



## Fall 2024 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 2024-2025 school year. We are excited to welcome back our students, staff, and families for what promises to be another wonderful year. We want to especially welcome our new CALS team members; Tim Sylvester, Betsy Vasquez, Nayeli Diaz, Mary Maleta, Jonathan Sandoval, Miriam Brito-Sanchez, Xitlali Cabadas, and Julie Madrona. Welcome to our CALS department, we are so grateful you are here!

Over the school year, the CALS team will be sharing the latest news and highlights of our various programs. These include:

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

This year, we are excited to introduce several new initiatives, programs and staff members that we believe will enhance the overall educational

experience for our students. From innovative learning opportunities to a continued focus on social-emotional development, career development, and inclusiveness, we are dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of our learners.

We also encourage all our amazing partners and families to stay involved and connected. Your partnership is essential to our success, and we value your input and engagement. Together, we can create a supportive and enriching environment where our students thrive both academically and personally.



### **August Kick off with CALS Instructional Team Meeting**

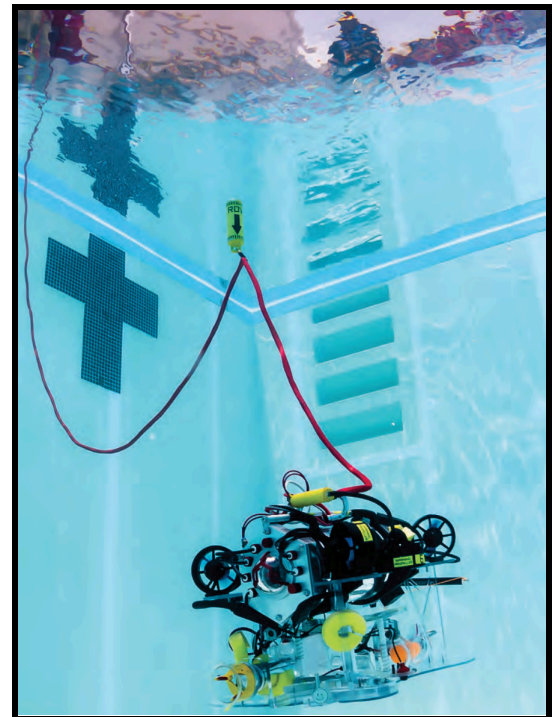
The 2024-2025 school year kicked off in August with our CTE and Adult Education instructors coming together to participate in our first team instruction meeting. This year, both our CAC and CTE programs will be participating in renewing our [Western Association of Schools and Colleges \(WASC\)](#) accreditation. This year-long process will be a collaborative effort amongst our instructors, staff, district partners, and community to analyze our areas of strength as well as areas for improvement within all facets of our programs. During the August meeting, our instructors helped provide specific feedback to our team that will culminate in a final report and WASC team visit. We are looking forward to sharing the conclusion of the report during the month of May.

## CTE Courses



CTE 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 we are excited about the additions of our Robotics and IT essentials courses at [Sequoia High School](#). The Robotics course, led by [Joby Engineer](#) Tim Sylvestor, will be looking to build upon the momentum of the COE and [X Academy](#) Robotics team that recently placed third [at the World Championships](#). Tim is bringing the same energy and enthusiasm to the new course that meets on Wednesdays for a 3 hour block. On the very first day of class, students built prototype ROVs and tested them in a portable pool at Sequoia. We are really excited to see how this course will grow throughout the school year.



In addition to Robotics, our [ICT Career Pathway](#) has expanded to [Sequoia High School](#) as well, under the leadership of Greg McCarthy. Greg is looking forward to students building out desktop computers as well as developing a new student led Tech Support Program at the school. The goal is to build up student expertise during the first semester to provide real world experiences with tech tickets.

In a joint partnership between [Scotts Valley Unified School District](#), [San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District](#), and the [Santa Cruz COE](#), the CTE team developed a new high school Medical Terminology Course. This year-long course, hosted by Scotts Valley Middle School, provides students the opportunity to explore careers within both the Health and Sports Medicine industry. We are excited to have our new Medical Terminology instructor, Jonathan Sandavol, leading this opportunity.

Lastly, we are extremely excited to have our [Culinary Arts](#) program expand to Costanoa High School, bringing our total sections offered to five. Chef McKinzie and Chef Andrea continue to evolve the Culinary Arts Pathway into one of the most participated programs within CTE. Chef McKinzie's passion has translated into a high interest opportunity for students, with the class also utilizing Coastanoa's garden as a farm-to-table approach.

