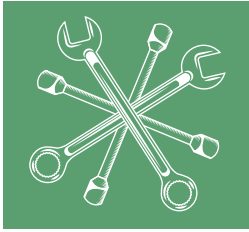




Career and Technical Education Center Newsletter



A Message from Elaine Franco

CTEC - College and Career Services Counselor

Hello CTEC Community,

As the College and Career Services Counselor, I am thrilled to share the incredible progress and achievements from the Fall 2024 semester.

During Fall semester, we proudly welcomed over 100 students into our five pathways:

- Automotive Technology
- Careers in Child Development
- Green Utilities
- Urban Agriculture
- Welding Manufacturing

These programs offer hands-on training and career readiness workshops that equip our students with the skills they need to thrive in their future careers.

Our workshops have covered essential topics like time management, building a strong work ethic, taking responsibility, resume writing, job interview techniques, and mock interviews with industry professionals and partners.

These experiences gave our students the opportunity to develop key skills and confidence, helping them take meaningful steps toward their goals.

None of this would be possible without the dedication and hard work of our instructors and students, who bring their energy and passion to every class. We are also incredibly grateful to our industry partners and community collaborators for their support and involvement at CTEC. Your partnership strengthens our programs and inspires our students to achieve even greater success.

Thank you for being part of our mission to empower the next generation of skilled professionals!



- Elaine Franco

News and Features

A Message from Elaine Franco

Page 1

Instructor Spotlight

Page 2

CTEC Student Alumni Spotlight

Page 3

Child Development - CPR Training

Page 4

Child Development - Community Event

Page 4

Welding Pathway- Airgas Education Initiative

Page 5

Welding Student - Soccer Goal Posts

Page 6

Mock Interview Sessions

Page 7 & 8

Athens Services - Open House

Page 9

Instructor Spotlight: Ignacio Alvarez

Automotive Technology

Meet Ignacio Alvarez, a valued member of the CTEC team. For the past two years, he has brought his expertise and passion to our Automotive Technology program. Before joining CTEC, Ignacio taught auto repair at United Education Institute (UEI) College. He holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from National University and a Bachelor's degree in Business from Walden University.



For Ignacio, teaching automotive is a way to give back. Reflecting on his own journey, he shares, *“When I was in high school, I wasn’t the best student and needed help to graduate. An ROP class gave me an opportunity that led to a job and a career I’m grateful for. Teaching lets me pass on that same opportunity to others.”*



(photos above are Ignacio's Fall 2024 Systems, Service, & Repair - A students)

While teaching wasn't part of his original plan, Ignacio discovered his passion for it unexpectedly and hasn't looked back since.

Outside of work, he enjoys tackling projects—whether it's restoring non-running vehicles, making home upgrades, or trying new things just to say, “I made that.” Ignacio has also explored much of the United States, including New York, Maine, Washington, and Arizona, with Texas being a personal favorite.

We're lucky to have him inspiring the next generation of skilled automotive professionals at CTEC!

CTEC Alumni Spotlight - Michael Miko

Automotive Technology

Meet Michael Miko, a proud CTEC alumnus and Claremont High School graduate from Spring 2024. Recently, I had the opportunity to catch up with Michael and hear about his journey since completing high school and his time at CTEC.

Michael shared that he is now pursuing his passion for automotive technology at Citrus College, where he is enrolled in the T-TEN (Toyota Technician Education Network) Program.

During our conversation, I asked him a few questions to learn more about his experiences and aspirations as he advances in this exciting career pathway.



.....

Q: What inspired you to continue your education in automotive technology at Citrus College?

MM: "Honestly, the class at the CTEC was really what made me want to keep learning about everything automotive. My high school didn't offer any kind of auto shop class, so that class was the first time I had ever really been around cars in that environment and was pretty much immediately hooked."

Q: How did your experience in CTEC's Automotive Technology pathway prepare you for the T-TEN program and your future career?

MM: "What I liked about the CTEC class was that it covered a lot of the fundamentals of cars overall. Even though I had pretty much no experience with cars prior, I felt like I had an advantage when I was in Auto 101 because it covered a lot of the same basic material."

Q: What has been the most exciting or challenging aspect of your studies in the T-TEN program so far?

MM: "So far, some of the more challenging aspects have been the material that's more theory-based and less hands-on, but that also makes it exciting when we apply the content in ways I wasn't familiar with before. For example, in my electrical classes, we went over the basics of voltage and electronic systems, which was pretty challenging to understand. But once we got into the shop and saw how those concepts help technicians diagnose real-world problems, it was incredibly eye-opening."

Q: What advice would you give to current CTEC students who are considering pursuing a career in automotive technology?

MM: "One piece of advice I would give to a student considering a career in automotive technology is to keep going, even if you feel less confident at first, as long as you enjoy what you're doing. I had absolutely zero experience with anything automotive-related before the CTEC class, and it felt pretty intimidating at first being in a class where I didn't feel up to speed with everyone else. But I stuck with it, and I ended up advancing much further than I ever would have if I had given up just because I doubted my ability to learn."

Child Development Students Receive CPR Training

We're excited to share that our students in the Careers in Child Development class have successfully completed CPR training and earned their official certifications!

As part of their learning, students participated in a comprehensive training program that included hands-on practice with CPR techniques and automated external defibrillators (AEDs).



In addition to the practical skills, students demonstrated their knowledge by passing a written test, showcasing their understanding of life-saving procedures and emergency response protocols.

