

ALUMNI STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

GEOVANI DIAZ'S STORY



“My time at CTEC was truly enjoyable, to say the least. Not once did I have a bad day or feel bored while attending. Initially enrolled in the automotive 101 class out of necessity for extra credits to graduate, I found myself pleasantly surprised by how much I enjoyed it. What began as a mere requirement evolved into a genuine interest, prompting me to continue through the remaining auto classes. I owe this discovery to my friend Andres, who insisted I join him in the course.

CTEC opened doors I never knew existed, setting me on a path towards higher education and a career in the automotive industry. With invaluable guidance from my instructor, I was able to pursue further education in automotive technology and eventually secure a position as a service advisor for a Ford dealership. Without CTEC, I may never have acquired the skills necessary for this role.

Entering the class as a complete novice in car mechanics was intimidating, but the engaging and supportive environment quickly eased my apprehensions. The skills and knowledge I gained have been instrumental in shaping my career path and igniting a passion I never knew I had.

Without a doubt, the highlight of my CTEC experience was my instructor, Mr. Felix Carrillo. His guidance and mentorship both inside and outside the classroom were invaluable to my success. He has become more than just a teacher to me; he is a mentor and a source of inspiration for my continued pursuit of my passion for the automotive field. I hold him in the highest regard and am forever grateful for his impact on my journey.”

CELEBRATING WOMEN IN WELDING

"I've always been into cars and building things. I also love that I know more than my guy friends"

-Sophie, 12th grade

"My grandpa used to weld and I thought it was interesting. I've learned a lot and I like that we get hands-on experience."

-Abigail, 12th grade

"I like hands-on learning. I'm a visual learner. It helps me understand and apply the information we learn from the book."

-Daniella, 11th grade

"I am interested in engineering and STEM classes. I enjoy the hands-on experience, learning new things, and using tools in class."

-Natalie, 11th grade



In our Career Technical Education Center (CTEC), female high school students are boldly taking on the challenge of learning welding, a field mostly dominated by men. Despite traditional gender expectations, these students are diving into the hands-on work with enthusiasm, eager to learn about the craft. They show remarkable confidence, unafraid of any obstacles they may encounter along the way. By being part of the welding program, they're not just showing their appreciation for the trade but also breaking stereotypes and making the field more inclusive. These determined young women are proving that anyone, regardless of gender, can thrive in any field they choose.

THE LEARNING CENTERS STAFF HIGHLIGHT

PROGRAM AND EDUCATION MANAGER - LACY FLIPPIN

Lacy's journey with Fairplex began at the age of 15, marking her very first job. Enthralled by the fast-paced and exciting atmosphere, she returned each summer, taking on various roles within the Fair over the years. In 2017, she joined the team full-time, assuming responsibility for managing experiential learning programs and self-produced learning attractions. Her passion lies in working closely with Ambassadors, who are our volunteers that support education programs with TLC, recognizing their indispensable role in furthering the organization's mission. Lacy's vision is to further enhance the educational aspects of Fairplex, with plans to revitalize the arts scene at Millard Sheets Art Center. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her two dogs in their campervan by the beach.



CTEC INSTRUCTOR: BARBARA TUYEN

Barbara Tuyen has been a dedicated CTE agriculture instructor since 1999, with extensive experience in teaching various agriculture courses such as plant and soil science, horticulture, and landscape design. Currently, Barbara holds positions as an agriculture instructor and FFA Advisor at Don Antonio Lugo High School in Chino and the Urban Agriculture instructor at The Learning Centers at Fairplex.

Her educational journey started at Mt. San Antonio Community College, where Barbara earned an A.A. degree in Liberal Arts before transferring to Cal Poly Pomona's College of Agriculture. There, she focused her studies on Agriculture Science with a specialization in agriculture education. In May 2023, Barbara completed her M.A. degree in Career and Technical Education at Cal State San Bernardino's College of Education. Furthermore, she advanced her credentials by enrolling in an administrative credentialing program at CSUSB, with the aim of obtaining certifications in CTE supervision and K-12 administration.

Barbara believes it's important for students to understand the social and economic impacts of agriculture and learn of the career opportunities within the industry. Using The Farm as her classroom, Barbara provides hands-on learning experiences, sharing knowledge about sustainable farming practices while fostering confidence in her students' skills. Barbara ensures her students benefit from enriching opportunities such as tours and guest speakers throughout the year to enhance their educational journey.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER (CTEC)

This Spring, CTEC is thrilled to have 130 students. Enrollment is up 62.5% over last Fall's semester with Welding taking a lead in enrollment. Fifty-seven students are enrolled in Welding Manufacturing and fifty-five in Automotive Technology. This semester we also initiated a pilot program with Azusa Unified School District that provides transportation for 15 of its students to AXC for CTEC's Intro to Welding Manufacturing course. In addition, we are working with Opportunities for Learning & Options for Youth Charter School to arrange transportation for their students to attend evening courses.

Thanks to our network of industry professionals, CTEC classes have featured exceptional guest speakers who imparted valuable insights on various career paths and opportunities within their industries. We extend our appreciation to Michael Monsivais from No More Locked Doors, Cody Neighbors from Southern California Sheet Metals, and Priscilla Englert and Spencer Boldt from Citrus College Automotive Technology program, for taking the time to speak with the students.