The Santa Cruz COE is looking forward to more expansion of CTE offerings for the 2025-2026 school year. We will be working closely with our district partners to share information as these new initiatives become available.

[LEARN MORE](#)



# Adult Learning Programs

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



The Santa Cruz COE, in partnership with nonprofit [Dientes Community Dental Care](#), is proud to announce the launch of the [Dental Assisting Apprenticeship Program](#). The program, which welcomed its first cohort of students on Monday, August 12, 2024, is designed to bridge the gap between education, training, and employment to provide a seamless pathway into the dental

industry.

Dental Assistants are among the high-demand jobs in Santa Cruz County, with over 600 annual job openings in the county and its immediate neighbors. The apprenticeship model directly addresses this workforce gap by providing a pipeline of qualified dental assistants who are ready to enter the workforce immediately upon completion of the program.

The apprenticeship program begins with a 5-week intensive classroom instruction period. The initial cohort of eight apprentices will then begin their paid on-the-job training, working 32 hours per week in local dental offices. Apprentices will continue to engage in weekly classes that provide the theoretical foundation needed for success in the dental field, and earn industry-recognized certifications, including Dental Radiation Safety, Infection Control, the Dental Practice Act, and CPR.

Alongside our Apprenticeship Program pathway, we will continue to offer our traditional training program pathway to interested students in the community this program year. Our [Dental Assisting Program](#), led by Debbie Martinez, is proud to see an increase in student registration. Debbie is

excited to announce that this year she will be able to offer the certifications of Infection Control/Dental Practice Act through FADE.

Our Dental Assisting program is also proud to share that the program has been approved by the CA Dental Board to offer Coronal Polishing certification. This certification will provide students the opportunity to further their steps toward applying for their Registered Dental Assisting License in the future. This class will also be offered to our local Dental Community as well.

**Applications for the 2025-2026 Dental Assisting program cohort are expected to open February 2025, with more information and a [student interest form](#) available at [dental.santacruzcoe.org](http://dental.santacruzcoe.org).**

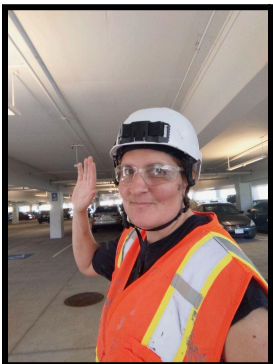


Our [MA program](#), under the leadership of our new Instructors Betsy Vasquez and Nayeli Diaz, are excited about our new year. Not only do both instructors bring a great deal of experience to the class, they are also alumni of the Santa Cruz COE MA program. Betsy has been in the field for 16 years and specializes in Urgent Care, Hematology, and Oncology. Nayeli has been in the field for 8 years and cross-trained in multiple departments from; Primary Care, Pediatrics, OBGYN, Cardiology, Nephrology, and now in Oncology/Hematology. The class is currently building the foundations of understanding the human body for the hands-on practicals that will take place during the second semester. In addition, our Transition Specialist, Rita Medina, has developed a series of academic support programs for our students to access online for their convenience.



The BTPA program was started in 2022. We have facilitated 8 cohorts and graduated over 40 students. Students have gained employment in local electrical and sheet metal unions, the Santa Cruz City Water Department, Watsonville Public Works, local contractors, electricians, and roofing companies as well as Santa Cruz City Schools and the COE.

The [BTPA program](#) is proud to offer 2 cohorts this fall. In August we launched our 4th cohort at Rountree Corrections facility. 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. The BTPA community program also opened in August with 15 students. This 10-week program will provide students the opportunity to learn the skills necessary to enter into the building and trades workforce. Both cohorts will complete at the end of October and students will be referred for employment at local unions and trades partners.



Jerry Scheiber is a May 2023 graduate. Jerry enrolled in the BTPA program to learn more about the multi-trades career opportunities. Through the successful completion of the program, Jerry has joined Sheet Metal Union (Local 104) and started a career! Jerry was hired by Local 104 in San José in August 2024.





## 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 COE program in partnership with the Workforce Development Board of Santa Cruz County.



