

K-12 STRONG WORKFORCE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER: REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

September 2021

SPOTLIGHT

K12 Strong Workforce Program (SWP) Request For Applications (RFA);

Budget/ Match Support: [Sally Cox](#) Application & Regional Priorities Support: [Leslie Wisdom](#)

Leveraging CCI Data to Inform CTE Grant Writing; [video](#) [slide deck](#)

Jewyl Clarke, San Diego County Office of Education

Center of Excellence Regional and Subregional Profiles; [North](#), [South](#), [East](#), [Central](#), [Imperial](#)



Imperial Valley Middle School Students Attend CTE Camps

Two Imperial County high schools launched their first-ever Strong Workforce Program CTE Camp for middle school students. Each camp offered general CTE education, career exploration, high school campus tours, and hands-on learning. At Brawley Union High School, incoming first-year students focused on two industry sectors: Public Safety and Welding and Materials. At Calexico High School, 7th and 8th-grade students attended a hybrid CTE Camp where they learned about nine pathways and six industry sectors.

The Launch Pad: A Career Center Reimagined

In the spring of 2019, the Cajon Valley Union School District and the San Diego Workforce Partnership (SDWP) initiated a new community of practice and strategic project with the support of American Student Assistance (ASA) and K12 Strong Workforce Program (SWP) grant funding. The goal was to expand the reach of the SDWP tools and data, leverage the World of Work (WoW) — a career development framework, and transform a middle-school library space into a career center called the Launch Pad. Their focus was on integrating career-related learning from the earliest grades, by bringing career and financial empowerment into the instructional core through teachers.



The project will soon grow to eight Launch Pads with new installations scheduled for the current school year. The district plans to continue to expand the program until all students are able to make informed secondary, postsecondary, and career pathway choices that lead to gainful employment. For more information, visit [Launch Pads](#).



New Biomedical Science Pathway at Coronado High

Coronado Unified School District launched a new Biomedical Science Pathway through Project Lead The Way with the hiring of Arrielle Luna, an alumna of the Sports Medicine pathway at Coronado High School and an athletic trainer for more than five years. It creates an additional avenue for students interested in health care, and will offer Human Body Systems this year and Biomedical Innovations as the capstone course next year. Along with the Biomedical Science Pathway, Ms. Luna will teach CUSD's Patient Care and Sports Medicine, and serve as the instructor for the work experience and internship class. She will be incorporating work-based learning throughout the curriculum.

Hyatt Expands Junior Task Force Program to North County CTE Students

Hyatt Hotels expanded its Junior Task Force Program to Career Technical Education (CTE) students in Oceanside, Carlsbad, and San Dieguito because of the success of its pilot program. In April 2021, Michelle Miller, Area Human Resource Director for Hyatt Hotels, developed a Junior Task Force Program for high school juniors and seniors at Oceanside High to assist with pre-opening projects at two upscale boutique Hyatt hotels slated to open in Oceanside later this year. Thirty high school CTE students were hired and paid as interns to work alongside Hyatt employees in various roles.

The program's success led to exclusive internship opportunities for North County CTE students and a permanent Junior Task Force program. For more information on upcoming student internship opportunities visit [Hyatt](#).



Mission Pacific Hotel and The Seabird Resort Debut in Oceanside



Kearny High CTE Program Featured on CBS 8 News

[CBS 8 News](#) recently spotlighted Kearny High School's Advanced Manufacturing Lab as the school prepares students to meet the demands of the San Diego economy while earning a livable wage. The segment highlighted the need for hands-on skilled workers, and San Diego Unified CTE Resource Teacher Greg Quirin emphasized the challenge of changing the perception of machine shops as low-skilled labor.

Kearny High teacher, Dionicio "John" Riego, has been at the school for over 30 years and has seen how yesterday's machine shops have evolved into labs populated with computer-driven instruments that can build intricate custom parts used in biomedical, automotive, and aerospace industries. Despite the hands-on positions often being overlooked, insiders say it is one of the best-kept secrets.

Poway Unified Expands Engineering and Manufacturing Pathway

Poway Unified School District CTE students can now participate in and complete engineering and manufacturing pathways thanks to K12 SWP funding. The new pathways provide transformative learning experiences that are engaging, real-world, hands-on, and conducted inside and outside of the classroom. These experiences empower all students based on their interests and regardless of past academic performance, to develop in-demand knowledge and skills they need to thrive. The expansion and improvement of career technical education and workforce training is an example of how the district is preparing students for high-wage, in-demand employment in industries that meet labor market needs.

