

K-12 STRONG WORKFORCE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER: REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

December 2021

SPOTLIGHT

San Diego & Imperial Regional Consortium Strong Workforce Program – K14 Career Pathways Workgroup
K-14 Career Pathways Workgroup Leads: Denise Cabanilla, ICOE; Al Love, SDCOE; Amertah Perman, SDCCD

To join the K-14 Career Pathways Workgroup, email **Heather Cavazos** at heather.cavazos@gcccd.edu

[Regionally Endorsed Early College Credit Definitions](#)



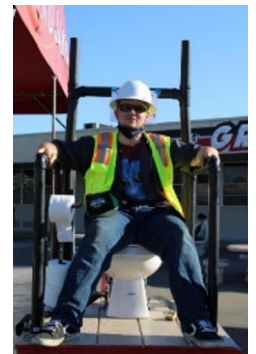
HSHMC Health Pathway Students Taking College Classes and Changing Healthcare Policy

At Health Sciences High & Middle College (HSHMC), college and career preparation are integrated. Healthcare Pathway students enrolled in Cuyamaca College's Health and Social Justice class, learned about injustice in America related to race, socioeconomic status, and the social determinants of health. When HSHMC's School Board announced a public hearing to discuss their proposed student COVID-19 vaccination mandate, instructor Shayna Davenport posed the question to the class, "If you had two minutes to speak before the Board on the

proposed policy, what would you say?" Students researched the topic and school policy and were encouraged to attend and register to speak at the Board meeting. The Board unanimously voted to approve the plan, with several members commenting that the students' public statements influenced their vote. The Board complimented the students for being articulate, informed, and passionate public speakers. While earning transferable college credits, these students are on their way to becoming policymakers!

Castle Park High School Hosts Successful College & Construction Trades Fair

Castle Park High School held its 6th annual College & Construction Trades Fair on October 16. Nearly 400 students, parents, and community members from Castle Park High School, Southwest High School, and Sweetwater Union High School District schools attended the student-led event. Close to 40 organizations participated, including Milwaukee Tool, trade unions Local 206 and Local 189, technical schools, and colleges. Exhibits included an electrical wall, carpentry and plumbing displays, a portable sink with a handwashing station, and a water bottle refill station with a reverse osmosis water purification system. Attendees also explored postsecondary education and career options.

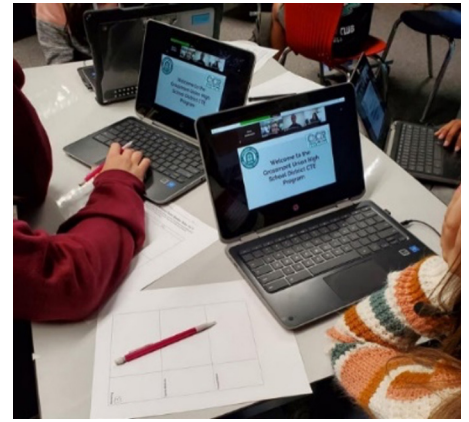


Constructing a Future at Vista Unified

Vista Unified School District launched a new residential and commercial construction learning pathway in Fall 2021. CTE students at Rancho Buena Vista High can now develop the skills and knowledge for a career in the construction trade or earn a spot in an apprenticeship program. Landon Cardenas, a first-year CTE instructor, highlighted the students' eagerness to attend class and gain experience with hands-on projects. Vista Unified is scheduled to build a new CTE facility in the heart of RBV that will house construction and a new welding program, and will welcome students in the 2023-24 school year. Crucial funding from the K-12 SWP will go toward tools and the curriculum.

GUHSD Connects with Cajon Valley Middle School Students

Grossmont Union High School District (GUHSD) student ambassadors facilitated an interactive Zoom lesson with more than 100 Hillsdale and Montgomery Middle School students on November 1. The students were introduced to the many career education opportunities at GUHSD, including Sports Medicine, Transportation, Cosmetology, AME, and Marketing/Business pathways. The event was organized by Jamie Davenport, K-12 Pathway Coordinator for the Grossmont-Cuyamaca region; Nicole Thren, GUHSD Student Ambassador Coordinator; and Cajon Valley teachers Emily Connor and Brittany Rutledge, and counselor Daniel Shea. GUHSD aims to build stronger connections with neighboring elementary and middle school districts to generate awareness about career and technical education opportunities.



Torrey Pines High School Adds Hybrid & Alternative Fuels Course to Auto Tech Pathway

Students at Torrey Pines High School will have a new class starting Fall 2022. The new capstone course, Hybrid & Alternative Fuels, will teach students the theory, safety, and hands-on procedures for maintenance, service, and repair of full-electric, hybrid electric, and alternative fuel-powered vehicles. The course was in response to a shift in the San Diego labor market toward more job openings for electric vehicle, hybrid, and alternative fuel technicians. "Funding from the Strong Workforce Grant allowed us to purchase tool kits specific to electric vehicles and its unique service needs," said Eric Neubauer, CTE automotive teacher. Students who complete the course will earn high school and college credit at MiraCosta Community College.

In addition, Mossy Toyota donated a Prius hybrid vehicle for students to practice their new skills. The new course provides an opportunity to work on the latest vehicles and get the hands-on experience required for a career in the automotive industry.



SDSU-IV Campus Tours and Trends in the STEM Industry

SDSU-IV CAMPUS TOURS

In partnership with Imperial County Office of Education's Higher Education and Adult Learning Department, student leaders from San Diego State University's Imperial Valley Campus hosted campus tours for local middle school students. The students learned about career pathways and postsecondary education opportunities.

TRENDS IN THE STEM INDUSTRY

The ICOE HEAL Department hosted the second session in a STEM Professional Learning Series on current industry trends on Oct. 22. A panel of local industry professionals gathered to discuss, share, and answer questions with an audience of educational leaders on the types of regional jobs and careers that will be available in the future. Panelists included:

Luis Wong – *Chief Executive Officer for the California K-12 High Speed Network*

Rachel Magos – *Executive Director of Imperial County Farm Bureau*

Janette Angulo – *Director of the Imperial County Public Health Department*

David S. Hanselman Phd – *Viridos*

Octavio Ortiz – *Imperial Valley College Engineering Professor*