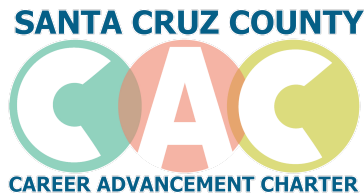
## Paid Work Experience

One of the most popular services offered by the Sueños program is paid Work Experience (WEX) opportunities. Sueños participants have access to meaningful and structured learning experiences at local worksites all around the county. Whether participants have previous work history or none at all, Sueños staff and worksite mentors guide and help them prepare for success in the workplace. Participants get up to 250 hours of paid WEX at a worksite that they select and that aligns with their career interest. Currently, 30 Sueños participants are working at various locations through our program. Examples of worksites partnered with Sueños include, Arte del Corazon, Calavera Media, City of Watsonville, Community Action Board, County of Santa Cruz, Hope Thrift, Muzzio Mosaic Art Center, Salud Para La Gente, Watsonville Public Library, Watsonville Fire Department, and many others. If you would like to become a worksite and mentor a Sueños youth please reach out at [bmunoz@santacruzcoe.org](mailto:bmunoz@santacruzcoe.org)

## Accepting Applications

Sueños currently has space for eligible youth to join the program. If you know an interested youth or young adult between the ages of 16-24, please encourage them to apply using the link below.

[Sueños Pre-Screening Application](#)

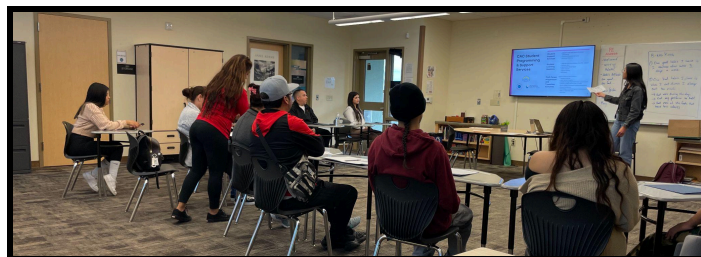


[The Career Advancement Charter \(CAC\)](#) is an Independent Study program for adult learners to earn their high school diploma while gaining academic and technical skills that will lead to college and career readiness.



**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.



**Evening Child Care:** In an effort to support our adult learner parents, we offer childcare services four days a week. Our childcare operates **Mondays to Thursdays from 3pm-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 5:15pm to 7:00pm** 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.

**Zumba Class:** We are thrilled to announce our new course for CAC students, Zumba class. Our students are welcome to join our fun and energetic Zumba class at Sequoia Schools Gym. This high-energy workout combines dance and fitness moves to Latin



and international music, making exercise feel like a party. Zumba class is offered every **Wednesday from 5:30pm to 6:30pm** at Sequoia schools gym.

**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.

**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.

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**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](#)





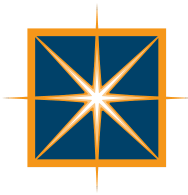
## Bay Area Community College Consortium

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.



## Labor Market Data from CDE Industry Sectors Taught in Santa Cruz County K12 CTE Courses

[This Spreadsheet](#) was created from LMI Data compiled by the Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research



## California Grants Portal

[The California Grants Portal](#) is your one destination to find all grants and loans offered on a competitive or first-come basis by California state agencies.



## Central Coast Regional Collaborative Student Engagement Opportunity

*Seeking students in healthcare or engineering/computing pathways or recent graduates*

### Age:

- Students must be 18+ for flexible scheduling; high school focus groups will be considered later

### Compensation:

- \$100/meeting or \$250 for extended meetings (4+ hours), paid through a non-profit or UC Santa Cruz

### Mentorship:

- Each student will have a mentor for agenda review and questions; leadership training will be offered

### Communication:

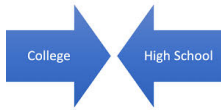
- Staff will connect with students via email and text.

### Term/Transition:

- 13-month term (Sep-Sep), with up to 2 months paid transition assistance

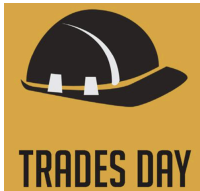


Due September 23rd [Flyer linked here](#)



## Early College Credit / Dual Enrollment Exchange

The Bay Region Early College Credit / Dual Enrollment Exchange is a monthly meeting where dual enrollment practitioners in the Bay Region come together to discuss challenges and best practices for dual enrollment. See all previous agendas and notes [here](#).



## Youth Trades Day, Santa Cruz County Oct 23rd

- Introduces high school youth to industry career opportunities in construction, design, sub-contracting, heavy equipment, engineering, and other skilled trades.
- Civic Center Auditorium
- School/Student Registration Due Oct 9th
- [Registration/Information here](#)

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