



## Spring 2024 Newsletter

### In This Edition

1. Latest News
2. Magnet Course Updates and Opportunities
3. Adult Program Updates
4. CAC and Sueños
5. BACCC

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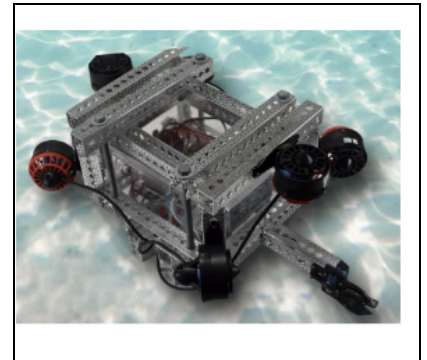
# Latest News



## High School CTE is Growing

With the growing demand and interest in Santa Cruz County Career Technical Education courses, the CALS is excited to announce several new additions to the 2024-2025 school year. After several years of Strong Work Funding, the [ICT Cybersecurity and Networking Pathways](#) will successfully transition to self-sufficiency with four confirmed sections in the Fall. The [Culinary Arts Pathway](#) also continues to expand under the expertise of our CALS instructional staff with the established Baking and Pastry course and a new Culinary Arts section in partnership with Costanoa High School.

The CALS team will also pilot two new courses for the 2024-2025 school year. Building off the momentum of this year's [Robotics clubs](#) led by the CS/Tech+ Team, we will offer our first CTE Robotics course at Sequoia High School. Using team collaboration, critical thinking, and programming skills, students will design and build underwater ROV robots that will perform various tasks to simulate industry simulate real-world ROVs - searching for shipwrecks, surveying and repairing coral reefs, maintaining underwater power lines and supporting aquaculture.



In addition, CALS has been working in collaboration with Cabrillo College, Scotts Valley Unified School District, and San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District to offer a new Medical Terminology course hosted at Scotts Valley Middle School in the fall. Students from SCCOE, SVHS, and SLVHS interested in health careers in Medical Assisting, Sports Medicine, and Health Services are encouraged to participate. For all other Santa Cruz County students, CTE counselors enroll students for similar available courses.



## **CALS and Tech+ Host Spring AI & Me**

(AI) offers transformative potential for education, enhancing both teaching and learning experiences. For teachers, AI can provide personalized resources, automate administrative tasks, and offer insights into student performance, allowing educators to focus more on teaching and less on paperwork (this paragraph was developed with [Microsoft Co-Pilot](#)). Thanks to our partnership with [Santa Cruz Works](#) and our amazing team of guest speakers, Tech+ and CALS shared an

engaging conversation about where AI is currently at and its potential for the future. In addition to learning about the latest tools, such as [Microsoft Co-Pilot](#), experts from Microsoft and Amazon shared examples of how AI is being used in industry and how it can be applied throughout all sectors.

If you missed the event, you can view our conversation by visiting the [Santa Cruz COE Think Big! website](#). We encourage everyone to keep a look out for the upcoming Fall Think Big! Event, that will also include a student contest.



## **CTE Spring Counselor Meeting**

The CALS team hosted our annual Spring CTE Counselor meeting at our 399 Annex conference room. This collaboration enabled our team to connect counselors throughout Santa Cruz County, share feedback concerning our CTE programs, provide district updates, and enjoy time for lunch. In addition, planning time was utilized to review class lists for all magnet

programs and outline new potential initiatives for the upcoming school year. We are so grateful for the dedication and collaboration Santa Cruz County district CTE counselors provide for students.

# Magnet Courses



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

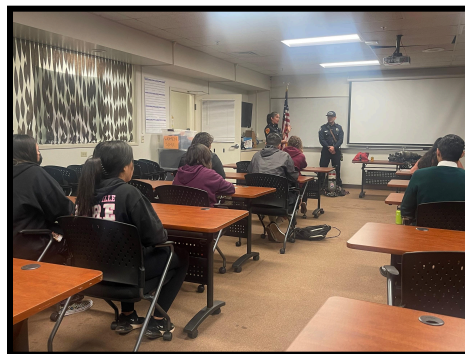
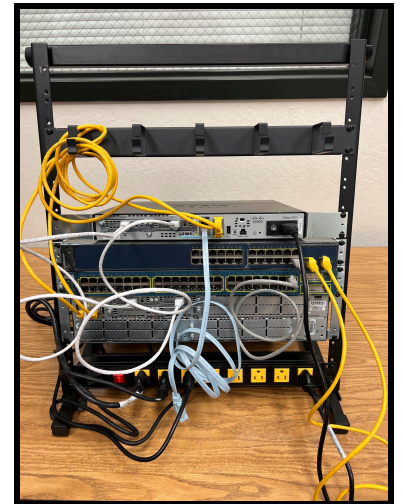
The 2024-2025 magnet courses are filling up quickly! All courses are UC A-G approved and offer the opportunity to earn college credit through our partnership with Cabrillo College.

