



WELCOME LETTER

2024-2025 Newsletter

IN THIS EDITION:

- Latest News
- Magnet Courses Update
- Adult Program Updates
- CAC and Sueños
- BACCC



OUR MISSION

The Santa Cruz County Career and Adult Learning Services (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.

Latest News

Social Media Posts

Have you been following the [Santa Cruz County Office of Education Facebook site](#)? If so, you might have noticed that the CALS team has been sharing updates about the exciting activities taking place in our courses. In partnership with the COE communications team, CALS is committed to highlighting our Adult and High School CTE opportunities and celebrating our students' success. We encourage you to follow the Santa Cruz COE Facebook site to see our latest updates!



Central Coast K-16 Collaborative

The Central Coast K-16 Collaborative brings together K-12 schools, 2-year institutions, 4-year institutions, and industry partners to tackle long-standing educational and economic inequities across Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. The Collaborative is a collective impact initiative focused on creating a future where historically marginalized students achieve their educational and career goals, securing high-wage, impactful careers that foster upward mobility.

The Collaborative prioritizes systemic changes that benefit economically disadvantaged students, leverages community strengths, and ensures all voices are heard. It actively works toward these three key goals:

- **Goal 1:** Aligning K-16 education systems to better support students, increasing transitions to college, reducing transfer times, and boosting degree completion rates.
- **Goal 2:** Addressing inequities within institutions by eliminating disparities in access, persistence, and graduation rates for underrepresented students.
- **Goal 3:** Building on students' cultural and linguistic strengths to prepare them for high-demand, high-wage careers in the region.

To achieve these goals, partners in the Collaborative are focusing on career pathways in **Healthcare** and **Engineering and Computer Science**, ensuring students are prepared for growing industries in the Central Coast region.

CTE Programs



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.

With the 2025-2026 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.

Please visit the following websites for more information

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

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



[STUDENT REGISTRATION](#)

YOUR FUTURE IS OUR BUSINESS

Your Future is Our Business is a non-profit organization that works to provide Santa Cruz County students exposure to local industry leaders. Please share the following scholarship opportunity with you students due by February 10th.



CTE SCHOLARSHIP

Enter to win a \$500 CTE Scholarship by writing a short essay or creating a short video about your CTE experience. Open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade CTE students in Santa Cruz County. Scholarships will be awarded at the 23rd Annual Your Future Is Our Business Luncheon!

March 21, 2025
11am-1pm

Twin Lakes Church,
Aptos, CA

The Luncheon celebrates our community partners and showcases students from Santa Cruz County high school career and technical education classes.

HOW TO ENTER

Please submit a short essay response (500 words or less) or video (3 minutes or less) by February 10th, 2025 using the QR code or link

What classes have you taken and what have you learned from them so far?

What is a quote, piece of advice or knowledge from your CTE class(es) that has helped you learn more about yourself or the world?

How have you benefitted from the CTE program?



LINK HERE:



Who are the most influential people to you and why?

What have you learned from a career panelist, expo exhibitor, job shadow, internship, or other experience in your community?

What are your life, career, and educational goals, and what is your plan to achieve them?

YFIOB.ORG



YOURFUTUREISOURBUSINESS



YOURFUTUREISOURBUSINESS@GMAIL.COM

YOUR FUTURE IS OUR BUSINESS

CAREER EXPLORATION SCHOLARSHIP



Enter to win a \$1,000 CTE exploration scholarship you can use to explore careers. Scholarships will be awarded at the 23rd Annual Your Future Is Our Business Luncheon!
Open to any 10th, 11th, and 12th-grade students in Santa Cruz County.

**March 21, 2025 | Twin Lakes Church,
11am-1pm | Aptos**

The Luncheon celebrates our community partners and showcases students and teachers from Santa Cruz County high school career and technical education classes.

HOW TO ENTER: USE THE QR CODE OR [LINK HERE](#)

Please submit an essay response (1,000 words or less) and a video (1 minute), and a letter of recommendation

by FEBRUARY 10th, 2025

Write an essay that explains how you would use this scholarship to explore career opportunities?

Tell us about yourself!

(Name, age/grade, the school you attend, CTE teacher name, your background)

Submit a video testimonial explaining how you would utilize the scholarship money.

