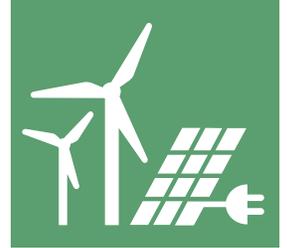
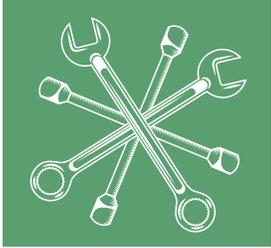




# Career and Technical Education Center Newsletter



## CTEC Graduating Class of 2024



**Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2024!**

The Learning Centers at Fairplex CTEC proudly celebrated the achievements of the Class of 2024 on May 15th, marking a significant milestone of twelve outstanding students. This year's graduates have demonstrated exceptional dedication in this 2- year pathway and skill in Automotive Technology, Urban Agriculture, or Welding Manufacturing.

The ceremony, held at our AXG garage, was a heartfelt event attended by families, friends, and faculty, all gathered to honor the hard work and future prospects of these bright individuals.

As these twelve graduates step into the next chapter of their lives, we are confident they will make significant contributions to their chosen fields. The education and training they received here at TLC-CTEC have laid a solid foundation for future success, whether they choose to enter the workforce immediately or pursue further education and training.

Their achievements are a source of pride for the entire TLC CTEC community, and we look forward to seeing the impacts they will make in the world.

### News and Features

**CTEC Graduation**  
Page 1

**Explore our Pathways**  
Page 2 & 3

**Student Spotlight**  
Page 4 & 5

**CTE Instructor Highlight**  
Page 6

**Career Readiness**  
Page 7

**CTEC Info and Fun Facts**  
Page 8

By: Elaine Franco

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# Explore Exciting Career Pathways at CTEC

The Learning Centers at Fairplex Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) program offers high school students an opportunity to explore courses in various dynamic career pathways while gaining practical skills that employers value.

## Program Highlights:

- **Free Courses:** All our courses are available at no cost, making quality career education accessible to every student.
- **High School Credit:** Students will receive high school credit for all courses completed at our center, with credits transferred to their respective high schools.
- **College Articulation:** Our Agriculture and Welding pathways are articulated with Mt. San Antonio College, providing students the opportunity to earn college credit as well!

## Why choose CTEC?

1. CTEC provides a variety of career-focused programs, including:
  - **Automotive Technology**
  - **Urban Agriculture**
  - **Welding Manufacturing**
  - **Careers in Child Development** (Summer Session 2024)
  - **Renewable Energy** (Coming Fall 2024)
2. Our experienced instructors are industry professionals who bring real-world knowledge to the classroom. They are dedicated to mentoring students and providing the guidance needed to succeed.
3. Hands-On Learning: At CTEC, we believe in learning by doing. Our state-of-the-art facilities and equipment allow students to apply classroom knowledge to real-world scenarios, ensuring they are job-ready upon graduation.
4. Career Readiness and Success Skills Workshops are provided for all students enrolled at CTEC, where they gain valuable essential skills.

Whether you're looking to start exploring careers, eager to learn a new trade, or gain valuable life skills, CTEC is an amazing resource. Explore our programs, meet our dedicated instructors, and take the first step towards a successful future.

(Continue to scroll to learn about the pathways that we offer.)

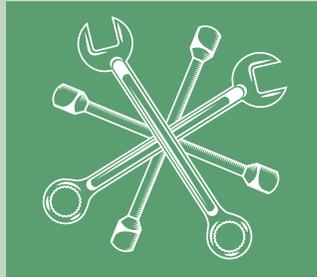
# Explore Our CTE Pathways

**Coming Fall 2024**



## Renewable Energy

The Renewable Energy CTEC Pathway offers a comprehensive introduction to sustainable energy technologies, including solar, wind, and geothermal power. Through hands-on projects and theoretical coursework, students will gain essential skills in energy production, system installation, and maintenance, preparing them for careers in the growing renewable energy sector.



## Automotive Technology

The Automotive Technology program consists of a four-semester series of courses. Throughout this program, students explore engine maintenance and repair, electrical systems, and brake service, enhancing their knowledge of automotive technology. Gaining foundational auto tech skills represents the first step toward a fulfilling career in the automotive industry.



## Child Development (Summer Session)

This course introduces students to the fundamental theories and principles of child development, exploring diverse career options within the field. Students will gain an understanding of the practical applications of child development knowledge in professional settings, equipping them with the skills and resources necessary for pursuing careers in child development and early education.



## Urban Agriculture

Socially conscious urban farming introduces students to the basics of farming, improves access to fresh food, and explores careers in agriculture and natural resources through hands-on training at Fairplex's five-acre diversified farm. This pathway includes a four-semester course sequence and aligns with Mt. San Antonio College programs, enabling the transfer of credits for college-level study.



