



**fairplex learning &
development center**

CTEC CONNECT

Summer 2026

With another successful semester behind us, we're excited to celebrate the highlights of Spring 2026 at CTEC. This semester was filled with hands-on learning, industry connections, career readiness opportunities, and student success. Thank you to our students, instructors, partners, and supporters for being part of our CTEC community.

Spring Impact Recap

In Spring 2026, CTEC served over 120 students across the Automotive Technology, Child Development, Green Energy, Urban Agriculture, and Welding Manufacturing pathways.

Students participated in:

- Career Readiness Workshops
- Guest Speaker Presentations
- Industry Partnership Experiences
- Work-Based Learning Opportunities
- Technical Skill Development
- Professional Skill Development
- Workplace Readiness Training
- College and Career Preparation Activities

[Explore Pathways](#)

CTEC Graduation Celebration



Our Spring 2026 graduation celebrated student achievement, pathway completion, and perseverance. Families, instructors, and community partners came together to honor students as they completed their CTEC journey and prepared for their next college and career pathways.

This year, we celebrated 23 pathway completers across the Automotive Technology, Child Development, Urban Agriculture, and Welding Manufacturing pathways. Additionally, 15 students received recognition awards for their outstanding technical skills, leadership, professionalism, dedication, and commitment to their pathway.

With over 100 guests in attendance, it was a memorable evening celebrating the hard work, growth, and accomplishments of our CTEC students.

Athens Services Truck Donation



CTEC was honored to receive a generous donation of a 2013 Mack TerraPro trash truck and a Chevy Silverado from [Athens Services](#). These vehicles will serve as hands-on training tools, giving our Auto students the opportunity to work on real equipment, learn about CNG engines and hydraulic systems, and develop welding skills using industry-grade materials.

The donation reflects Athens Services' continued partnership with Fairplex and the City of Pomona and their investment in preparing the next generation of skilled workers. The unveiling celebration brought together leaders from Athens Services, Fairplex, the Fairplex Learning & Development Center, and the City of Pomona to celebrate this exciting milestone.



Partner with CTEC

Child Development Students Visit University of La Verne



With the support of FLDC Board Member Cindy Giamo-Ballard, CTEC Child Development students had the opportunity to visit the [University of La Verne](#) and experience college life firsthand.

During their visit, students sat in on a Child Development class, connected with current college students, asked questions about the program, and learned more about educational and career pathways in early childhood education.



The visit provided valuable insight into what life as a college student is like and inspired students to begin envisioning their own futures in higher education and the field of child development.

Host a Field Trip

Welding Instructor Spotlight: Bernardo Martinez

As CTEC's newest Welding instructor, Bernardo Martinez recently reflected on his first year of teaching, what he enjoys most about working with students, and the lasting lessons he hopes they take beyond the classroom.

"My first year at CTEC has been a rewarding learning experience. I've enjoyed helping students develop practical welding skills, build confidence, and take pride in their work. Sharing my industry experience and watching students grow has been one of the most fulfilling parts of teaching. Whether students pursue welding or another career, I hope they leave my class with a strong work ethic, an understanding of safety and teamwork, and confidence in their abilities."

- Bernardo Martinez



CTEC Student Voices

"I learned how to be brave in welding. I understand to go slower and closer to the plate. I enjoyed learning how to weld, and I am glad I got to experience this class. I love how it's hands on; it's what I needed. It's going to help me with my future welding."

- Giselle A. | Park West HS | 12th Grade

At CTEC, I've been able to build so many skills within my enrolled field but also skills that prepared me for life. When it comes to child development, I get both hands-on learning (working with the kids every week, forming a bond with them, discussing with the teachers) while learning the psychology of child development or the sacrifices made for kids. This was all extremely beneficial in my understanding of several different spheres of child development, so I feel fortunate for that education and the teacher is fantastic.

Outside of Child Development, I've been able to work on many personal skills such as financial literacy, communication, and job interviews which I can apply to my life.

- Jolene T. | Glendora HS | 11th Grade

I believe I learned a lot during this CTEC Auto program. I learned a lot of practical skills needed in the auto industry. From practical maintenance like oil changes, replacing brake pads, fluid changes, documentation of auto repairs on vehicles, to soft skills training, like a proper handshake, being professional in the office and stuff to better me as a person

and as a coworker. I believe my favorite part of this semester was taking out the transmission of a Toyota Tacoma because it made a great story to tell my family and was overall a very fun experience.

– Adam B. | Duarte HS | 10th Grade

Connect with CTEC

CTEC continues to grow through meaningful collaboration with industry, education, and community partners.

Ways to get involved:

- Guest speaking
- Mock interviews
- Field trips or site visits
- Career exposure opportunities

Connect Today!

Our most constant and generous support comes from individuals and community partners just like you who believe in the power of education and the lasting value of a learning experience that shapes one's life.

Donate to FLDC



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