Other talking points:
- your background (where you grew up, interests, family, etc.)
- anybody in your life that inspires/encourages you



Supply a letter of recommendation from a teacher, mentor, coach, counselor, or school administrator.

Students must be able to attend March 21, 2025, Your Future Is Our Business Luncheon.

Awardees must attend a financial literacy course.

Questions? Contact yourfutureisourbusiness@gmail.com

YFIOB.ORG



YOURFUTUREISOURBUSINESS



YOURFUTUREISOURBUSINESS@GMAIL.COM

[LEARN MORE](#)

Adult Education Program

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.

Dental Assisting Program



The Dental Assisting Apprenticeship Program launched on Monday, August 12, 2024, in partnership with the nonprofit [Dientes Community Dental Care](#). The program is designed to bridge the gap between education, training, and employment to provide a seamless pathway into the dental industry. Students in the apprenticeship program are engaging in on-the-job training at their assigned clinics whilst simultaneously engaging in classroom instruction every other Monday at the SCCOE.

The Dental Assisting Traditional Program started on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 with a cohort of ten students. The traditional program is a great pathway for students who want to engage in classroom instruction while maintaining a flexible schedule. Students in the program have most recently completed the Infection Control and Dental Practice Act certifications, and have started the Dental Radiation Safety Certification.

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Applications for the 2025-2026 Dental Assisting program cohort are expected to open February 2025!

[LEARN MORE](#)

Adult Education Program

Medical Assisting Program



With the conclusion of the first semester, our **MA program** students completed the Administrative portion of the course in the first semester. The completion of the administrative component is a major accomplishment within the program's requirements. The second semester will include the clinical portion of the course where they will gain hands-on clinical skills and certification in Venipuncture, Phlebotomy, and First Aid/CPR.

Providing students connections to the local medical community is an important aspect of the programs goals. Instructors Betsy Vasquez and Nayeli Diaz work as Medical Assistants locally at The Sutter Health Palo Alto Medical Foundation. In October, students attended a volunteer opportunity through the Sutter Health hematology and oncology department. The event, Rainbow of Ribbons, promotes cancer awareness in our community. Thank you to both Betsy and Nayeli for providing this opportunity.



[LEARN MORE](#)



Adult Education Program

Building Trades Pre-Apprenticeship

The BTPA program continues to thrive with two additional cohorts this fall. Students who completed these cohorts received certification in MC3, OSHA 10, First Aid/CPR and are job-ready and employable. This 10-week, no-cost program is an intensive hands-on program designed to prepare adult students for entry into a fulfilling career with great potential for growth.



- • In partnership with Rountree, the CALS BTPA cohort is proud to have graduated 4 students at the end of October. Upon completion and release, these graduated students received a \$300 stipend and work boots to support their success in the trades industry. The CALS team also provides individual consultation that includes being referred to local agencies to seek employment.
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Adult Education Program

Building Trades Pre-Apprenticeship

The community program, located at the Santa Cruz COE, graduated 14 students at the end of October. Students had the opportunity to tour the large-scale [Trubeck Construction](#) site at [Kresge Hall on the UCSC campus](#). Students saw and heard from multiple trades in action: welding, general construction, electrical, sheet metal, and heavy equipment operators. Under the canopy of redwoods, it felt like the Disneyland of the trades. The BTPA program strives to provide these offsite experiences to provide students a real world connection to this career.



The winter/spring cohort sessions are already at capacity, so those that are interested should continue to check our website for Fall 2025.



[LEARN MORE](#)

Adult Education Program

Wildland Fire Academy

The CALS team is excited about the growth of our [Wildland Fire Academy](#). Working in partnership with [CAL FIRE](#) and [California Conservation Corps](#), students complete training needed for an entry-level firefighter position.



Nine students completed the Wildland Fire Academy program graduated in November. These students learned the necessary skills to take on firefighter positions, including building fire lines, deploying fire shelters, using equipment safely, mop up and patrol, and more.



[LEARN MORE](#)

Career Advancement Charter



Sequoia Schools Community Evening



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 **Tuesday and Wednesday from 5:15pm to 7:00pm** at Sequoia Schools. The advanced-level class takes place every Wednesday, and the beginning-level class every Tuesday. Upon enrollment, students take an evaluation for placement into their appropriate level.

