

Career Connected

Career Technical Education Program Spotlights

December 2022/January 2023 – Issue No. 3

Community Outreach Events

The Hmong Cultural New Year celebration 2022 was held at Fresno Fair Ground from December 29 to January 1, 2023. It was the most important celebration event for the Hmong community to honor and celebrate their cultural traditions, costumes, food, music, and dance.

The Fresno State Journey to Success Education Conference was partnered with Fresno Unified School District and held on January 13, 2023. Over 700 students attended the conference and participated in workshops, resources fair, and entertainment. Our CCR department staff participated in the two events and shared information about CTE pathways and programs, Guidance and Counseling information, and Extended Learning programs available to students.

Stop the Bleed Certifications

Phoenix Secondary

Close to 50 students at Phoenix Secondary school were certified by the American College of Surgeons to "Stop the Bleed" in emergency situations using direct pressure, wound packing, and a tourniquet. These trainings better prepare the public to save lives if people nearby are severely bleeding. This improves victim survival by empowering trained bystanders to take life-saving action if quickly needed—regardless of the situation or cause of severe bleeding.

DECA Regional Leadership Conference

Bullard High School

Bullard High School's Business Marketing and Technology Pathway went to San Ramon, CA, to compete in our first DECA Regional Leadership Conference Competition. Over the course of a rainy weekend, 11 students from the pathway competed in competitions related to marketing essentials and business ethics. One of those students, senior Roman Van de Mark, emerged as a finalist!

MASH Building Grand Opening

Duncan Polytechnical High School

On January 12, Duncan had its grand opening and welcomed industry partners, students, and families to come through to see the newest medical building. The new facility provides all students in MASH industry- aligned opportunities to be both College and Career Ready.

Juniors Visit Neighborhood Thrift

Patiño School of Entrepreneurship

Students working on a project where they are identifying potential environmental impacts of their business ideas visited local recycling hub, Neighborhood Thrift, to learn about ways they are practicing sustainability, reusing, and recycling.

Fresno State Department of Justice Forensics Lab

Hoover High School

On December 2, the Hoover Public Service Forensic Science classes attended an industry visit to the department of Justice Crime Lab located on the Fresno State Campus. This annual field trip gives the students an opportunity to make real life connections between the learning and activities in the classroom and their practical applications in the crime lab.

The students met with a criminologist who examines DNA, fingerprints, blood samples, bullet casings, narcotics, and so much more. The students were able to see how evidence collected in the field is validated in a lab environment for use in court of law.

This is the 5th year in a row the Hoover Forensic Science classes has had this opportunity. We are very grateful to Criminologist Holly Scott and all the members of the Crime Lab for hosting us and providing our students with this real world opportunity.

Computer Science Expo

Edison High School

Over the week of January 23rd, Edison Computer Science students, in collaboration with Bullard, participated in CSExpo, which included numerous activities to celebrate the world of computer science. On Monday, Edison students presented projects that they had worked on throughout semester one to students and staff from both Edison and Computech, as well as industry partners. A variety of projects were shown, including websites detailing EHS student clubs, an app to create your own Pokémon cards, and even senior capstone projects such as math games for elementary students and a reminder app for Android phones. On Tuesday, Edison students visited Bullard to view and provide feedback. Students gained perspective into different approaches to computer science and shared tips and experiences. On Wednesday, students researched the upcoming guest speakers, leading into the Guest Speaker Series on Thursday and Friday. Six guest speakers across eight different sessions spoke to students about different areas in tech, including how to break into the industry, barriers to achieving goals, various careers, and post-secondary training opportunities. Big shout out to Amazon and Clovis Community College for providing speakers!

Student Spotlight: Samuel Martinez

Duncan Polytechnical High School

Junior Samuel Martinez is no stranger to hard work. He got his first job at 13 helping with landscaping projects, later moved on to roofing and house remodeling projects, and now after getting experience from his CTE classes, works part time doing custom welding fabrication. After learning about the pathways in 9th grade he was immediately drawn to welding because he loved the process of creating something amazing out of a simple sheet of metal.

"[In welding there is] always something more to learn, to get better at, and stuff you don't know. No matter what I'm doing or how many times I've done something there is always something new to learn, something new to discover." In addition to learning how to be a welder, Samuel has chosen to take on another title in his class: assistant-teacher. Samuel has taken the initiative to provide additional support to his classmates who struggle with learning challenges or are hesitant to weld. This has taught him how to adjust to the learning needs of others. "I love seeing the process from them being nervous to being excited to weld."

In the future, Samuel hopes to open his own custom fabrication business, and these inter-personal skills should go a long way in helping him retain quality employees. Owning a shop that does versatile work in trades like construction, heavy equipment, and custom car fabrication will help "keep things fresh, and [he] loves to figure things out and learn new things." Some of the projects that he's most proud of is work that no one else likes to do because they are challenging. He has welded gas tanks for race cars, show cars, and classic cars and helped rebuild the frame of a 1972 Ford. He is proud that the car owners "trusted me to work on these cars that they care about so much and are going to enter into competitions." He also helped to build tilt up reinforcements for a new building so he gets to see his handiwork any time he drives by. With his talent and go-getter attitude, Duncan staff are all looking forward to seeing Samuel benefitting the community for years to come.

