



Fall 2023 Newsletter

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Welcome back!



The Career and Adult Learning Services team (CALS) would like to welcome staff, students and community members to the 2023-2024 school year. We are proud to deliver programs that help prepare students and adults for careers in high-demand sectors with livable wages. These programs include:

- Sueños
- High School Career Technical Education
- Adult Career Technical Courses
- Career and Advancement Charter (CAC)

Each of these programs aims at meeting students where they are at, providing encouragement, support and exploring opportunities. As our department continues to grow, our team remains focused on our mission that CALS provides students with the opportunity to acquire academic, career, and technical skills and to prepare for life-long learning and success in the changing workplace. Our team's optimism has never been stronger with several new initiatives, new staff, planning for new courses and strong student interest in all courses.

Latest News



August Professional Learning

The 2023-2024 school year kicked off in August with our CTE and Adult Education instructors coming together to participate in our first team professional learning. With many new additions to our team, it was an opportunity to get to know each other, share teaching strategies, goals and plans for the year. This year our team will be putting a great

deal of emphasis on a new portfolio format to prepare for our end of year student exit interview.



CALS CTE Portal Upgrades

The CALS team, in collaboration with Tech+, spent the summer working on phase two of the CALS CTE Portal. The portal now provides our CTE instructors and district administrations access to site specific student data through a web based client.

In addition, Miguel Rocha, the COE Data Scientist, helped develop an automated system to enable counselors the ability to add/drop and move students through a form. CALS is grateful for the collaboration with Miguel on this portal and our continued goal of improving the portal throughout the year.



Career Highway Portfolio

The CALS Team is excited about our new partnership with [Career Highways](#).

[Career Highways](#) provide students with AI-Based Career Development toolset free for students for life. Students in our CTE program will have access to college

& career exploration curriculum, career development tools and an amazing ecosystem of jobs, employers, training, education and resources. To help prepare our students for our new professional exit interviews program at the end of the year, our instructors will be utilizing the web based Lifetime Digital Portfolio and Resume builder.

In addition [Career Highways](#) has:

- Over 1,000 careers across every sector for your exploration
- Over 140,000 educational programs from over 5,000 institutions – all mapped to the careers you are interested in, pick a Career and easily search all of the educational programs in a geographic area that will help prepare you for that career
- Over 3.5M jobs from 20k+ employers across the country – also all mapped to the careers you are interested in, pick the Career(s) you are interested in and search for jobs or employers that are part of that career or will help prepare you for that career.

With the CALS team continuing to aim on providing students as many resources as possible to help prepare them for careers in the future, this partnership will enhance their CTE experience.

Magnet Courses



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 provide students the opportunity to gain high school and college credit while meeting the UC A-G requirements.

This year, students participating in these courses will have the opportunity to earn an additional non-credit Career Skills Certification through our collaboration with Cabrillo College, develop a professional portfolio through our new partnership through Career Highways, and celebrate their work with our end of the year Student Showcase. This year our Student Showcase will feature a new component that will include student exit interviews, delivered by industry and educational professionals to help better prepare them for real-world job opportunities.

In addition to all the exciting additions to our programs this year, we have a great deal of projects that are being worked on for the Fall of 2024. The following are items that our team is working on for the future:

- Complete Fire Tech Pathway with articulated course new 2nd year Emergency Response course
- Planning for new Career Pathway in Engineering and Design
- CTE Middle School Program/Makerspaces
- Investigating interest in a High School Dental Assisting course

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Adult Learning Programs

Our Medical, Dental, and BTPA programs are off to a very strong start with an amazing group of motivated students ready to take on the challenge of their new career endeavor.



Our [Dental program](#), led by Debbie Martinez, is proud to see an increase in student registration this year. Debbie is excited to announce that this year she will be able to offer the certifications of Infection Control/Dental Practice Act through FADE. In addition, our Dental Assisting team continues to work with our new partner, [Dientes](#), to provide students with paid internships during the

second semester.



Our [MA program](#), under the leadership of our new Instructor Georgie Anaya, has been focusing on building the foundations for the hands-on practicals that will take place during the second semester. In addition, our new Transition Specialist, Rita Medina, has developed a series of

academic support programs to provide students both individual and group tutoring sessions.



Our [BTPA program](#) is proud to once again run a cohort in collaboration with Rountree Corrections this Fall. This 10 week program will provide students the opportunity to learn the skills necessary to enter into the building and trades workforce. For this cohort, Sean Patrick is excited about the addition of our new BTPA instructor, Barnaby Lee, who will collaborate with Sean

throughout the year on the program.



Sueños Updates

The [Sueños Program](#) supports teenagers and young adults (ages 16 to 24) 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.

