

# K-12 Strong Workforce Program Newsletter: Regional Highlights

February 2022

## SPOTLIGHT RESOURCES

2022 [Career Education Guide](#) and [Sector Handouts](#). Request hard copies.

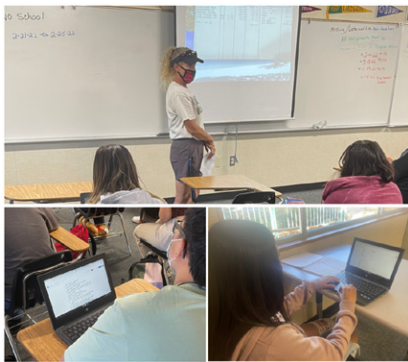
[Career and Technical Education Advisory Committees: Strategies and Best Practices](#)

San Diego-Imperial Center of Excellence [Certifications & Licenses Report](#)



CELEBRATE TODAY,  
OWN TOMORROW!

## Valley Center High School Keeping Students Focused on College & Career Readiness



With its FOCUS intervention course, Valley Center has been providing at-risk students with guidance and experiences to keep them on path to graduation. Using the Get Focused Stay Focused! curriculum with the My-10 Year Plan system, students complete individualized experiences to explore and develop college and career readiness skills with a plan that extends beyond high school. Teacher Shandrea Degen engages her students in focused exploration such as researching how college and trade schools align to different professions while learning skills such as budgeting and long-term planning. When asked about her work, a student shared, "I'm learning how to apply for a job and discovering the difference between part time and full time... finding the benefits of certain jobs that can pay for some of my college classes and get me to the career I want." Students in VCHS' FOCUS classes identify their interests, discover careers aligned to those interests, and develop a plan to prepare with ongoing motivation and support to meet their future goals.

## Imperial County Schools are Celebrating CTE Month!!!

Imperial County is recognizing our CTE teachers and students by showcasing their hard work and dedication. The Higher Education and Adult Learning Department staff have been visiting schools to highlight the exciting work of CTE teachers and students. Mrs. Taylor from the BUHS AG Department and her students visited Barbara Worth Junior High to inform junior high students about the exciting Agriculture pathways at Brawley High School. Thank you Imperial Valley Regional Occupation Program (IVROP) for helping to coordinate this great event.

Students from Mr. Roman's Agriculture class, Mr. Davis' intro to Criminal Justice class, and 9th grade Calexico's High School's Law Enforcement class, are demonstrating the hard work that occurs within a CTE classroom.

Thank you CTE teachers and students for your dedication. [#CTEMonthIV](#)



## SUHSD Launches Exciting New Videos & Pathway Flyers

Sweetwater Union High School District (SUHSD) had two major marketing projects they recently completed. The first was the creation of two videos. One video is a general introduction to SUHSD pathways, while the second is about three generations of Sales & Marketing CTE teachers at Castle Park High School. The second project was the development of 15 pathway flyers (for the 11 pathways offered through the district). The flyers offer a sector description, the school sites offering the program, the courses offered, the certifications, the opportunities to continue within the pathway at Southwestern College, as well as job titles and hourly rates upon graduation. A true pathway from high school to community college to employment!

Visit their website at: <http://ccr.sweetwaterschools.org/cte-industry-sectors/> to see their great work.



## “Fashioning Through the Snow”

### Dress Design to be Featured by Encinitas Ballet

Inspired by white snow, winter holidays and documentaries about the Haute Couture design process, Carlsbad High School Fashion 1 students from 3 periods worked collaboratively to create, “Fashioning Through the Snow,” a haute couture hand-crafted gown made entirely from paper, tissue paper, and white fabric. Once completed, Encinitas Ballet Academy saw the dress and asked permission to manufacture the design for their next Christmas Show! What an exciting opportunity for students in the Fashion pathway to apply their creative talents and technical skills to a real-world project, while at the same time building a brand within the local dance community! CHS Fashion students are excited to explore this collaboration. Next steps for the project include:

(1) Fashion students provide sketches of the modified dress for ballet, (2) Encinitas Ballet Academy to confirm with their costume shop the ability to manufacture the design, (3) CHS Fashion Program to be listed in the Encinitas Ballet Academy program, (4) Encinitas Ballet could possibly perform at CHS to promote the costume design as well.



## Women in STEM

Did you know that only 28% of S.T.E.M. professionals are women? Using K12 Strong Workforce Program funding, GUHSD is working to close the S.T.E.M. gap in Career and Technical Education! On February 2, 2022, GUHSD hosted a free webinar for students and families entitled, “Women in S.T.E.M.” The purpose of the webinar was to inspire young women to pursue careers in S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics / manufacturing), as well as to educate all students on how to prepare for a career in one of these high wage, high growth fields. The keynote speaker was Michelle Vargas, who works as a quality control engineer for biotech company Pacira Biosciences. In addition, the webinar included a panel discussion of women who have forged successful careers in cybersecurity, construction, manufacturing, and aerospace engineering. Mount Miguel alumni, Janelle Duenas, who now works as an engineer for N.A.S.A.’s Deep Space Network, was one of the featured panelists. Over 110 people attended the event and 236 people from around San Diego county registered! All registrants received a follow-up email with a [LINK](#) to the webinar recording, information on GUHSD CTE/S.T.E.M. pathways and additional resources for further exploration.

**GUHSD C&CR**  
Presents:  
**Women in S.T.E.M.**  
A Free Informational Webinar  
for Students and Parents  
**Save the Date!**  
February 2, 2022  
4:30 - 6pm

**The World Needs Women in S.T.E.M.**  
Learn about the many awesome career opportunities available for women in science, technology, engineering and manufacturing!

Featuring Panelists from the following Industries...

- Engineering
- BioTechnology
- Computer Science
- Manufacturing
- Building & Construction

Don't let anyone rob you of your creativity, your curiosity, or your quest to know more about the world. It's your life. It's not too late to do all you can with it, and make the life you want to live.

**Register Today!**  
<https://bit.ly/CTEWomen>

**C&CR**



## Women Who Inspire Event: Thermo Fisher Scientific and the Academy of Health Sciences - Clairemont High School

This fall, San Diego Unified College, Career and Technical Education (CCTE) was excited to partner with Biocom and Generation STEAM to bring the “Women Who Inspire” event to the students of the Academy of Health Sciences from Clairemont High School. This event featured a keynote presentation by Lisa White, President, Fisher Scientific Channel for North America and Emerging Markets and a panel of female leaders from Thermo Fisher Scientific, representing executive leadership, scientists, human resources, and marketing. Students learned about the variety of career opportunities available at Thermo Fisher Scientific, what makes a successful professional in a STEAM field and highlighted the many career pathway opportunities available for students to discover and explore. Students explored their own strengths, interests and values, and networked with the guests during a luncheon following the panel. The event allowed CCTE Health Sciences and Medical Technology students to recognize the classroom skills they have developed as students are relevant in modern STEAM career pathways as well as providing unique access to leaders in those fields. We are looking forward to the next Women Who Inspire Event to be held on March 8, International Women’s Day!

## INDIVIDUAL SPOTLIGHT

We want to welcome [Michael Gomez](#) to our team! Michael is the newest K12 Pathway Coordinator, hosted by the San Diego County Office of Education and serving the Palomar Community College District service area.