"[When I see] someone struggling or needing help, I understand. I don't have male figures or other people to help show me things, so I know being nice goes a long way."

Pharmacy Technician Students

Duncan Polytechnical High School

Starting January 16th, 12th grade students in the Pharmacy Technician pathway received real-world experiences by going out to a few local pharmacies during their school day. This has been a game-changer of an experience for our students as they are learning straight from our pharmaceutical industry partners on the skills they will need in this career. Thank you to all our industry partners who continue to support our students with amazing opportunities like this!

Law Pathway Tosses Teddy Bears for a Good Cause

Bullard High School

Bullard High School's Law and Social Justice Pathway, and specifically members of its law club, held a Teddy Bear Toss at a boy's basketball game to collect donations of stuffed animals for first responders in the community. The stuffed animals will be given to police, fire, and EMS officials to help comfort and console young children who are experiencing traumatic events. It was very successful and the Law pathway would like to thank our campus School Resource Officer and Probation Officer for lending their support as well.

McLane Teacher Academy at Wishon

McLane High School

This year McLane's Teacher Academy has re-established a partnership with neighboring Wishon Elementary to allow students weekly work opportunities during the school day. McLane students interested in the career field of education have been placed in classrooms at each grade level where they are gaining experience on how to lead students in learning, developing lesson plans, and supporting the after-school program.

Fresno Unified Recognized with Safe Kids Award

Sunnyside High School

Fresno Unified has been recognized by Safe Kids Central California, led by Valley Children's Hospital, for its work to prevent injuries through awareness and training. The district's efforts have included trauma training for high school students, such as Stop the Bleed, which is offered to CTE students across our district. Sunnyside CTE Ambassadors from the Health Science pathway accepted the Safe Kids award on behalf of Fresno Unified.

CART Showcase 2023

Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART)

Student projects focused on designing video games based on novel plots, the neuroscience of illusions, real-world environmental assessments, and many more. Lab teams excelled at sharing their academic knowledge, skills, and teamwork. Six student teams presented to community judges.

The top prize went to a team from the Law and Policy Lab. The team advocated that body positive lessons they designed would combat body shaming among elementary school age students. Thank you friends, families, community members, and Fresno and Clovis district staff for your attendance. The students were grateful to have the opportunity to share their work.

Live From the Heart

Roosevelt High School

Health Pathway Physiology students had the opportunity to observe and ask questions directly to surgeons, nursing staff, and other medical professionals as they watched an open-heart surgery. The procedure observed was on a 70-year-old male to reconstruct the coronary artery using a graft taken from the upper inner thigh area. Students watched the OR set up and patient prep before observing the surgery. During the surgery, the chief surgeon, nurse practitioner, scrub nurses, anesthesiologist, cardiac perfusionist, and surgical nurses all spoke about their job's level of education. Each medical professional talked through exactly what was being done while wearing a microphone. A moderator read the questions being asked through zoom and relayed them to the medical staff. While each person was talking, a slide was shown with education requirements and salary, etc. This surgery was part 2 of a 4-part lesson on the Cardiovascular/Respiratory (Transport) lesson in Physiology.

Youth of the Year

Manager Grady Lane and TSA Leanne Cervantes-Johnson joined industry partners Lieutenant Ignacio Ruiz, Sergeant Anthony Alvarado, and other Fresno Police Department Officers to celebrate the Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno County Youth of the Year scholarship and benefit dinner. The Youth of the Year from various Boys and Girls Clubs around Fresno County compete to earn scholarships and to represent the Boys & Girls Clubs of America as the Youth of the Year. Student essays, interviews, and speeches highlight stories of resilience, hope, and courage as they overcome obstacles yet continue to lead other youth from their respective clubs.

Forklift Certification

Hoover High School

On Tuesday, January 9th, Pape Mechanics delivered the forklift. We purchased a new to us Hyser 40 Electric. Students will be trained in groups of 6 on Saturdays in early 2023 to get their certification. Our shop instructor, Justin Priest, trained to train students to become forklift certified. We hope that this experience will give students the tools to leave Hoover with on the job certification and experience to work in our community and support themselves. The delivery driver mentioned that starting forklift rate is upwards of \$30/hour.

Food Handler Certifications

Roosevelt High School

97% of Roosevelt's Foods and Nutrition students have obtained their ServSafe Food Handler Certification so they now can be employed in the food service industry. The ServSafe Food Handler Certificate verifies basic food safety knowledge and is for individuals in food handler employee-level positions.

Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction

Edison High School

A shout out is in order to Mr. Wiebe for being selected as a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by the National Society of High School Scholars. This honor recognizes exemplary educators whose passion and devotion inspire their students to grow and develop as scholars, leaders, and citizens. Mr. Wiebe was nominated by one of his students for outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence in the profession.