This accomplishment equips our students with valuable and relevant skills to help in emergencies. Congratulations to all participants for their hard work and success!

Child Development Students Celebrate Community at Baldwin Park High School

Students in our Careers in Child Development class recently demonstrated their skills at the Día de los Muertos event hosted at Baldwin Park High School. They engaged directly with children by facilitating activities and honed their communication skills through interactions with both parents and children. This hands-on experience provided valuable insights into working with families and young children, boosting their confidence and professionalism. We are incredibly proud of our students for their hard work and for making the event a meaningful and memorable experience for the community!



Welding Pathway Awarded with Airgas Education Initiative



Pictured above : Intro to Welding students and their instructor, Bryan Mazariegos, are grateful to receive support from the Airgas Education Initiative

We are thrilled to share that CTEC has received a \$5,000 grant from the Airgas Education Initiative, a nationwide program focused on advancing welding education and supporting skilled trades.

This generous funding will directly enhance CTEC's Welding Manufacturing pathway. The grant will be used to upgrade tools and equipment and provide essential welding supplies. These resources will help our students refine their skills and gain hands-on experience, equipping them to meet the growing demand in the welding and manufacturing industries.

This collaboration underscores a shared dedication to empowering future skilled professionals and highlighting the importance of career and technical education.



Welding Student Creates Soccer Goal Posts for Local Church

Meet Caleb Clune, one of our talented welding students at CTEC. Combining his passion for welding with a desire to give back to his community, Caleb has taken on an inspiring project: crafting soccer goal posts for his local church. This project not only showcases Caleb's technical skills but also highlights his commitment to making a positive impact in his community.

I had the chance to discuss this meaningful project with him.



Q: What inspired you to create a soccer goal post for your church?

CC: "My Dad asked me and I was excited to have a creative project to complete."

Q: What were some of the challenges you anticipated during the planning phase?

CC: "I had to review the sketch plan and make sure I brought enough material, then think through making sure I didn't melt through the metal piping, and timing to finish the project in the time frame of class."

Q: Did you need to learn or apply any specific welding techniques to complete this project?

CC: "The use of magnets to hold the project together so I could weld it, also using a leveler."

Q: What are you most proud of about this project?

CC: "That I finished it on time, they looked identical, and that it will be used by people who will appreciate it for a long time."

Q: How do you feel this project connects to your future goals in welding or community service?

CC: "This opportunity gave me the chance to start and complete a project and see what it feels like to create something to help someone else. I know this is the right career for me!"



CTEC Hosts First Mock Interview Sessions for Students



This semester, CTEC reached an exciting milestone by hosting its first-ever mock interview sessions for students. These sessions provided a unique opportunity for students to experience what a professional job interview looks and feels like, preparing them for success in their future careers.

We invited partners from various industries to volunteer as interviewers, bringing real-world expertise to the process.



During the sessions, students were asked common interview questions, allowing them to practice their communication, problem-solving, and professional presentation skills in a supportive environment.

CTEC Hosts First Mock Interview Sessions for Students (continued)

After each interview, students received valuable feedback from the interviewers, highlighting their strengths and offering practical advice on how to improve for future interviews. This constructive feedback helped students build confidence and refine their skills, ensuring they are better equipped to navigate the competitive job market.



Our mock interview workshop blends technical skills with essential skills to help students develop into well-rounded individuals. This approach ensures they are not only technically proficient but also equipped to handle interpersonal and professional challenges with confidence. The mock interviews provided an invaluable learning experience for our students, highlighting the significance of hands-on career readiness activities.



A heartfelt thank you to our industry partners for generously volunteering their time and expertise to support our students' growth and success. We're excited to continue this impactful initiative in future semesters!



Athens Services Open House at CTEC: A Day of Collaboration and Opportunity

On December 12th, CTEC hosted a special Open House in partnership with Athens Services, bringing together students, parents, and staff to highlight this exciting opportunity and collaboration.



The event showcased the opportunities available to CTEC students through Athens Services' support and commitment to fostering education, career development, and job placement for our students after high school graduation.

The Open House featured an engaging presentation, guest speakers who shared insights about their roles, a hands-on opportunity for students to explore a trash truck up close, and a discussion on how the skills students are learning in their pathways can be applied to careers at Athens Services. Athens Services representatives shared insights into their industry and emphasized the importance of sustainability, innovation, and workforce development.



Students had the chance to network with Athens Services professionals, gaining valuable advice and learning about potential career pathways in waste management, sustainability, and green energy. This event highlighted how industry partnerships like this one help bridge the gap between education and career readiness, providing students with direct access to mentorship, internships, and career opportunities.

CTEC is proud to collaborate with Athens Services to empower the next generation of skilled professionals and looks forward to continuing this partnership to support student success and facilitate career placements after graduation.

CTEC Upcoming Events

Spring Session 2025

January 13 through May 15.

Last day to add is January 23!

Registration is still open for the following classes:

Careers in Child Development (M/W class)

Intro to Plant & Soil Science (M/W class)



CTE Trivia

Q: How many parts does the average car have?

Q: How many words does the average 2-year-old know?

Q: What is the fastest-growing plant in the world?

True or False: A single wind turbine can power hundreds of homes.

Answer : **1.** About 30,000 parts ; **2.** About 200-300 words ; **3.** Bamboo, can grow 35 in. per day ; **4.** True

Career & Technical Education Center

1101 W. McKinley Ave. Pomona, CA 91768

<https://fairplex.com/tlcfairplex/ctec/>

efranco@fairplex.com | 909.865.4526