

## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2025



## Spring into CTEC 2025!

We've wrapped up another meaningful semester at CTEC, and I want to take a moment to celebrate our students' hard work and growth.

Whether it was their first time in a CTEC classroom or they're preparing for graduation, our students embraced hands-on learning, career readiness, and personal development with dedication.

It's been a joy to see them grow—not just in technical skills, but in confidence and leadership. I'm proud of all they've achieved and look forward to seeing where their journey takes them next.



*College and Career Services Counselor, Elaine Franco*

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# CTEC GRADUATION 2025: HONORING HARD WORK AND DEDICATION



*Congratulations to our 17 CTEC Pathway Completers! (One student not pictured)*

This spring, we proudly celebrated the accomplishments of 17 CTEC students who completed the four-semester pathways in Welding and Automotive Technology. Throughout their time at CTEC, these students demonstrated exceptional dedication, skill development, and personal growth.

During the event, Matthew Segura, a completer from the Automotive Technology pathway, delivered an inspiring speech, reflecting on the journey:

He shared:

*"Now, we leave as trained technicians, problem-solvers, and professionals ready to take on the challenges of the automotive world."*

*We've spent countless hours under the hood, troubleshooting engines, aligning suspensions, and mastering diagnostics. But more than just learning how to fix cars, we've learned the value of hard work, patience, and teamwork."*



*Pictured above: Matthew Segura*





Alongside our pathway graduates, several students across all programs were recognized with individual awards for their hard work, growth, and positive contributions to their classes and CTEC as a whole.

To celebrate these milestones, friends and family were invited to a special CTEC Recognition Night, where students were honored for their achievements and the future career paths they are building. It was a night full of pride, smiles, and well-deserved applause!

Congratulations to all of our amazing students—your future is bright, and this is just the beginning!







## FROM CLASSROOM TO CROPS: SPRING HIGHLIGHTS IN URBAN AGRICULTURE

This spring, our Urban Agriculture students stepped beyond the classroom and into the heart of California's agricultural world through a series of immersive, hands-on experiences designed to connect them with real-world practices and career pathways.



At Cal Poly Pomona, students explored the greenhouses and microgreens container farm, gaining insight into how innovation and sustainability are shaping the future of agriculture. Their tour of the College of Agriculture also included visits to the grow pods and equine center, where they learned about animal care, facility management, and the science behind modern agriculture.

The journey continued at Mt. San Antonio College, where students toured the swine, sheep, and nursery centers—experiencing firsthand the care and effort it takes to raise animals and maintain healthy crops.





In celebration of Earth Day, our students returned to Cal Poly to participate in their annual Earth Day Celebration, contributing to event setup and engaging with the campus community on environmental awareness and sustainability efforts.



At The Farm at Fairplex, students got their hands dirty preparing for the LA County Fair, planting new crops and helping care for livestock. A standout moment? Assisting with the care of bottle-fed animals and learning how to milk goats, giving students both confidence and real-world experience in animal husbandry.

From seed to soil to sustainability, our students are growing more than plants—they're cultivating future careers and deepening their connection to the world of agriculture.







## INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT: NURTURING FUTURES IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT

With over 25 years of experience in the field of Child Development—17 of those spent teaching high school students—our CTEC Child Development instructor, Ariana Marquez, brings both passion and purpose to the classroom every single day.

*"I truly enjoy helping students discover their passion for working with children and guiding them as they explore careers in early childhood education,"* she shares. Her dedication goes far beyond textbooks, offering students real-world, hands-on experiences that build both confidence and skill.

One of the most rewarding moments for her? *"When former students return as teachers themselves to thank me for the role I played in their journey. That means everything."*

Beyond the classroom, she's an adventurer at heart — having explored many states across the U.S. and different regions of Mexico. She cherishes time spent with family and friends, and she's also a proud Dodgers fan.

Her commitment to helping students discover meaningful, fulfilling futures is what makes her a valued part of our CTEC team. We're lucky to have her inspiring the next generation of educators!





## SPRING HIGHLIGHTS FROM CTEC'S CHILD DEVELOPMENT

This spring, CTEC's Child Development pathway provided students with hands-on experiences that supported both personal and professional growth in early childhood education.

A key part of the program is weekly field experience the Child Development Center at Fairplex, where second- and third-semester students practiced essential skills like communication, professional behavior, and positive guidance. These real-world interactions helped students gain confidence and determine if early childhood education is the right fit.



In addition to working with children, students also complete professional certifications, including child CPR training. This spring, each student took part in instructor-led CPR sessions using training mannequins, gaining life-saving skills and preparing for safety in early childhood settings.

These experiences help build responsibility, care, and confidence as students prepare for the workforce or further education in child development. The CTEC Child Development pathway continues to offer a strong mix of classroom learning and real-world experience, shaping thoughtful, capable future professionals.





## WELDING STUDENTS EXPLORE CAREER PATHWAYS AT SHEET METAL WORKERS TRAINING CENTER

On Wednesday, April 23, CTEC Welding students visited the Sheet Metal Workers Southern California Training Center in City of Industry for an exclusive tour and hands-on career exploration experience.