## Welding Manufacturing

Students will be trained in fundamental welding principles, covering welding materials, techniques, and preparation for the American Welding Society (AWS) Certification. This pathway includes a four-semester sequence of courses and is aligned with Mt. San Antonio College programs, enabling the transfer of credits for college-level study.

# Student Spotlight:

## Jordan Crafting a Future in Welding

Jordan's path into the world of welding was inspired by his childhood experiences with his father, an industrial mechanic who often welded around the house. This early exposure sparked an interest in welding, leading Jordan to pursue and excel in the craft.

Through dedicated practice and the guidance of his CTEC instructor, Jordan has significantly developed his welding skills. The program has been instrumental in his growth, introducing him to new techniques, including Tungsten Inert Gas (TIG) welding.

One of Jordan's most favorite projects was a welding sculpture he created under the encouragement of his teacher. Jordan took on the challenge of crafting a bouquet of metal florals. Washers were tacked on, and a 7010 welding rod was used to create the stem (pictured below).



Another impressive project he completed was a jet stove constructed from 4-inch square tubing. This innovative design includes a wood inlet at a 45-degree angle and a bottom port for air intake. The top section is crafted specifically for cooking.



Jordan with his modern piece of art, a chain of squares.

Beyond the technical skills, Jordan has valued the community within the program. The supportive environment and the resources available have enriched his learning experience and fostered a sense of belonging.

Looking ahead, Jordan envisions applying the skills and knowledge he has gained from the program to future endeavors. Whether it be furthering his education, pursuing a career in welding, or working on personal projects, Jordan is confident that the foundation he has built will serve him well.

Jordan's story is proof of the impact of quality career and technical education and mentorship, and he stands proud as an example of the opportunities that lie ahead.

## Student Spotlight: An Interview with Braxton in the Welding and Automotive Pathway

We recently had the opportunity to chat with Braxton, a senior at CTEC, about his experiences in the Welding and Automotive Pathway. Braxton's journey highlights his passion for learning new skills and the opportunities provided by CTEC's programs.

### Q: What inspired you to enroll in the Welding and Automotive Pathway at CTEC?

**Braxton:** I've always liked fixing cars and seeing how to do it myself. For welding, it just seemed really fun and interesting to learn a new skill. Combining both interests was a good choice for me.

### Q: How was it when you first started the program?

**Braxton:** When I first went into the class, I didn't know anything about either subject. But now, I can fix cars and hold a conversation about them. For welding, I know the blueprinting for it and how to fix the machines. My experience has been so great.

### Q: What do you enjoy most about the program?

**Braxton:** I enjoy the hands-on aspects of it along with the book work. The teachers are super helpful and nice, which makes a big difference. They really care about our learning and are always there to support us.

### Q: Can you share some of your favorite projects?

**Braxton:** My favorite project in welding was making a pair of dice. It was a fun and challenging project that really tested my skills. For auto, I really enjoyed the engine swap we did and replacing the exhaust system. Both projects gave me practical experience and a better understanding of how vehicles work.



Braxton proudly showcases his project – dice he welded in the shop at CTEC

### Q: How do you feel the program has prepared you for your future career?

**Braxton:** These classes have put me in a great spot moving forward. I plan to pursue a career in auto maintenance after high school and aim to get a job in that field. Additionally, I'm interested in becoming an underwater welder or a fabrication worker. The skills and knowledge I've gained here have given me a solid foundation for these career paths.

Braxton's enthusiasm to enrolling in both automotive and welding pathways shows his dedication to learn. His journey from a beginner to someone capable of fixing cars and creating intricate welding projects highlights the value of CTEC's hands-on approach to education. We are proud to support students like Braxton as they work towards their goals and prepare for successful careers.

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# CTEC Instructor Highlight: Bryan Mazariegos

At the heart of The Learning Centers at Fairplex (TLC) is a dedicated team of educators committed to shaping the future of their students. One great member of this team is Bryan Mazariegos, an accomplished welding instructor with a passion for teaching and a wealth of experience.

Bryan's educational journey began at Los Angeles Trade Tech, where he earned his welding certifications. He furthered his studies at Cerritos College, obtaining an Associate of Arts degree.



With this solid foundation, Bryan embarked on his teaching career, bringing a unique blend of practical skills and academic knowledge to the classroom.

For the past five years, Bryan has been an integral part of TLC, witnessing and contributing to its growth. He has spent three of these years as a full-time welding teacher at Downey Unified School District, sharing his expertise and enthusiasm for welding with high school students. Reflecting on his time at TLC, Bryan says, "I enjoy being a teacher at TLC because I was there when it first started and I've been able to see it keep growing and being able to teach welding to more and more students."

