



## Teaching in a Virtual World

Career and Technical Education Center classes began in August in a whole new way. CTEC students are learning virtually as the COVID-19 pandemic has prohibited in-person teaching. But how do you teach hands-on, skill-based, vocational instruction?

Very creatively. CTEC instructors have dug deep into their tool boxes to develop lesson plans that engage students effectively online while insuring the highest levels of rigor. Classes this semester include:

- Introduction to Automotive   - Systems, Service & Repair   - Introduction to Energy & Power Technology
- Introduction to Manufacturing (Welding)   - Intermediate Welding & Materials

The AXC Automotive instructor is using his garage as a backdrop to his class. Other instructors have built their own websites to better assist students in their learning. The ingenuity of our CTEC instructors is impressive and commendable. And the commitment of our students also must be recognized. Thank you to everyone who supports CTEC.



## Thank You, Dr. Reynolds

Dr. Holly Reynolds, Executive Director of The Learning Centers at Fairplex, retired at the end of August after 20 years of service. Holly began her tenure at Fairplex as the Director of the Child Development Center. Under Holly's leadership, the CDC and TLC have enriched the lives of thousands of children and their families. Holly strengthened both institutions and significantly improved the quality of educational programming at Fairplex. We are grateful for her leadership and unwavering commitment to our shared mission.

We wish Holly well in her retirement.

Since Dr. Reynolds announced her decision to retire, Cielo Castro, Fairplex Chief of Staff, has stepped in to manage the Executive Functions for both TLC and CDC. Cielo is committed to continue engaging with the TLC Board mapping out TLC's next steps with the support of Nena Hernandez, Associate Director of Board and Donor Engagement, who re-entered the fold this month as Senior Director of Development Neel Garlapati was laid-off due the pandemic.

## **HARBOR FREIGHT**

### **TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS**

The Learning Centers at Fairplex's reputation for innovative learning has attracted the interest of another education innovator, Harbor Freight Tools for Schools.

Together, our two organizations are envisioning a *2021 Skilled Trades Summer* program that offers public high school students the opportunity to master critical skills in the trades, while attaining academic credits and industry credentials, participating in workplace-based learning and earning a summer wage.

Over the next 90 days we will be collaborating with key strategic partners to envision an engaging program that will help students with a passion for working with their hands start climbing the career ladder in the skilled trades sector. Our mutual hope: that this initial Skilled Trades Summer program forms the foundation for expanding high-quality skilled trades education opportunities for public high school students across Los Angeles County.

Proposals for this summer program are due in January. Our hope is that The Learning Centers' proposal will receive a "green light" from Harbor Freight Tools for Schools, earning us the opportunity to launch a new program that expands the contributions Fairplex makes to our communities.

To learn more about Harbor Freight Tools for Schools, visit their website at: <https://harborfreighttoolsforschools.org/>



### **Pivoting to Assist the Community**

Once the COVID-19 pandemic caused the closure of large-scale public events, Fairplex immediately turned its attention to its mission of being a community benefit organization. The campus

immediately pivoted from being a place for entertainment to a campus serving the community members most in need. The Child Development Center offered child care for essential workers, LA County coronavirus testing began in our parking lot, the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel became a medical shelter for essential workers and community members needing to quarantine away from family and we partnered with Sowing Seeds for Life food bank to offer a drive-thru food pantry on the drag strip. Thank you to the donors who contributed to the TLC COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. You touched the lives of many.

Los Angeles Magazine recently wrote about Fairplex's pivot from fairgrounds to community response work. Read the story here, [LA Magazine](#).

### **MAKE A GIFT**

*The Learning Centers at Fairplex is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization that, in partnership with Fairplex, provides a wide spectrum of innovative and enriching educational experiences that bring learning to life, benefit our diverse communities, and prepare our participants for success.*