

## CTEC GRADUATION SPOTLIGHT

### CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2024: A MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENT AT CTEC



The Learning Centers at Fairplex's Career and Technical Education Center proudly celebrated the achievements of the Class of 2024 on May 15, recognizing outstanding students for reaching a significant milestone. These graduates have shown exceptional dedication over the past two years, excelling in Automotive Technology, Urban Agriculture, and Welding Manufacturing.

The ceremony, held at our AXC garage, was a heartwarming event attended by families, friends, and faculty gathered to honor the hard work and future prospects of these bright individuals. As these 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 eagerly anticipate the positive impacts they will make in the world.

# FAIRKIDS

This year's FairKids program at the LA County Fair was a great success, drawing in an impressive 19,000 participants over four days. What makes this achievement even more exciting is that 42% of these students were first-time attendees, highlighting the program's expanding reach and impact.



FairKids offers student, parents and teachers an enjoyable, interactive, educational experience, or as we like to call it, A Day Full of Learning Cleverly Disguised as Fun! Participants from across Southern California eagerly made the trip to Pomona, with some driving up to 115 miles to take part in this enriching field trip. The excitement was contagious<sup>®</sup> as young learners immersed themselves in interactive exhibits and hands-on activities that brought lessons to life in a variety of subjects including art, science, agriculture, and history.

This year also saw a significant increase in partner participation, further enhancing the educational experience. The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control, Xerces Society, WeCompost2, Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, LACMA, California Botanic Garden, The Culture of the Low and Slow, and the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum all contributed to engaging and informative sessions. Each partner played a crucial role in inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards and creative thinkers.

The FairKids program continues to be a cornerstone of the LA County Fair, providing students with an unforgettable blend of fun and learning. We eagerly anticipate welcoming even more students and partners next year as we continue to grow and enrich this unique educational opportunity.

## FAIRSTARS & THOUGHTFUL THURSDAY

Of the 19,000 FairKids participants, 1,500 participated in FairStars enjoying the Fair and carnival rides in a quieter environment without the usual lights and sounds to create greater access for guests with auditory processing and neuro-divergent needs. After witnessing the success of our FairStars program in the past, we realized that a quieter atmosphere could benefit even more guests. While we've previously offered a field trip version of Thoughtful Thursday, this year marked the first time we extended it to the Fair's open hours. With minimal sound and lighting, visitors could fully enjoy everything the LA County Fair has to offer in a more comfortable setting.





## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER (CTEC) - SUMMER SESSION

The 2024 summer session at CTEC was a great success, with 45 students enrolled in our Automotive Technology, Welding Manufacturing, and pilot pathway, Careers in Child Development.

Students benefited from both classroom instruction and hands-on experience, gaining practical skills. Additionally, they participated in essential skills workshops, enhancing their communication, professional behavior, and conflict resolution abilities.

The summer session was another excellent opportunity for students to explore and prepare for various career paths, providing them with valuable experiences and insights.



## GENEROSITY ON THE ROCKS

On May 18, World Whiskey Day, The Learning Centers at Fairplex hosted the inaugural Generosity on the Rocks. Guests indulged in a selection of whiskeys, along with a selection of small bites, engaging in a delightful and sophisticated experience. The atmosphere was vibrant and welcoming, fostering connections and conversations among attendees. The highlight of the evening was admission to the live performance by country music star Dustin Lynch.



Generosity on the Rocks was not just about enjoyment; it was about making a difference. The funds raised during the event will support The Learning Centers' educational initiatives, helping to provide valuable resources and opportunities for students and the community.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors: AT&T, SoCal Edison, Julie and Todd Wagner, Pat and Mark Warren, SoCal Gas, and those who attended and contributed to the success of the event. Your generosity and support are instrumental in advancing our mission and positively impacting countless lives.

Stay tuned for more exciting events and opportunities to support The Learning Centers at Fairplex!

## CHEERS AT THE FARM

The party of the summer, Cheers at the Farm welcomed 600 attendees on June 22 for an unforgettable evening of food, drinks, and entertainment. The event was a tremendous success, thanks in large part to our top sponsors, Athens, OVG, and Haas & Wilkerson Insurance, as well as Spectrum, Aligned Insight Consulting, Allied Universal, Buchalter, Eide Bailly, Debbie and Ben Wong, So Cal Edison, So Cal Gas, Anne McIntosh, Silvia Lazo, and First 5 LA.



Guests enjoyed small bites from a variety of local restaurants, including Cafe X20, Mi Cocina, The Derby Room, McKinley's Grill, The Rookery/Fond Traditions, Crumbl Cookies, Painted Dough, and Nothing Bundt Cakes. The evening offered tastings of award-winning wine, spirits, and olive oil from the Los Angeles International Competition along with a selection of beer, creating a delightful experience for every palate. Attendees also enjoyed dancing and socializing with friends, making it a truly festive occasion. In addition to the food and fun, a silent auction was held to raise funds for our cause. With many desirable items available, participants eagerly placed their bids, contributing to the evening's success.

Overall, Cheers at The Farm was a night to remember. Everyone had a fantastic time, and we are grateful for the support of our sponsors, local businesses, and attendees. Thank you for making this event such a success to support TLC programs!





## CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (CDC)



The Fairplex Child Development Center celebrated a significant milestone as our students graduated and prepared to embark on their journey to their future, on Saturday, June 29!

The joyous event was held at Picnic Hill, where family and friends gathered to honor and celebrate the achievements of our young learners.

Parents, siblings, and loved ones cheered and applauded, creating an atmosphere of support and encouragement. The day was not only about recognizing academic accomplishments, but also about celebrating the growth, friendships, and memories made throughout the year. The event was a testament to the dedication of our teachers, the support of our families, and the hard work of our students.

As we celebrate our children, we are confident that they are well-prepared for the exciting adventures that come their way! We extend our heartfelt congratulations to each of our graduates and their families for reaching this important milestone.

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### CDC STAFF SPOTLIGHT

On June 28, we gathered to celebrate a very special occasion: teacher Irene Madrid's 70th birthday and her retirement. The event was a memorable occasion, filled with laughter, cherished moments, and warm congratulations.

Irene has been an invaluable member of our team for more than 30 years, and her dedication and hard work have left a lasting impact on the children and everyone she has worked with. As we bid her farewell, we also celebrated her milestone birthday, making it a doubly significant event.



# UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

## ANNOUNCEMENT

To better serve children and youth across the region, The Learning Centers at Fairplex and the Fairplex Child Development Center have merged into a single nonprofit organization. Our programming will remain unchanged, but this merger will make us stronger and more efficient in meeting the needs of our communities. Stay tuned for our next newsletter for the official announcement of our merger.

## EXCITING NEW PATHWAYS!

This Fall, CTEC is excited to add Green Utilities as a new pathway, joining the recently added Careers in Child Development pathway. Classes in the popular Automotive Technology, Urban Agriculture, and Welding Manufacturing continue, creating a robust program for the fall semester.

## FALL IN THE FARM



Be an urban farmer for a day at Fairplex Presents, Fall In The Farm.

Fall In The Farm offers hands-on activities, displays, workshops, and agriculture and wellness vendors providing information for the entire family.

The Farm at Fairplex is the perfect showcase to learn how to grow your own garden, even if you live in the city.

It's a day where digging in the dirt is encouraged and learning about where food comes from is engaging.