Students learned about various pathways within the sheet metal trade—HVAC, architectural metalwork, welding, drafting, and fabrication—while exploring the state-of-the-art training facility, observing apprentices, and asking questions about the program and application process.

From cutting-edge tools to the benefits of paid union apprenticeships, the visit gave students a clear look at promising careers in the skilled trades. Many left inspired and motivated to pursue these opportunities.

This tour reflects CTEC's ongoing commitment to connecting students with real-world experiences and high-wage, high-demand career paths.







## AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY: FROM CLASSROOM TO SHOP FLOOR

This spring, CTEC's Automotive Technology students immersed themselves in a dynamic, hands-on learning experience that blended technical instruction with real-world application. From changing brake systems to replacing engine cylinders, students didn't just learn about cars—they brought their lessons to life under the hood.

Guided by their respective instructor Ignacio Alvarez and Felix Carrillo, students applied their classroom knowledge directly in the shop. They explored the mechanics of braking systems and engine components, then teamed up to disassemble and install parts with precision and care. Lessons on combustion, compression, and timing evolved into practical, confidence-building tasks that mirrored real industry work.



In addition to mechanical skills, students honed vital soft skills such as collaboration, communication, and problem-solving. Working in teams, they navigated challenges together and discovered the importance of patience, leadership, and attention to detail.

We celebrate the growth and determination of our Automotive Technology students and look forward to watching them drive their skills into the future.







## ATHENS SERVICES OPEN HOUSE AT CTEC

On March 26, 2025, CTEC welcomed Athens Services for an engaging Open House that introduced students and families to careers in waste management, recycling, and environmental services.

Athens staff shared their career paths and spoke about the company's mission, values, and growth opportunities in areas like operations, logistics, environmental compliance, and outreach. Their stories emphasized the potential for long-term advancement and meaningful work.



Students and parents asked thoughtful questions about job roles, training, and day-to-day responsibilities, showing strong interest in green careers.

This event deepened students' understanding of environmental services and highlighted the value of CTEC's partnership with Athens as a launchpad for careers in sustainability.







## CAREER READINESS IN ACTION: MOCK INTERVIEWS AT CTEC



This spring, CTEC students participated in mock interviews—a key part of our Essential Skills and Career Readiness programming. These sessions gave students practical experience in presenting themselves professionally and responding to common interview questions.

With the support of our community and industry partners who volunteered as interviewers, students had the opportunity to practice vital soft skills in a structured, real-world setting. Each student met with one or more professionals from a variety of fields, answered job-relevant questions, and received helpful feedback on how to improve.



From making eye contact and clearly explaining their goals to refining their responses, students worked on building confidence and communication skills. Volunteers provided honest, constructive insights to help students strengthen their interview technique and better understand what employers are looking for.



This event was more than just interview practice—it helped students build self-awareness, navigate professional conversations, and understand how to make a strong first impression. For many, it was their first interview experience, and it gave them a new sense of confidence and direction.



At CTEC, we know workforce preparation goes beyond technical skills. Through mock interviews, resume workshops, and essential skills training, we equip students to face the future with confidence and purpose.



We're incredibly proud of our students for stepping up, and we extend a sincere thank you to our partners who helped make this event meaningful and memorable.





## CTEC VOICES: WHAT WE LEARNED & LOVED

**I asked the students of CTEC, "What's one thing you've learned or enjoyed most about your experience at CTEC?" Here's what they had to say...**

*"One thing I most enjoyed in CTEC was bonding and creating new friends. The classes are generally smaller, making it easier to click with others—especially the teacher. There were many close connections that allowed us to earn our CPR certification and work with young children at the Child Development Center."*

**— Sofia Coronado, Child Development**

*"The thing I most enjoyed about the CTEC was gaining hands-on experience in a field that I am passionate about. As someone who wants to study Environmental Science, the Urban Agriculture course was a perfect introduction."*

**— Angelina Carrillo, Urban Agriculture**

*"The most important thing I learned during my first semester at CTEC is that if you're really passionate about a trade, getting started before high school ends is an amazing way to get ahead. That way, when you get hired, you'll be more comfortable with the projects."*

**— Michael Tibbets, Welding**

*"The one thing I learned from being in CTEC is that the material you learn will help you in the long run."*

**— Brandon Parra, Automotive**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS



### **CTEC Fall 2025 Registration – Now Open!**

*Don't miss your chance to enroll in free, hands-on career technical education classes at CTEC!*

*Scan the QR code to view class offerings and register today.*

### **Stay Tuned – New CTEC Student Spotlight Newsletter Coming Soon!**

*We're excited to launch a new newsletter, "CTEC Voices: Journeys & Highlights," featuring stories from current students and alumni. Get a glimpse of their projects, successes, and where they are now.*

*Stay tuned—first issue coming soon!*

## Career & Technical Education Center

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