Please visit the following websites for more information::

- [Culinary Arts Career Pathway](#)
- [ICT Career Pathways](#)
- [Fire Technology](#)

**Registration in all courses is limited. Our CALS team works with all counselors throughout the county to ensure courses will be added to student schedules.**

**STUDENT REGISTRATION**





# Adult Learning Programs

Our Medical, Dental, and BTPA programs are progressing with an amazing group of motivated students ready to take on the challenge of their new career endeavors.



This year, the SCCOE is partaking in a new and innovative Apprenticeship initiative in California. Apprenticeship is the model of the future as a mechanism to eliminate the barrier between education, training, and employment to create a seamless pathway. While apprenticeship models have traditionally been associated with sectors like Construction and Manufacturing, they have become instrumental for training and career preparedness in growing industries statewide, including healthcare. We are excited to integrate

this model into our Dental Assisting program, providing two pathways for students to earn their Dental Assisting certifications.

In addition, we are very close to finalizing registration for our Dental Assisting Apprenticeship program with [California's Division of Apprenticeship Standards](#) (DAS). [Dientes Community Dental Care](#) has been identified as a key partner. As the largest dental organization for low-income, publicly insured individuals in Santa Cruz County, Dientes staff focuses on providing high-quality, affordable, comprehensive dental care to improve the health of our community. Dientes is partnering with the SCCOE to recruit a diverse pipeline of workers for their largest workgroup, Dental Assistants. We hope to establish a network that benefits apprentices and contributes to the overall prosperity of the regional workforce, creating valuable opportunities for individuals to pursue in-demand, family-sustaining careers, with the potential for professional advancement in the dental industry.

**Dental Assisting applications will be closing at the end of May.**

[LEARN MORE](#)



### [The Building Trades Pre-Apprenticeship \(BPTA\) Program](#)

completed the 6th cohort in early January. With three successful sessions at our 399 facility and two at the Rountree facility for the Department of Corrections, BTPA continues to grow. We take immense pride in the dedication of our graduates and our ability to help secure meaningful employment through our training.

Concluding on March 27th, the 6th cohort successfully graduated 12 dedicated students who are prepared to advance their vocational journeys in the trades. This cohort stood out as it included three graduates from Alternative Education, showcasing the COE's impactful work within the community. One standout graduate has taken the electrician union entrance exam with [IBEW local 234](#) and is awaiting results. This individual has also applied to the [Watsonville](#)



### [Watsonville Waste Water Treatment](#)

[Center](#), demonstrating a clear trajectory toward full-time employment. Another example of BTPAs ability to provide a career trajectory can be seen with an additional graduate's recent entrance into the [Sheet Metal Workers Local 104 union](#).



[BPTA](#) will complete the 2023-2024 school year by completing its 3rd cohort at Rountree in May. Upon release, graduates will be equipped with work boots

and a stipend, empowering them to transition into the trades workforce.

[LEARN MORE](#)



The CALS team, [CAL FIRE](#), and California Conservation Corps completed two cohorts in this first year of The [Wildland Fire Academy](#). [The Wildland Fire Academy provides](#) adult students an opportunity to earn certificates in both CAL FIRE & National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) needed for an entry-level firefighter position.

Throughout the two cohorts, students dedicated themselves to two weeks of field and classroom work that provided a strong foundation for the demands of being a firefighter. This included the opportunity to work together to learn skills to support fire suppression, using and maintaining tools, hose lays, mobile attack, using a chainsaw, and completing certification exams in the evening. We look forward to this continued partnership with CAL FIRE and the California Conservation Corps.

We encourage interested individuals to check for the latest updates on our website.

