Overview of the East San Gabriel Valley ROP YCC Program

The majority of students in our area live in high-poverty communities. The Youth CareerConnect (YCC) grant afforded the East San Gabriel Valley ROP a unique opportunity to provide training and support to more than 1,500 students from five local high schools.

Labor market surveys identified medical and technology as the highest-demand industry sectors in our region. Accordingly, the goals of our YCC Grant were to:

1. Coordinate a mentoring program with industry professionals in those sectors.
2. Provide structured visitations and access to articulation opportunities with higher education providers in our area.
3. Place students in workplaces that would provide quality hands-on experience, and maintain employability education and support to students for up to four years.

Our partnership members, including Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, NASA Jet Propulsion Lab, Mount San Antonio College, and the Baldwin Park Chamber of Commerce, played a critical role in preparing our YCC students to enter and succeed in high-demand, high paying medical and technology occupations.

Program Highlight

Work-based learning has been a highlight of our program, and we look forward to its continued growth over the next several years. Students have been offered a wide variety of opportunities to participate in work-based learning during the school day, during after-school hours, on weekends, and during summer programs.

The six-week, work-based summer program was a unique innovation for us and was offered to all YCC participants in both medical and technology pathways. All students and parents were invited and encouraged to attend an orientation. Students were enrolled in classes that exposed them to various job environments in addition to those that they had encountered during the regular school year. The program provided a two-week
specialized training for the students to prepare them specifically for the worksite in which they were to be placed. The last four weeks was a four-hour-a-day, five-day-a-week, job-site internship.

Success Story
Hellen Jimenez was one of our YCC students that continuously challenged herself by enrolling in Advanced Placement courses and communicating with her counselors about post-secondary goals. As a senior, Hellen earned a 4.15 cumulative grade point average and graduated in the top 4% of her class. She explored her intended career beyond the classroom by reading online articles, watching veterinary science videos on various domestic and wildlife specializations, and researching universities that have majors or concentrations in Animal Science or Biology.

Through our YCC Work-Based Learning program, Hellen participated in an internship with a local veterinary clinic to gain experience in the field and work on her professional development. She was accepted into her “dream school” University of California Davis, where she is completing undergraduate coursework for a veterinary degree.

Community Impact
YCC has helped grow our school pathways. We now have the ability to provide quality programming and access to equipment along with the appropriate support services and resources. The progress we were able to achieve through YCC will continue to impact our students, communities, and employers by creating an educated and qualified workforce.

Our YCC students had opportunities to network with industry professional mentors and to spend time completing internship hours in local medical offices, hospitals, and assisted living facilities. Through field trips, they had exposure to various careers in nuclear medicine departments, cadaver labs, and more.

We have had YCC students accepted to California universities as well as out-of-state and Ivy League colleges, where they will major in careers they had never thought possible. Others will be starting community college programs (with articulation credits) and pursuing medical and technology certifications and degrees.

East San Gabriel Valley ROP
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