading campus tours and mentoring peers to advocating for CTE pathways and engaging with industry partners. These ambassadors served as passionate representatives of CTE in Fresno Unified. They also contributed to recruitment efforts by connecting with middle school students and played active roles in subcommittee and advisory meetings to help shape the future of CTE in meaningful ways. The ceremony celebrated not only their hard work but also their leadership in driving positive changes. CTE deeply values these ambassadors for their commitment to being the student face and voice in shaping innovative, inclusive, and forward-thinking CTE programs in the Fresno Unified School District.

[Watch a video of the celebration](#)

ArtHop

Bullard High School

Bullard Digital Photography students participated in FUSD's ArtHop exhibit, taking the lead for the Bullard region and submitting several exhibits. The eye-catching pieces entered in the FUSD gallery were cyanotype tapestries that each class period put together, using very traditional film developing techniques to create their own patchwork design. Students also submitted work using pinhole cameras to create moving statement pieces that went with the theme: My American Dream - 250 Years of Democracy.

SkillsUSA State Competition

Bullard High School

Bullard's CSI Team took Silver in the State SkillsUSA Competition! Julissa Amparo, Keira Brown, and Elen Israelyan won gold at their regional level this year, and this is their second time on the medal podium. Last year, the team took Bronze at the State SkillsUSA Competition. All three are planning on continuing their work in college, with Elen and Julissa beginning pre-law studies and Keira continuing in her pursuit of a career in crime scene investigation.

Slickrock Film Festival

Bullard High School

Bullard won at the Slickrock Film Festival! [Mateo Rodriguez and Aaden Dominguez](#) won for their commercial for K1 Speed in Clovis. This is their first Slickrock win.

DECA Nationals

Bullard High School

Bullard's DECA went national! Business pathway students Reyna Contreras, Teaunna De Leon, Cooper Fisher, and Landon Haaland went to DECA's ICDC Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, where they participated in workshops and training designed to build their leadership and networking skills. Armed with this new training, their goal is to get even more students qualifying at regional and state competitions and build more interest and involvement in their CTSO chapter.

LifeSavers Conference

Bullard High School

Bullard students presented at the LifeSavers Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Brooklyn Cornell and Jocelyn Reyes were invited by Impact Teen Drivers to present on Bullard's work with that organization as well as Valley Children's Hospital on various safety initiatives designed to keep drivers, passengers, bicyclists, and pedestrians safe. The students were part of a panel discussion and answered questions from various industry professionals interested in starting up similar programs with high schools in various parts of the United States.

Fresno Heat Project

Patiño School of Entrepreneurship

As part of their annual Fresno Heat Project, 9th grade students at Patino interviewed local groups to learn more about ways that people, plants, and animals stay cool in the hot summers. From there, students created a product to help improve life for those groups, tested their idea, and created a business plan. At the end, students pitched their business ideas and prototypes to industry partners for feedback.

Summer Accelerator

Patiño School of Entrepreneurship

This summer, students from high schools across Fresno Unified came together at Fresno State for the Summer Accelerator, where they turned creative ideas into real business concepts. Along the way, they learned from Fresno State professors and local business leaders, collaborated with peers from other schools, and gained firsthand experience in entrepreneurship.

The program concluded with an exciting pitch competition, where teams presented their business ideas to a panel of judges, and the top three teams earned funding to help launch their ventures. Congratulations to all of the participants, especially Helping Hearts from Patino School of Entrepreneurship (1st Place), Harmony Herbal, a collaboration between students from Patino School of Entrepreneurship and Edison High School (2nd Place), and Money Makerz, a team of students from Fresno High School and McLane High School (3rd Place), for their outstanding achievements!

Quiq Labs Internship

Patiño School of Entrepreneurship

This spring, 10th grade students partnered with Quiq Labs for a hands-on internship experience, working in teams to design and build websites for local businesses. Throughout the project, students met with clients, conducted interviews, presented design concepts, incorporated feedback, and collaborated through multiple rounds of revisions to create websites tailored to each business's goals.

The experience culminated in a Client Showcase, where teams presented their finished websites, explained the strategy behind their design decisions, and received valuable feedback from a panel of community and industry partners. The project gave students an authentic opportunity to apply their technical, communication, and professional skills while making a meaningful impact for local businesses. As students continue into the Business Incubator course, they will apply these same web design and client communication skills to build professional marketing websites for the businesses they launch themselves.

HOSA Nationals

Duncan Polytechnical High School

In June 2026, Duncan took 5 students to the 50th Anniversary International Leadership Conference. This year's conference was in Indianapolis, Indiana, and it had over 15,000 students which included HOSA students from American Samoa, Canada, China, Korea, Puerto Rico, and Vietnam. This year there were 105 health-related competitive events featuring more than 13,907 competitors, 150 educational workshops led by healthcare professionals, educators, and industry leaders along with 175 exhibitors showcasing healthcare careers, emerging technologies, educational pathways, and interactive experiences.

All 5 Duncan HOSA students completed in a variety of competitions while there such as ATC and Anatomage. Duncan's senior Rehabilitation Therapy student, Savannah De La Fuente, who placed 1st in CA, competed against over 100 students internationally in the Physical Therapy category, and placed within the top 30.

During their downtime, Duncan students took the opportunity to attend a large variety of leadership workshops, explored HOSA's college and career expo, and networked with other HOSA students on an international scale. This year's conference gave Duncan HOSA a great experience and so many connections and resources to take back with them as they plan for the upcoming school year.

Annual Year in Review

Keep an eye out for our annual Year in Review, coming this fall, featuring additional stories and events from the school year and summer programs!

Subscribe

[Subscribe for future Career Connected updates!](#)

www.fresnounified.org/cte