[LEARN MORE](#)

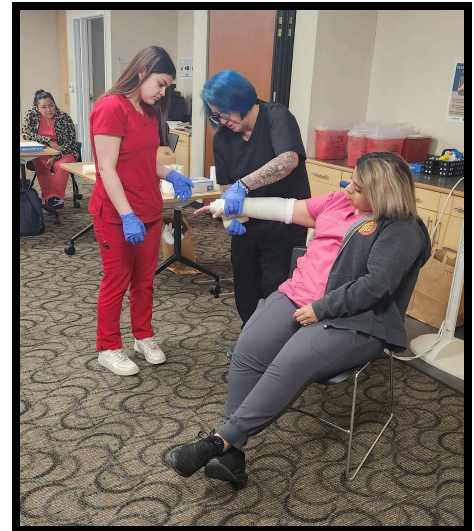




Throughout the second semester, [Medical Assisting](#) students have been focusing extensively on the clinical skills component of the program. During the past several months, students have been applying principles, such as pharmacology, pharmacology math, administering medication, and the principles of infection control.

These clinical skills have included working on calculations and conversions for administering injections, practicing intradermal injections using saline solution on one another, and actively using medical terminology. As skills progressed, students participated in mock clinics throughout February that provided a variety of scenarios to troubleshoot.

The various scenarios included venipuncture, and urine analysis within a simulated urgent care setting. With the class concluding in May, students will be refining their documenting skills by implementing medical terminology and abbreviations and presenting in specialty clinics such as orthopedics and endocrinology. The CALS team is excited to celebrate the graduation of the 2023-2024 class in May!



**Medical Assisting applications will be closing at the end of May.**

[LEARN MORE](#)

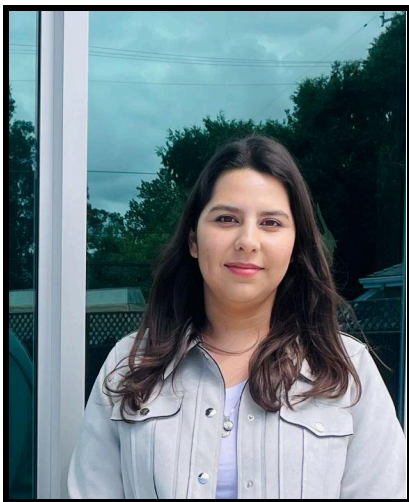




## Sueños Updates

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.

### Sueños welcomes two new team members!



#### **Maria Martinez, Work Experience Specialist**

Maria brings to the team years of experience working with youth and adults in the Watsonville community. Maria's ability to network and her knowledge of the various resources available to the community of Watsonville is an asset she shares with Sueños staff and participants. Maria's caring nature, kindness, and patience allow her to make strong connections with program participants and their families. During her free time, Maria loves spending time with her family and exploring new places. She likes being out in nature, going on walks, exploring new scenery and taking in magnificent views.

#### **Erika Urbieto, Youth & Young Adult Employment Specialist**

Erika is a recent graduate of Cabrillo College and was born and raised in Watsonville. Erika is looking forward to expanding her knowledge and experience working with youth and their families. She also hopes to someday become a valuable resource and support system to the individuals she works with. For fun, Erika likes spending time with her two kids, going for walks, shopping, and listening to music.

The Sueños program is happy to have these two wonderful individuals join the team.





## Architecture & Construction Career Cluster Academy



Sueños participants completed a 3-week Architecture and Construction Career Cluster Academy. Participants were introduced to careers in Architecture and Construction and had the opportunity to explore career options through various activities, such as job shadowing, labor market research and a career panel. In addition to getting exposure to different career opportunities, participants develop a Roadmap to their dream job and earn a \$150 incentive for completing the academy.

### [Sueños Pre-Screening Application](#)

Sueños Office Hours:

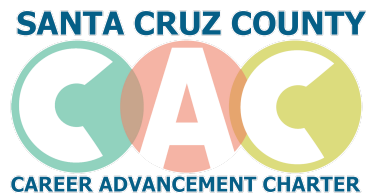
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Monday through Friday

229 Green Valley Rd. Freedom, CA 95019

(831) 466-5672

## CAC Updates

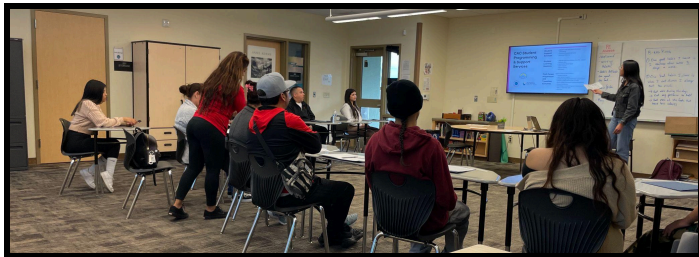


[The Career Advancement Charter \(CAC\)](#) is an Independent Study program for adult learners to earn their high school diploma while gaining academic and technical skills that will lead to college and career readiness.



