

# K-12 Strong Workforce Program Newsletter: Regional Highlights

September 2022

## Lindsay Students Kick Off Year Displaying Their Work

Students at 37ECB, Lindsay, and East County community schools are learning critical skills through coursework development made possible with funding from the K-12 SWP grant.

Marketing, Sales, and Service is one of several CTE offerings available to students attending the San Diego County Office of Education's (SDCOE) Juvenile Court and Community Schools (JCCS) which provides a fully accredited educational program for students who are either wards of the court or have been referred by social services, probation, or one of the 42 school districts in San Diego County. Services are provided for students who may be incarcerated, pregnant or parenting, in foster care, expelled, or experiencing homelessness.

As part of this pathway, students learn how to design products and learn business concepts and key transferrable skills including effective communication, branding and logo design, market research, and customer engagement. They have gained valuable entrepreneurial skills and demonstrated marked improvement in their confidence and engagement with the larger community. "It's really inspiring to get to make things because there are no mistakes; problem solving in group work lets us learn from each other. Some students know more and can share with the other students" said student Kimberly about her experiences.



"Many students are uncertain about what to say and how to present themselves. I tell them to be themselves. You know your product - just talk about it," said Kym Milburn, who wrote and teaches the course curriculum. "They start off insecure; then it's like watching a flower grow. They radiate confidence. It's amazing to see the transformation," she said.



## 2021-2022 Robotics World Champions!

Sweetwater Union High School District (SUHSD) has had a growing VEX Robotics team since the 2008-09 school year. On May, 9, 2022, the SUHSD Rancho Del Rey Team 6446C, "The Royal Robots", after two days of competing with over eight hundred teams from all over the world, won their division. This Sweetwater Middle School team then went on to beat the champions of nine other divisions to win the VEX Robotics VRC 2022 Middle School World's Championship! That is the highest award that can be given to middle school students in the world. "This is the robotics equivalent to winning the Little League World Series. Our kids are better than 20,000 VEX teams worldwide," said their teacher, Ms. Jones. For more information about the SUHSD VEX Robotics League, click [HERE](#).

## Clairemont High School Summer Auto Program

For 3 weeks in July, students at Clairemont High participated in an auto program where they got real hands-on experience in working on contemporary and classic cars. Students came into this experience with little or no experience in vehicle maintenance. Students learned how to perform service tasks covering a range of issues from routine maintenance to more complex mechanical problems.

The Classic Car Experience included:

- Engine teardown on a vintage Dodge 360 V8 engine long block
- 1967 Corvair van, replace fuel tank, fuel lines, fuel pump and shift linkage
- 1970 BMW 2002 top off fluids. inspect undercar
- 1949 Cadillac Inspect suspension
- 1959 Morris Minor Brake inspection and repair leaking transmission seal
- 1946 Alfa Romeo 6C Inspect and check suspension
- 1962 Mercedes 300 Roadster, Replace rear suspension bushings
- 1964 Austin Healy 4-wheel alignment



Students also got the opportunity to visit Madison High School to see and work on the Electric Vehicle land speed race car, have a tour of Evans Garage private car collection, and hear from Cal Rothe, a Land Speed race car driver. This program was just one of several enrichment programs held on various campuses throughout SDUSD this summer. Other experiences included programs focusing on Brain Research, Aqua Optimism, Construction, and Engineering.



## Mobile STEM Lab

In the 2021-2022 school year, the Imperial County Strong Workforce Middle School Consortium, in partnership with Imperial Valley ROP, provided the opportunity for middle school students to experience hands-on and virtual reality career exploration activities focused on STEM and Health Sciences. The Mobile STEM lab traveled to a total of 11 middle schools in Imperial County and over 1,000 students had the opportunity to preview STEM related careers. Middle school students who participated in the mobile career exploration lab also had the opportunity to connect with the pathways available to them at their feeder high schools, and 60% of participating students were motivated towards going into STEM careers. The Mobile STEM lab is ready to take on the road for the 2022-2023 school year, to continue serving middle school students.

## Ramona USD Highlights Their Building & Construction Teacher

Montecito High School's CTE Construction program had another successful year of competitions and projects for the community. With teacher Nick Jordan at the helm, Construction students not only are learning carpentry, framing, electrical wiring, and masonry, but they are also helping the community by building benches, dog houses and a shed for the local Ramona Chamber of Commerce. MHS students competed in four categories of Skills USA competitions last spring and summer, at the regional, state and national level. Montecito students swept in three areas at state competitions and the top finishers went on to the National competition in Atlanta, Georgia.

Winners at the state level were:

- Electrical Construction Wiring - Fourth Place - Thomas Leech
- Electrical Construction Wiring - Sixth Place - Chloe Romero
- Electrical Construction Wiring (Post-Secondary) - First Place/Gold Medal - Luis Lozano
- Masonry - First Place/Gold Medal - Kael Spilman
- Teamworks - First Place/Gold Medal - Kaleb Koeberlien, Austin Fung, Chance Kaufman, and Erick Violeta
- Teamworks - Second Place/ Silver Medal - Zeak Santoyo, Devon Tandy, Joel Dules, Bryce Walters

Last fall, Mr. Jordan was one of 15 finalists for the Harbor Freight Tools for School Prize for Teaching Excellence, earning a \$50,000 award. Mr. Jordan received \$15,000 and the remaining \$35,000 went to the school.



## GUHSD Expands CTE Pathways!

Thanks, in part, to grant money received through the K12 Strong Workforce Program, GUHSD has expanded the number of CTE pathways for the first time in many years! Available now to students in the 22-23 school year is an Education / Child Development pathway at both West Hills High School and Granite Hills High School, a Hospitality / Event Planning pathway at Granite Hills High School and a Health Sciences / Community Health pathway at El Cajon Valley High School. All three pathways are being taught by veteran GUHSD teachers and are fully enrolled! The Community Health pathway is a pilot program designed to provide academic language support to English Learners. GUHSD is looking forward to expanding this pathway model to other sites in the coming years.

## CUSD Partners with BITA to Expand Carlsbad High School's Woodshop & Building Trades Pathway

This month Carlsbad Unified moved to the final phase in their new partnership with the California Homebuilding Foundation, where they will offer curriculum, support, and funding to the CTE Woodshop and Building Trades pathway at Carlsbad High School. This new partnership will allow for a shift in the focus of this pathway to match the demand for construction jobs in North County San Diego. CTE teacher Andie Tanner met with industry partner Michael McSweeney to discuss current industry trends and demand for jobs. The goal of a successful industry partnership is to expand student learning opportunities to match industry feedback about current and future changes in the SD economy and workforce. Tanner and McSweeney's conversation included prioritizing equipment updates, bringing in more guest speakers, and adding an OSHA-10 certification to the capstone class so that graduates are workforce-ready for employment in the field. We are excited about upcoming changes to this pathway, which goes to the school board for approval in September.