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.



New CAC Photography Class: We are very excited to share the addition of a new class to our offerings in South County for CAC students. This class, explores the fundamentals of digital photography. Students will develop technical and artistic skills, with the chance to earn credits in fine arts, applied arts, or electives. All experience levels are welcome.

Career Advancement Charter



Sequoia Schools Community Evening



Plazas Comunitarias: 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.

PSC North & South County: The CAC program partners with the Santa Cruz Adult Probation to support those taking steps to fulfill their high school education. We currently offer HSD/HSE services at both locations.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Sueños Program



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.

Spotlight:

Workforce Achievement Award: We are proud to recognize **Adriana Reyes** as the recipient of the [Workforce Santa Cruz County](#) Achievement Award. This honor celebrates her resilience, determination, and unwavering commitment to personal growth and success.

Adriana is a dedicated student at Cabrillo College and has shown extraordinary strength in overcoming significant challenges. Living in the United States alone, away from her family and support system, she has faced immense barriers, but has continued to persevere with courage and determination. Despite these hardships, Adriana has excelled academically and actively participated in Sueños workforce development activities. Through her hard work, perseverance, and positive spirit, she has made remarkable strides inspiring everyone around her.



This is what Adriana had to share: "Sueños has provided me with invaluable support and guidance through my journey. Through their program, I learned how to create a professional resume and gained essential job skills thanks to their internship opportunities. The mentorship I received was crucial in helping me navigate challenges and achieve my goals. I am grateful for their support and dedication in helping young individuals like myself integrate into the workforce."

Please join us in celebrating Adriana and her remarkable achievements. Her journey is a testament to the power of resilience and the strength it takes to pursue dreams, even in the face of adversity.

Sueños Program



Exciting Opportunities for Sueños Participants

Our Sueños participants are taking a big step toward building brighter futures by attending job readiness workshops designed to prepare them for success in the workforce. These workshops provide essential skills such as resume building, interview preparation, workplace communication, job safety, and much more. By participating, they're gaining the confidence and tools they need to pursue meaningful career paths.



What's even better? Participants are being incentivized for their commitment and hard work, adding a rewarding boost to their journey toward career success!

We're proud of the determination and growth we're witnessing within our Sueños community. Stay tuned for more updates and success stories!



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](#)





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.



Gov Newsom Releases new framework to create high-paying career pathways with and without four-year degrees

In December, Gov Gavin Newsom Presented his Master Plan for Career Education at Shasta College. [Click here for the YouTube link](#) to the presentation and below are the highlights to the plan.

California Master Plan for Career Education:

Gov. Gavin Newsom unveiled a new blueprint to expand access to well-paying careers, particularly for those without college degrees.

Career Passport Initiative:

A digital tool will allow individuals to showcase academic transcripts, verified skills, and credentials earned both in and outside traditional education settings, such as military service.

Workforce Alignment:

A statewide collaborative of educators, job training providers, and employers will align curriculum and funding with labor market demands in high-demand sectors such as healthcare, climate, education, and technology.

Work-Based Learning Expansion:

High schools and colleges will offer more internships, apprenticeships, and dual-enrollment opportunities to better prepare students for the workforce.

Inclusive Workforce Development:

Emphasis on expanding access to education and job training for underserved groups, including people with disabilities, English language learners, and disconnected youth.

State Jobs Without Degree Requirements:

California plans to double state jobs that do not require college degrees, increasing from 30,000 to 62,000 by next year, with changes to positions like IT, analysts, and custodians.

Support for Veterans:

A new initiative aims to help 30,000 military veterans turn their service experience into college credits, focusing on California community colleges.

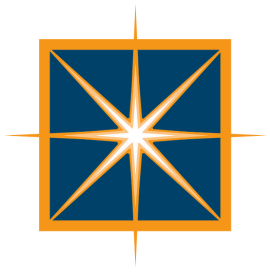
Economic Divide:

The plan addresses California's significant economic divide, proposing broader access to education and training for those unable to pursue a college degree due to financial or systemic barriers



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.

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