Advocacy Billboard

Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART)

On January 11, a group of students in CART's Law and Policy Lab took a short ride down Clovis Avenue to take a picture with the billboard they designed as part of their advocacy campaign. During their advocacy project, students met and learned from Billy Montoya, a graphic artist from Outfront Media. Montoya volunteered his time as a guest speaker at CART where he shared his expertise regarding billboard designs and slogans. Each student was able to get personalized feedback on their initial design.

Students not only created a billboard, but worked with attorneys from local law firms including McCormick Barstow, Wanger Jones Helsley PC, Moran Law Firm, and the Fresno County District Attorney's Office. Each week, students met with their attorney mentors and shared their passion and vision for a new policy related to an advocacy topic. These topics ranged from homelessness to sexual harassment to human trafficking to LGBTQ+. Over the course of seven weeks, students researched and met with local nonprofits related to their topic, examined current policies, studied advocacy poetry and wrote their own poem, and ultimately designed a website that contained their group's policy proposal.

The project culminated in group presentations to panels of community members which included a local attorney, Fresno county judges, a Fresno Community College political science instructor, and Fresno Business Council CEO, Deborah Nankivell. Groups are at various stages of moving forward with implementation of their policies at Clovis or Fresno Unified School District schools. Difference for Children – the winning billboard group, mentored by attorney Michael Renberg – hopes to continue their partnership with Fresno Unified junior high schools.

Internship Students Open Campus Closet

McLane High School

Following the example of a similar project at Bullard High School, two students at McLane who have been part of an internship experience at the Poverello House were inspired to start the McLane Closet, a place on campus where students will be able to get needed clothing and hygiene products free of charge. Their mission is to support students in need by creating a safe space to "shop" either by drop-in or through private appointment. So far the closet has been funded through public Donors Choose projects and stocked primarily through generous donations from the McLane community, but will begin holding regular drive events in February.

Visit by South Korean Educators

Patiño School of Entrepreneurship

A group of South Korean educators with the Asan Teacher-Preneur Global Study program visited Patino School of Entrepreneurship. They toured the site, spoke with students, and met with administration to discuss the program, teaching, and curriculum at the school.

IDATA Hosts Spring Advisory

Duncan Polytechnical High School

On January 25th, the Innovative Design and Applied Technology Academy (IDATA) hosted an Advisory Night for Industry and postsecondary partners, current students, alumni, and parents to come together and hear presentations on program curriculum and instruction and provide feedback. Michelle Garcia-McGaughy of McGaughy's Suspension, who has now attended two IDATA advisories and hosts welding interns at her business, spoke about the importance of the partnership between local industry and the school, saying, "Providing students exposure, opportunities, and skills to allow many skilled job possibilities is what the program is all about!" IDATA consists of five career pathways for students to choose from: Automotive Technology, Construction Technology, Manufacturing and Product Development, Medium/Heavy Truck Technology, and Welding Fabrication.

Teachers use the feedback from these meetings to continuously refine and improve the programs so students graduate with the relevant and up-to-date skills and competencies necessary to be successful in the workforce and college. Senior Construction student Alexis Cortes Rivas wants to join the Carpenters Union after he graduates, so getting to meet a union rep at the meeting was important to him as he now can "contact him to ask questions so when I enroll I know what I need to now to improve and get ahead." Current students are also already planning on attending future meetings once they are in the industry. "In the future I would be down to come back and give advice. We come from the same community so I want to give back," says Justin Men, a Construction senior

Multimedia & Marketing Students Receive Coaching at IMAGO

Sunnyside High School

IMAGO hosted Sunnyside Multimedia & Marketing students and provided soft skill feedback to help prepare students with professional skills for internship opportunities across Fresno.

Institute of Technology

DeWolf High School

DeWolf welcomed the Institute of Technology to learn about their career pathway programs. Students learned about their culinary arts, barbering, and cosmetology programs, and participated in hands-on demonstrations.

Excellence in Education

Every year, the District showcases employees nominated by their colleagues through the Excellence in Education awards. Hundreds of employees are nominated in six different categories and sixty finalists are honored for their hard work and dedication to our students and community. This year, two Career Technical Education (CTE) teachers - Chris Fuge from Sequoia Middle School and Taylor Vizthum from Computech Middle School - were among the finalists recognized for their talents. Gianni Danisi, Teacher on Special Assignment, and Julie Mavrogeorge, Coordinator II, represented our CTE Department and were honored for their visionary work and collaborative spirit. We are proud of our CTE team members! Congratulations on this amazing accomplishment and recognition!

First Responder Camp

Over 40 students in grades 8-12 joined the First Responder Career Camp engaging in fast-paced, hands-on exploration of careers as first responders! In partnership with the Fresno Police Department, Fresno Fire Department, and American Ambulance, students experienced careers in law enforcement, firefighting, and emergency medical services. Camp experiences included demonstrations from the Fresno PD K-9 Unit, Mounted Unit, SWAT, Motors, Bicycle Unit, Patrol Unit, Emergency Vehicle Operation Course (EVOC), Fire Fighting simulation, and an Emergency Response Scenario with Fresno Fire and American Ambulance.

Subscribe

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

www.ccr.fresnounified.org/career-readiness