



## **January 2023 Newsletter**

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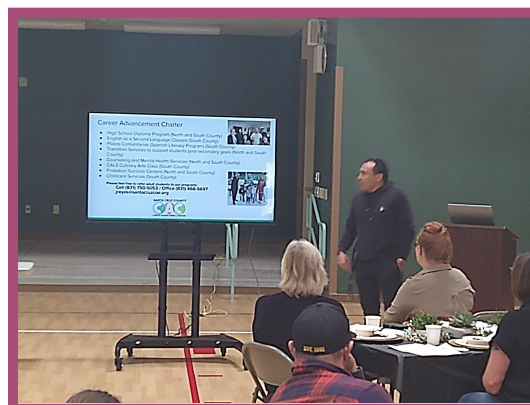
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# CALS Department Team Meeting



The CALS team had the opportunity to come together as an entire department and celebrate all the hard work and collaboration this semester. Our team was treated to an amazing lunch, catered by Vrinda Quintero and Andrea Mollenauerour own CTE Culinary students. In addition, music for the event was provided by Beth Hollenbeck's CTE Digital Music class. The CALS team is very grateful for all our staff and student contributions this year!





## CALS Course Websites!

Over the fall, the CALS team collaborated on developing websites for the various courses and pathways offered. The goal is to provide an overview of the courses, information about locations and times, and detail on requirements and expectations. We encourage you to share these with staff, students, and parents to learn more.

- [Culinary Arts Career Pathway](#)
- [Cybersecurity and Networking Career Pathway](#)
- [Fire Technology](#)
- [Information Support Services Career Pathway](#)
- [Medical Assisting \(Adult Program\)](#)
- [Dental Assisting \(Adult Program\)](#)
- [Building Trades Pre-Apprenticeship - BTPA \(Adult Program\)](#)

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## CALS Team Welcomes New Team Member

We are excited to introduce the new member to the CALS team, Angelica Ruiz has been with the COE for 6 years and was formerly the Project Specialist with the Sueños Program. Angelica's new role is the K12 Pathway Coordinator. As the K12 Pathway Coordinator she will work as the liaison between the K12 sector and Cabrillo College in order to strengthen CTE programs and career pathways.

# Magnet Courses Registration Is Open!



The CTE Magnet courses are an important option for high school students looking to discover potential careers within a wide range of career sectors. The COE's high-quality CTE courses allow students the opportunity to gain high school and college credit while meeting the UC A-G

requirements.

With the 2023-2024 school year schedule process for classes beginning now, please share the following resources with your students about the wide range of opportunities the Santa Cruz COE has to offer within CTE. All courses are UC A-G approved and provide students the opportunity to earn college credit through our partnership with Cabrillo College.

Flyers are available for download:

- [Culinary Arts Career Pathway](#) / [Culinary Arts Career Pathway \(Spanish\)](#)
- [ICT Career Pathways](#) / [ICT Career Pathways \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Fire Technology Santa Cruz](#) / [Fire Technology Santa Cruz \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Fire Technology Watsonville](#) / [Fire Technology Watsonville \(Spanish\)](#)

**Registration in all courses is limited, so encourage students to sign up right away. Our CALS team works with all counselors throughout the county to ensure courses will be added to student's schedules.**

**2023-2024 STUDENT  
REGISTRATION**



## **CTE Program Spotlight - The New Culinary Career Pathway**

For more than 15 years, the COE has offered Culinary courses throughout Santa Cruz County. These courses have provided students the opportunity to explore a career in this field while having the potential to earn both high school and college credit. Due to the expanding interest from students, the CALS team increased the number of sections for Culinary Arts and piloted a new Baking and Pastry class. With increased interest by students, next school year we will be officially offering our courses as a complete Culinary Career Pathway.

Students interested in this pathway will start with the year-long Culinary Arts Course. Once successfully completed, they would be able to take the second course, Baking and Pastry, to complete the pathway. Students taking these courses will have the opportunity to earn a Food Handlers Card which is necessary to work in this industry. Students looking to continue further in this field will have the opportunity to progress further through the Cabrillo College Culinary Programs.