As you can see, we are making progress in offering great opportunities for students throughout the region to attend our CTEC classes.



ALEX XYDIAS & PETE CHAPOURIS CENTER FOR AUTOMOTIVE ARTS (AXC)



Serving the largest class of students post-pandemic, AXC is the bedrock of TLC's Career and Technical Education Center. Much of the success of the education center has been due to the precedent set by AXC at the inception of CTEC. Today, the program continues to thrive, with the Automotive Technology pathways boasting four class levels. Welding Manufacturing, which opened in 2019, commenced its first semester in Spring of 2020. However, midway through, class transitioned to virtual instruction due to the pandemic. Despite this interruption, it has evolved into one of the most highly desired pathways, frequently with a waiting list for enrollment. The career tech pathways housed at the AXC Petersen Garage provides students with an educational opportunity that can grow into a career, as highlighted by Geovani Diaz's Story.

Without the generosity of one of AXC's original donors, the Robert and Margie E. Petersen Foundation in honor of racing legend Alex Xydias, none of this would be possible. We hope you'll continue to join them in supporting these transformational programs.

CTEC COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY - WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (CDC)

READ ACROSS AMERICA

From March 2nd-6th, we celebrated Read Across America Week at CDC, coinciding with the birthday of Dr. Seuss.



Throughout the week, our children engaged in a variety of activities to honor this literary occasion. They showcased their creativity by drawing their beloved characters from "The Cat in the Hat" and enjoyed culinary adventures by preparing green eggs and ham. To top it off one of the children's aunts dressed up as the Cat in the Hat and shared stories with the children. Our young readers embraced the spirit of fun by dressing up as Thing 1 and Thing 2 throughout the week. It was a fun celebration of literacy and imagination!

THE FARM

This year, Farm staff and Ambassadors refurbished and improved two light rooms (grow rooms) in the Carnation Barn. Seeds, such as heirloom tomatoes and hot chili peppers, were planted in the winter months and nurtured well into the Spring. Outfitted to start enough plants to fill the fields for fair demonstrations and summer harvest, the rooms provide the perfect growing conditions for the plants to thrive. The light rooms also prove to be excellent facilities for educational experiences that align with The Learning Center's career pathways into horticulture and sustainable growing practices.



MILLARD SHEETS ART CENTER

LIONLIKE MINDSTATE OPEN MIC POETRY

In collaboration with LionLike Mindstate, TLC welcomed the the revival of open mic poetry nights. Throughout January, February, and March, community members eagerly gathered at Millard Sheets Art Center to celebrate the power of artistic expression and creativity.

David Judah 1 Oliver, the founder and a multi-talented individual as an artist, poet, author, art advisor, and Pomona's esteemed art laureate, played an integral role in this. The strong turnout during these open mic nights is a testament to the unwavering support and enthusiasm of our community in supporting the arts at TLC. Attendees experienced the magic of poetry and spoken word, making connections, and fostering a deeper sense of belonging within our community. The success of these evenings shows the importance of promoting artistic endeavors at TLC. We extend our gratitude to LionLike Mindstate, David Judah 1 Oliver, and all those who contributed to the success of these evenings. Your dedication and passion for the arts enrich our community and inspire us all to continue embracing creativity in all its forms.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

FAIRPLEX

Citrus College

MT. SAC!
Mt. San Antonio College



Airgas
an Air Liquide company



American Welding Society



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
SHEET METAL
Joint Apprenticeship & Training Committee



UPCOMING EVENTS



TLC FUNDRAISING EVENTS

LA COUNTY
FAIR STARS

TLC PRESENTS
THOUGHTFUL THURSDAY

Please contact FairKids@fairplex.com for details and to request participation.

Thursday, May 16, 2024
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

FairStars are individuals with special needs and disabilities.

FairKids May 9, 10 & 17, 2024
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

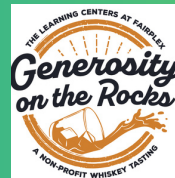
40,500 Registered Participants for 2024!
FairKids Registration is now closed.

Students and teachers enjoy an interactive educational experience, or what we call,

A DAY OF LEARNING CLEVERLY DISGUISED AS FUN!



Tickets On Sale



May 18th, 4-6 p.m.
LA County Fair –Top of the Park
Admission: \$150

Admission includes entry to the LA County Fair, whiskey tasting, and concert.

June 22nd, 7-10 p.m.
at THE FARM at FAIRPLEX
Admission:
\$85 General Admission
\$135 VIP Access & Early Entry



Admission includes entry, tastes of wine, spirits, cocktails & olive oil, souvenir glass, and DJ & dancing.

ALL FUNDRAISING EVENT PROCEEDS BENEFIT
THE LEARNING CENTERS AT FAIRPLEX

✉ thelearningcenters@fairplex.com

🌐 <https://fairplex.com/tlcfairplex/>

📞 (909) 623-3111

📍 1101 W. McKinley Ave. Pomona, CA 91768