Bryan believes that welding is a fantastic career path and feels privileged to guide young minds toward such a rewarding profession. His dedication to his students and his craft is evident in his teaching, where he aims to inspire and equip his students with the skills needed for a successful future in welding.

Outside of the classroom, Bryan is a devoted family man. He loves exploring new places with his wife and two young sons, ages 5 and 2. This past April, he had the opportunity to take his family to Guatemala, where his parents are from, and share the beauty of the country with them.

Bryan's hobbies include playing and watching football (soccer), with Arsenal and Real Madrid being his favorite teams. He is also an avid fan of Formula 1 racing, cheering for Red Bull Racing and his favorite drivers, Max Verstappen and Sergio Perez. Last October, Bryan fulfilled a dream by taking his eldest son to Austin, Texas, to watch the Formula 1 race in person, where they saw their favorite driver win. Bryan points out a fascinating connection between his hobby and his profession: "What's awesome is in any motorsport, the frame of the cars requires welding, so race teams hire welders to weld the frames."

Bryan Mazariegos embodies the spirit of TLC, bringing passion, expertise, and a love for teaching to his role. His journey and achievements inspire both his colleagues and students, making him a valued member of the TLC community.

# Enhancing Career Readiness at CTEC



We are excited to highlight the contributions of Elaine Franco, our dedicated College and Career Services Counselor, who is making a significant impact on the CTEC program.

Elaine is committed to equipping our students with essential career readiness and success skills through a variety of engaging workshops. She has developed and presented workshops on key topics such as conflict resolution, resume building, and job interviewing skills. These workshops provide students with the practical knowledge and confidence they need to thrive in the job market.

Other workshops offered include diverse range of other workshops tailored to meet the unique needs of our students. These include:

- **Behavior for Professionals:** Mastering workplace etiquette and professionalism.
- **Effective Communication:** Enhancing verbal and written communication skills.
- **Career Education Planning:** Strategizing for successful career development.

Elaine is also working on developing additional workshops for our students in:

- **Time Management:** Improving productivity through effective time management.
- **Mental Health and Managing Stress:** Maintaining mental wellness and managing stress.
- **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Building skills for effective teamwork and collaboration.
- **Problem Solving and Critical Thinking:** Developing problem-solving abilities and critical thinking skills.

Elaine's ultimate goal is to prepare our students for real-world experiences, ensuring they become successful and well-rounded individuals, and supporting them in their academic and career goals.

Her dedication to student development and career readiness make her an invaluable asset to our team and students alike.



*Career and technical education is the key to bridging the gap between knowledge and skills, transforming dreams into reality.*

**Elaine Franco**  
**College and Career Services Counselor**

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## Fun Random Facts: Did you know...?

Welding dates back to ancient times, with evidence that the Egyptians were welding iron over 2,000 years ago.

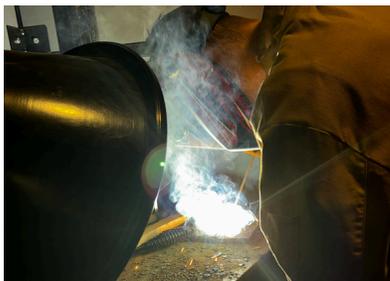
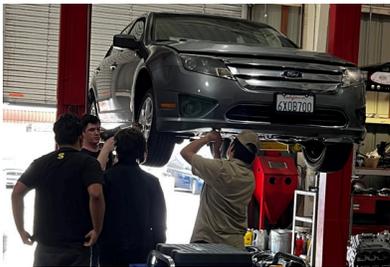
The welding arc can reach temperatures of up to 6,500 degrees Fahrenheit (3,600 degrees Celsius), hotter than the surface of the sun.

The first speeding ticket was issued in 1902 when a driver in Ohio was caught going 45 mph, which was 15 mph over the speed limit at the time.

The world record for the highest recorded mileage on a personal car is held by a 1966 Volvo P1800, driven by Irv Gordon, which reached over 3 million miles.

Almond trees depend entirely on bees for pollination. California, which produces about 80% of the world's almonds, relies on over a million bee colonies each spring for its almond orchards.

The Mudanjiang City Mega Farm in China is the world's largest farm, covering an area larger than Israel. It primarily produces milk.



### Fall Session 2024: Registration Coming Soon!

Stay tuned for the opening of CTEC's Fall Session registration!

The session runs from August to December, offering Automotive Technology, Urban Agriculture, and Welding Manufacturing, that are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. All classes are free of charge and scheduled after school, providing flexible options for all high school students.

For more information, please visit our website or contact us with any questions. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your skills and knowledge this fall!

*The Learning Centers at Fairplex*

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