

SCCOE CTE Team Monthly Newsletter

January 8, 2021

Welcome to our new Monthly Newsletter!

The Santa Clara County Office of Education CTE Team is dedicated to providing important CTE and College and Career updates to our community through our monthly SCCOE CTE Team Newsletter. In this publication, you will find timely information on CTE events, Work Based Learning Opportunities, K12 SWP grant initiatives, and College and Career updates. We look forward to building and improving communication with the goal of creating equitable access to high quality CTE pathways and College and Career transitions for all our students throughout Santa Clara County.



CAREER FOCUS - REAL WORLD WORK BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

K12 SWP Connector Community of Practice

The SCCOE CTE team is happy to announce that we have launched our K12 SWP **Connector Community of Practice**. In November, our strategic partner, Earn & Learn facilitated the first of a series of 4 onboarding/professional development sessions for 20 connectors and other related staff within our K12 SWP grant consortium. And, in December, we held a follow up session. The Connector Community of Practice is focused on growing our tools, skills and collaborative systems in order to provide quality career exploration and work-based learning experiences, with special attention to serving underrepresented student groups and to closing the achievement and wealth gaps within our region's student populations. Follow the link to see our [Connector CoP Session 1 Slides](#) and [CoP Overview and Agendas](#). If you have more questions about the strength and role of the Connector, please contact Dana for more information.

Key Collaborators

The SCCOE CTE team is developing a wide and deep network of collaborators, across sectors and stakeholder groups, all dedicated to equity, inclusion, diversity and building bridges between our students and the industries that are based in Silicon Valley. The SCCOE team expresses our appreciation for recent connections with **Earn & Learn, The Tech Interactive, the Silicon Valley Education Foundation, Ignited, the Krause Center for Innovation, Steam the Streets, PilotCity, IBM, NextFlex and the BACCC Regional Directors.**

Sector Week Events

As part of our commitment to equity and access, the SCCOE CTE team is co-sponsoring a series of Sector Week Events that will give students, teachers, connectors and other stakeholders access to industry experts, role models, workplace challenges, and design thinking tools and resources. Our first Sector Week Event will focus on Arts, Media and Entertainment, including cross-sector applications, and take place during the week of May 3rd - 7th. Stay tuned for more details and look at our [Sector Week Events Overview](#) and consider being a co-sponsor, in the meantime.

Internship Resources

In the CTE monthly newsletter, we'll feature advice and insights to help students gain life-long job search skills and ideally get an internship!



Stay tuned for the CTE internship newsletter articles with more tips on resumes, cover letters, interviewing, and LinkedIn profiles. Most importantly, encourage students to keep a positive “you can do it” attitude in these extra challenging times!

Covid-19 has indeed turned the world upside-down! This is especially challenging for high school Juniors and Seniors who had their sight set on getting a summer internship. It can be more difficult in 2021, but with diligence, time, and effort, students can equip themselves with the resources to be ready for an internship. Along the way, they'll gain essential job search, career exploration and networking skills to add to their job search toolkit including a powerful resume and cover letter too.

Provided is a brief overview on how to create a job search toolkit for students to be best prepared to get an internship.

1. Use internship search engines like [internships.com](https://www.internships.com).
2. Browse [Regular Job Search Engines](#) and research career advice websites.
3. Take advantage of social media - follow companies.
4. Go to virtual job / career fairs if available.
5. Learn how to network - #1 way to get job leads.
6. Connect with Career Specialists, Counselors or Work Experience Teachers virtually at school if available.
7. Create a resume that can easily be tailored towards any internship.
8. Have a cover letter template ready to “plug and play” for any internship.
9. Review common interview questions, and practice how to answer.
10. Create a LinkedIn profile and learn how to navigate.

Work Based Learning Resources

We offer links to a growing bank of tools and resources to widen and deepen your WBL practice:

[WBL Continuum](#)
[The Earn and Learn Toolset](#)
[Earn and Learn Connector Path and Events Calendar](#)
[Sample Connector Job Description](#)
[WBL Survey - Ongoing Results](#)
[High Quality CTE - 11 Elements](#)
[Model Standards, Sector and Pathway Docs](#)
[Labor Market Research and Community College Crosswalks](#)
[Bay Area Regional Plan - Draft](#)
[BACCC](#)
[Computer Science Teaching Tips](#)

COLLABORATOR OF THE MONTH

NextFlex

Each month we feature a **Collaborator of the Month**, highlighting the work of a community asset in advancing our shared commitment to engaging and equipping youth to be next generation leaders.



This month we are proud to showcase [NextFlex](#) as our Collaborator of the Month through their flagship education program, [FlexFactor](#). What started as a pilot program in San Jose with eight students in the fall of 2016 has expanded throughout Silicon Valley and has engaged over 3,000 students.

