



May 2023 Newsletter

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Year in Review

A Message From The CALS Executive Director, Sony Guerra-Sanson



This 22-23 school year has been one of growth and learning for our Career and Adult Learning Services Department. In addition to improving many of our technical pieces such as our SIS system for CTE classes, website development, maintaining the articulation as well as A-G approved status of all CTE classes, automated attendance reporting,

efficient intake processes for HSD (high school diploma) students, we have also added robust programming department-wide including the addition of a Baking and Pastries class at Cabrillo College, the addition of a CAC HSD site at the Probation Service Center, piloting new ESL curriculum, offering Spanish literacy classes in Watsonville, ongoing professional learning opportunities, Career Fairs and outreach, Cabrillo Career Skills Certifications, and our first Building Trades Pre-Apprenticeship Program at the Rountree Correctional Facility.



While the technical and programmatic components are important, we have also worked intentionally to build community and partnerships both within our department at the COE as well as with our community partners. The interpersonal relationships that we have with one another are critical in promoting positive outcomes for our

students. We value our connections with all of our community members and look forward to continuing to work and grow together. Our goals for the upcoming school year include a relevant and engaging work-based learning component, portfolio development, exit interviews for CTE students, a program-wide career skills budget project, expanded ICT sections, an adult Dental Assistant Apprenticeship Program, expanded HSD services, and additional CTE certifications for adult learners. With a strong and committed team, community collaboration, and our continued combined efforts, we look forward to continuing to build a strong CALS program that benefits learners across our county.



CALS 2023-2024 Student Showcase

The CALS team has been very proud of all the accomplishments that have taken place throughout the year. The dedication of students, staff, and the community has provided a great deal to celebrate.

We invite you to enjoy our short video that provides a glimpse into this year.

[STUDENT SHOWCASE](#)

CTE Registration Still Open For Students!



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 - Culinary



This quarter's spotlight features our wonderful Vrinda Quintero. Vrinda has been with the COE since 2020 as our Culinary Arts teacher with the CAC and Sequoia. In addition to being our wonderful teacher, she's an entrepreneur who owns a business: [Areperia 831](#) that was recently awarded the "[Be the Difference Award](#)" for her continued work and dedication within Santa Cruz County. Vrinda is a special individual and is highly connected to our community. She serves in various committees

across Santa Cruz County, has facilitated various community events, and serves as part of our work-based learning project with our Career Technical Education.



Vrinda recently took it upon herself to once again give back to her community. Vrinda along with her work-based learning culinary students, assisted with preparing meals for those who were affected by the floods in Pajaro. During this project, they cooked meals for 3 weeks and fed up to 300 people. Students assisted with distributing and serving food at the Santa Cruz Fairgrounds.

The CALS Team is so fortunate to have such a dedicated and passionate teacher. Thank you, Vrinda!

Adult Learning Programs

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education is excited to offer Dental Assisting, Medical Assisting, and Building Trades programs to help prepare adult students for the skills necessary to be successful in a future career. These hands-on programs will provide all participants to earn certifications and direct connections to industry experts.



The adult learning MA/DA programs have been busy this spring with recruitment for the 2023-2024 school year. We are excited to report that we have over 35 applications for Medical Assisting and over 20 for Dental Assisting. We are extremely excited about this increased interest in our programs and are looking forward to full classes this Fall. Our team is currently conducting orientation and interviews for prospective students.



Building Trades Pre-Apprenticeship Program

The BTPA Program is currently finishing up our third cohort of a very successful year.

Throughout the year, students that have graduated from the program have successfully found employment in this career sector.

The program continues to grow in interest, with applications being submitted throughout the year. We are very excited about this program continuing next year, with applicants already requesting into the Fall Program.

Sueños Spotlight



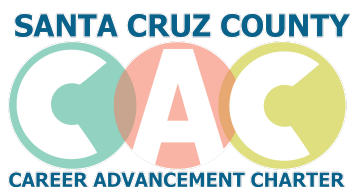
The Sueños Program supports teenagers and young adults (ages 16 to 24) to develop workplace skills that will prepare them to enter and thrive in an increasingly competitive labor market. Sueños is a Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE) program in partnership with the Workforce Development Board of Santa Cruz County.

At the end of March, Sueños had 10 participants complete the Architecture & Construction Career Cluster Academy. Youth had the opportunity to explore careers in Architecture & Construction, learn about career pathways in the industry, participate in job shadows, and earn a \$150 incentive for their successful completion.

Sueños participants also had an opportunity to attend a Career Panel featuring professionals in health care, education, and architecture.

[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.

Annual Hero in Prevention Award Awarded to Jesus Reyes

Our friend and colleague, Jesus Reyes, is being honored with an Annual Hero in Prevention Award through PVPSA. This award is given to individuals in our community who exemplify a commitment to prevention and creating positive, safe, and healthy environments. Jesus is so deserving of this award! We all know how he works tirelessly and with so much corazón for the community he serves. Jesus will be honored later this month. Congratulations, Jesus! And thank you for all that you do for our community.

Certification Pilot Program

The CALS team is happy to share that our CAC instructors participated in our [Certiport](#) pilot program. CAC students have been using the spring to test out the different certification curriculums and explore career possibilities. We would like to give a special thanks to all our CAC instructors for participating in the pilot program, with the team looking forward to a full program rollout in the Fall!

Additional updates

The CAC hosted their first-ever Career Fair on Apr 27, 2023 . The event was held to expose adult students and alumni to a variety of careers and to allow them to connect with professional community members and leaders in career pathways.

We look forward to celebrating the Class of 2023!

North County Graduation Ceremony will be held on May 23 at 5:00 PM and South County Graduation Ceremony will be on May 25 at 5:00 PM.



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.

K12 Strong Workforce Program funds will release their round 6 RFA for those school districts wanting to expand or develop new career pathways. Applications will be due mid-October 2024.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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