**Sequoia Schools Community Evening Dinner Offering:** We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Vrinda Quintero, Edith Corrales, and our dedicated Sequoia Schools staff for their efforts in preparing the evening meals for our students participating in our programming. Vrinda hopes to establish this as an ongoing tradition for our Sequoia Schools community.

**CAC Orientation for New Students:** In an effort to better serve our students, the CAC is now implementing a new registration process. New students attend an in-person orientation designed to inform new students of all the services and community partnerships that the CAC currently offers. CAC South County orientations take place weekly. Orientation is intended to help students be successful from day 1 and beyond. During the orientation, students complete registration and assessment activities. New students interested in the CAC, can use this [LINK](#).



**Evening Child Care:** In an effort to support our adult learner parents, we offer childcare services two days a week. Our childcare operates **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4pm-7pm**. Our caregivers engage with the children in a variety of learning and enrichment activities.



**CAC ESL Class:** 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, classroom 223. The advanced level ESL class takes place every Wednesday, and the beginning level ESL class every Thursday. Upon enrollment, students take an evaluation for placement into their appropriate level.

**Plazas Comunitarias in Santa Cruz County:** CAC is proud to partner with the



Watsonville Public Library, INEA (Instituto Nacional para la Educación de los Adultos) and the Mexican Consulate to offer free basic skills education classes in Spanish, known as Plaza Comunitaria. The Plaza Comunitaria classes aim to help adult learners that 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. Please share this information with your students and their families and any other community partners/agencies/businesses that may benefit from this resource. Classes are offered at Sequoia Schools 229 Green Valley Rd. Freedom and at the Watsonville Public Library. For more information call 831-768-3410.

[LEARN MORE](#)

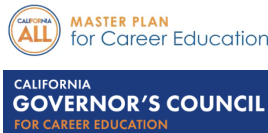


The [BACCC](#) comprises 28 colleges and their framework is to facilitate, collaborate, plan, manage, communicate, and inform their local education agencies (LEA's) about career education programs. It creates career pathways through collaborations with the K12 and Adult Education Consortia partners to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

Powered by:

**VISION 2030**

A Roadmap for California Community Colleges



**State Plan for Career Technical Education**

### Upcoming Events & Deadlines



[Youth Apprenticeship Week](#)

5-11 May 2024

### Dual Enrollment / Articulation



[eForms](#) for Summer & Fall '24 Dual Enrollment classes opened Apr 1st

[Dual Enrollment Exchange](#)

Bay Region



### Apprenticeships / Internships



[Valley Water](#) Apprenticeship



[Summer](#) Registration Opens

- May 14th (Priority)
- May 16th (Normal)



[Executive Order](#) on Scaling & Expanding the Use of Registered Apprenticeships in Industries & the Federal Govt Promoting Labor-Management Forums



[Fall](#) Registration Opens

- May 16th (Priority)
- May 27th (Normal)

\*Apply by March 29th for Priority Registration



[Registered Apprenticeships](#)

in the Bay Region

### Conferences / Continuing Ed / Professional Development



## [Cabrillo Internships and Work Experience](#)



## [ignited](#)

Paid Summer Industry Experience Weeks for Educators

- [Water Week](#) June 24-28
- [Semiconductor Secrets](#) July 15-19

## Grants



### [Middle School Foundation Academies](#)

Planning & Implementation Grant

- Program Questions: [Teri Alves](#), (916) 322-0374

Due May 1, 2024



### [Selection Committee Members Needed](#)

for K12 SWP Application: Round 7 - 2024



### [CTE Grant Writing Support](#)

with Dr Linda Wells

## Ongoing Resources



### [Central Coast K16 Regional Collaborative](#)

K12s, Community Colleges, CSUs, UCs, and industry partners collaborating to address inequalities in our region.



### [Build California](#)

Free resource for students interested in the Building Trades



### [GLADEO Bay Area](#)

*Find a path to your dream career in the Bay Area*

## Legislative Updates

[AB 1871](#) Adopted course of study for Grades 7-12: Social Sciences & CTE, personal financial literacy

[AB 1927](#) Golden State Teacher Grant Program: CTE Instructors

[SB 1244](#) Pupil Instruction, Dual Enrollment, College & Career Access Partnerships

[AB 2019](#) Early & Middle School College High Schools and Programs: CCAP Partnerships

[AB 2273](#) CTE: CA Pilot Paid Internship Program

[CTE Policy Watch](#)

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