Participant Highlights

Two Sueños participants were nominated for the Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Board's WIOA Workforce Achievement Award this year. The purpose of the award is to recognize the hard work of WIOA participants who overcame adversity and succeeded in achieving their goals. Both nominees have shown commitment to reaching their goals, dedication to increasing their skills, and a determination to improving their lives. We congratulate them both on their nomination and accomplishments.

When **Eric** enrolled in Sueños, his two goals were to return to school to attain his High School diploma and to get a better paying job. Eric knew that in order for him to get a better job, one that he enjoyed and offered him opportunities for advancement, he would need to go back to school for a high school diploma. One of the first steps Sueños staff assisted Eric with was enrolling in the [Career Advancement Charter \(CAC\)](#). Having previously struggled in a traditional education system, the CAC was able to provide the individualized academic support Eric needed to succeed. Eric proudly received his High School Diploma the Summer of



2023 and is currently in a paid on-the-job training program with the City of Watsonville's Public Works Department. Eric will complete that training program soon and hopes to have a permanent job within the Public Works Department.

Valerie enrolled in Sueños in August of 2022 and has since been an exemplary participant. She has taken advantage of numerous WIOA services offered, including being co-enrolled in the youth and adult WIOA programs. Valerie has been able to participate in career development, entrepreneurial skills training, job readiness and paid work experience offered by the Sueños youth program. Valerie is also currently attending the CALS Medical Assisting program paid for by a scholarship through the WIOA adult program. On top of this already busy schedule, Valerie is also employed as a full time Caregiver with Hope Services. Although Valerie has a lot going on, she doesn't give up. Life has not been easy for her, however her perseverance, hard work, and not shying away from asking for help when she needs it, have led her closer to reaching her goals.

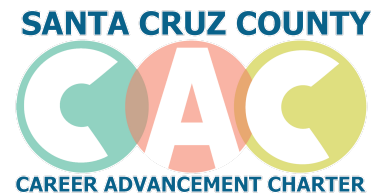


If you or someone you know is interested, applications can be completed in person or the following link below.

[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.



Outreach Successes

The CAC team has been actively conducting outreach in the community to connect adult learners to services in the CAC and CALS department. In August, our transition specialists conducted outreach at the Cabrillo College Fall Registration Fairs in collaboration with GOAL—Santa Cruz County’s Adult Learning Consortia. Later in the month, in partnership with the Community Action Board, the CAC participated in the Reiter Berry Farms Resource Fair to bring essential information on resources and educational opportunities to our farmworkers.



ESL Evening Classes

We are excited to continue to offer English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to CAC students and community members. ESL classes are offered every Wednesday and Thursday from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at Sequoia Schools. The advanced level ESL class takes place every Wednesday, and the beginning level ESL class every Thursday. Upon enrollment, students will take an evaluation for placement into a level.



Plazas Comunitarias

The CAC is proud to continue to partner with Watsonville Public Library (WPL), INEA (Instituto Nacional para la Educación de los Adultos), and the Mexican consulate to offer free basic skills education classes in Spanish. This Spanish literacy program is known as Plaza Comunitaria. Plaza Comunitaria classes aim to help adult learners who have immigrated from a Spanish-speaking country finish or begin their elementary or secondary education in Spanish. In addition, interested students develop the skills necessary to pass high school equivalency exams (GED) in Spanish or to enroll in the CAC as a high school student to earn a high school diploma. Classes are offered at Sequoia Schools in Freedom every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Classes are also offered at the Watsonville Public Library (main branch) every Monday and Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. For more information or to enroll call 831-750-5053 or 831-768-3410.

PSC (North and South County)

The CAC program partners with the Probation and Corrections of Santa Cruz County to support those taking steps to fulfill their high school education. The Probation Success Center or PSC are places where high school teachers offer math, computer literacy, and English classes along with 1-1 tutoring for students to prepare for high school equivalency exams. Students can choose either path for achievement and receive credits towards their high school diploma as they study. The Independent Study program is an integral part since most clients are also using the PSC for other resources such as job search, counseling, parenting courses and more.

Adult Learning Enrichment Opportunities

All students enrolled in the CAC have the opportunity to participate in a variety of evening courses, ranging from culinary arts, to hands-on math tutoring, to ESL support classes. CAC students also have the option to pursue Dual Enrollment or non-credit career education classes at Cabrillo College. Additionally, we are pleased to share that we continue to offer

work-readiness and job skills certification opportunities to our students through Certiport.

[LEARN MORE](#)



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.



My name is Jack Michael and I am our new CTE K12 Pathway Coordinator. I have worked for the COE's Alternative Education Department in College & Career Readiness since 2014 and our Outdoor Science School before that. I look forward to my new role as our Pathway Coordinator!

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 October 6, 2023. Opportunities for Regional Bay Area Partnership Grants include the ACOE's Green Careers and Skilled Trades Guidance Initiative, Apple Swift App Development, Earn & Learn Work Based Learning Support, Future Ready K12 Career Development Curricula, and Virtual Career Field Trips.

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