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# Adult Learning Programs

The CALS team is extremely proud to offer a variety of career pathways for our adult students. The Dental Assisting, Medical Assisting, and Building Trades Programs help prepare students for the skills necessary to be successful in each of these industry sectors.



The first semester was a very busy time for all three adult programs. The Dental Assisting program completed a series of important steps to providing students a path to their future careers within the dental industry. Students successfully completed the first of the four certifications they will be earning through the program. In October, students started their online learning module for Dental Practice Act and Infection Control. Students finished the process by completing their clinical testing skills in infection control in November. Students have also started their second certification, BLS Basic Life Support CPR, and will continue to progress into the last two certifications starting the new year.



The BTPA program had another successful cohort this past fall with all students completing the entire course and earning several certifications. In addition, the program piloted the new Career Skills two-week, non-credit certification, in partnership with Cabrillo College. This new certification provided students the opportunity to develop industry-ready resumes and learn about the latest interviewing skills. The program's impact on providing opportunities for careers in this field was exemplified by one of the current graduates. One week after completing the course, a student was hired by the City of Santa Cruz Water Department with full benefits. Excellent work!



The end of the first semester concluded with our Medical Assisting students completing their Medical Terminology and Administrative coursework. With this foundation, the class has now transitioned to practical hands-on components of the course involving injections, blood pressure, CPR, and externship at local medical offices.



## Sueños Spotlight



This quarter's Sueños spotlight features the COE's own Verenise Valentin. In 9th grade, Verenise's sister, who also works at the COE, suggested Verenise enroll in Sueños to receive support and career direction. At the time Verenise was attending Kirby school and living in Watsonville. Verenise, self-described as a shy person shared that Sueños "helped me step out of my comfort zone, it felt like a place I belonged".

Verenise explored different career paths through Sueños programming and discovered an interest in a teaching career. Sueños supported Verenise in job placement at a daycare center. Employment at a young age gave her confidence, motivation, and a paycheck. Verenise also felt motivated to continue her education through Cabrillo and UCSC. Verenise has been with the COE since 2019. Currently, she is the assistant to the Superintendent, a very important job that she does so well. Thank you for sharing your story and all that you do for the community!

If you or someone you know is interested, applications can be completed in person or at the following link below.

[Sueños Pre-Screening Application](#)

## CAC Updates



The Career Advancement Charter (CAC) is an Independent Study program for adult learners to earn their high school diploma while gaining academic and technical skills that will lead to college and career readiness.

In January, the CAC will celebrate 46 graduates from our High School Diploma program. We look forward to celebrating their accomplishments at the graduation ceremonies.

### **Evening classes are being offered at the CAC!**

Culinary Arts with instructor Vrinda Quintero takes place every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at our Sequoia Schools kitchen. Students can earn credits for electives and other core subjects.

Vrinda is also offering a new component to the Culinary Arts class called *Garden to Table*, every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Garden to Table explores decolonizing and reclaiming indigenous foods while empowering students to build their own identity and agency. Along with knife skills, the importance of language and emotional fluency is highlighted. An emphasis is also placed on food as medicine and the importance of our eating habits and their impact on our communities (worker rights) and environment (climate change). This is a bilingual course in English and Spanish.

The CAC is excited to begin offering ESL Evening classes every Wednesday and Thursday from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Students can earn English credits for attending.

If a CAC student is interested in attending an evening class, childcare is available at no cost! Childcare is available for children up to 8 years of age every Monday through Thursday from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at our South County location.

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The BACCC comprises 28 colleges and their framework is to facilitate, collaborate, plan, manage, communicate and inform their local education agencies (LEA's) about career education programs. It creates career pathways through collaborations with the K12 and Adult Education Consortia partners to prepare students for high demand, livable wages.

The BACCC in collaboration with the K12 Pathway Coordinators, LEAs and their local CTE counselors are rolling out "Gladeo". A platform that provides personalized education and resource recommendations to facilitate the dissemination of career pathways.

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For more information about CALS, please visit our [website](#).