FlexFactor challenges high school students to work in teams to identify a real-world problem, conceptualize an advanced hardware solution, and build a business model around it. Through direct industry engagement with future-focused companies and high-performance workplaces, FlexFactor brings real-world experiences to students, allowing them to see how advanced materials and electronic devices combine to create innovative solutions for a diverse range of problems. In addition, students engage with the education pathways at local colleges and universities that will help them gain the knowledge and skills needed in order to join the workforce of the future. At the end of the program, students pitch their ideas to a professional panel through “shark tank” presentations. Through FlexFactor, **NextFlex Learning Programs** is dedicated to developing the workforce of the future. Students develop teamwork, leadership and work readiness skills to meet labor market demands by inspiring students to pursue a career in Advanced Manufacturing, and continue their education locally at Evergreen Valley College’s new Advanced Manufacturing Technology program. For more information about FlexFactor, please reach out to Donna Gilmour, SCCOE CTE Professional Expert at dgilmour@sccoe.org or Mikayla Ridi, FlexFactor Program Manager at mridi@nextflex.us.

K12 PATHWAYS COORDINATOR CORNER

Guided Pathways - What are They and How do They Support Student Progress

The goal of the Strong Workforce Program and your K12 Pathway Coordinators is to create direct links between the K12 CTE pathway and the Community College so that students can move seamlessly from high school to community college to a well paying and fulfilling job. There are so many new careers to explore for our students and so many jobs waiting for them.

As K12 Pathway Coordinators, it is our goal to assist school districts and community colleges within Santa Clara County in meeting specific performance outcomes for 2021 – 2022 and to create a work plan for achieving these goals in consultation with and under the guidance of teachers, faculty, counselors, coordinators, and directors.

Specifically we provide support in communication and collaboration between community colleges and K12 LEAs in the following areas:

- Early college credit
- Understanding pathway, certification, and degree opportunities
- Post high school transition processes
- College and Career exploration
- Access to Regional Sector resources
- Providing information on Bay Area Regional Labor Market Information (LMI) and future job market opportunities for our students

In future editions of this newsletter we look forward to highlighting district programs, workshops and resources, and regional CTE pathways.

Next Pathway Coordinators Coffee Chat: January 12, 9AM: Marketing and Promoting your CTE Program. Registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/yyqfpqmh>.

SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATES

Gilroy Unified School District (GUSD)

GUSD has a new Culinary Arts teacher Deanna Erickson, who was a culinary student at Gilroy High School! Deanna was a protege of well respected and admired Chef Betty who worked at GHS for a few years back in the early 2000. This year GUSD has been installing and purchasing new equipment for the program, which has included a portable mirrored demonstration table, deli meat slicing machines, a new professional stove and a large portable BBQ Pit for grilling lessons and special event catering. Our Gilroy High School Automobile program is slowly (read pandemic) adding auto CAD design to the curriculum and both Christopher and Gilroy high school woodworking courses are adding CAD CNC machines.

Morgan Hill Unified School District (MHUSD)

Morgan Hill Unified had our first completely virtual Advisory Committee meeting in December. All of our teachers were able to meet with knowledgeable industry representatives. They discussed the current state of their industry and what skills would be helpful for students to learn. We are also in the process of adding a greenhouse at Live Oak High School. The Agriculture and Natural Resources team at Live Oak are excited to use the new facility to continue to expand their programs.

INTRODUCING THE CTE TEAM



Joell Hanson - CTE
Coordinator

johanson@sccoe.org



Dana Richards - Work
Based Learning
Manager

drichards@sccoe.org



Donna Gilmour -
ISTEAM Professional
Expert

dgilmour@pe.sccoe.org



Jessica Tabron

jtabron@pausd.org

Serving: Foothill-De Anza
Community College District,
Palo Alto Unified School
District, Mountain View Los
Altos School District,
Fremont Unified School
District

K12 PATHWAY COORDINATORS



Eileen Brown - K12
Pathways Coordinator

ebrown@sccoe.org

West Valley-Mission
Community College District
Serving: Campbell Union
High School District, Los-
Gatos-Saratoga Union High
School District and Santa
Clara Unified School District



Richard Charvet - K12
Pathways Coordinator

rcharvet@sccoe.org

Gavilan College District
Serving: Morgan Hill Unified
School District, Gilroy Unified
School District, Hollister
School District



Maurice James - K12
Pathways Coordinator

mjames@sccoe.org

San Jose-Evergreen
Community College District
Serving: San Jose Unified
School District, East Side
Union High School District,
Metropolitan Education
District



Career Tech Education - Santa Clara County Office of Education

📍 1290 Ridder Park Drive, San Jo...

✉ echong@sccoe.org

🌐 sccoe.org/cte



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echong@sccoe.org