

August 8, 2024



Students Get a Jump Start on the future at PC

The Porterville College Career Education Division hosted three **Summer Jump Start Academies** this past month, giving Porterville area high school students a first-hand look at some of the career pathways available at PC.

These Academies, intended for High School Juniors, ran from July 8 through August 1.

These Summer Jump Start Academies were designed as stand-alone four week project-based internship programs focused on in-demand careers in Tulare County. They provide a curriculum designed specifically for incoming Central Valley high school seniors (current juniors) with an interest in learning more about careers in Hospitality, Technology, Health and Safety. The classes run from 8 am until 1 p.m., 4 days a week, and the students get paid to participate in most cases.

This year's Academy has been expanded to include an **FAA Part 107** drone pilot course as well as a Culinary Arts Program which provides OSHA-10 Certification.

The “Buzz” In The Air About Drones

The Drone Academy, instructed by Mauricio Vargas, taught students drone assembly, basic operation, and safety, as well as flight logistics. Everything you need to prepare for the FAA's Part 107 Certification. After class preparation for the certification exams, they were taken to Visalia to take the test itself.

Vargas said of the class, “Since this is the first time the Drone Academy has been offered during Jump Start we're making sure to focus on the basics - how to program the drones, operate them safely, and the many ways they can be used.”

He explained that drones can be useful in agriculture to survey crops and for irrigation, they can be used by law enforcement and fire departments for search and rescue and aerial surveillance for suspicious activities. Independent companies use drones for a host of functions including safety inspections, remote inspection of power and telecom lines and anywhere it isn't safe for or is unreachable by people.

Drones can be used for environmental and conservation surveys. Companies like Amazon have even been researching the use of drones for deliveries.

Jareli Esteban from the Porterville Military Academy said the class was informative and interesting, she learned so many things, and enjoyed the hands-on class activities. “It's something new compared to the smaller drones I've flown before. It's a great experience and I'm looking forward to getting my drone license.”



Drone Maintenance



Building Crepes in the Kitchen

Something Smells Great This Summer

The students attending the Culinary Arts Academy were taught by instructor Silvia Hermosillo who used an ice-breaker exercise to help them remember each other's names, which is critical in the kitchen when working closely together. "I have to get as much information to the students about the kitchen in this class as possible," Hermosillo said. "Kitchen safety is critical, food safety, and basic kitchen techniques. These are skills vital to the profession, as well as life skills."

At the end of the 4-week culinary course students will receive their food handlers certification. This makes it easier to apply for part-time or full-time jobs right after completion.

Students in the program learn how to handle food safely and how to keep people from getting sick. They also learn how to write recipes and follow them correctly. The academy is built to give them a large amount of hands-on work in the kitchen. Jacob Mendoza who attends Harmony Magnet Academy that experience has been exciting. Intern hours are required by High Schools. "I like to keep busy during the summer. The Jump Start Academy was an experience to take advantage of," Mendoza said.



REACH Air Ambulance Visits PC

Great Responses To Helping Others

In the First Responder Academy, PC Kinesiology Instructor Benjamin Walkowiak students about the different career paths open to them in the medical field. This includes EMT, paramedics, flight medic or nurse, search and rescue, police, or the fire department. Or "Any situation where people are

arriving on the scene and helping with care of a person before going to the hospital."

He said many of the students are interested in helping people, but they don't know enough about the medical fields to decide which direction they would like to take.

With this training they get their Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification before finishing high school.

In the class they learned American Red Cross CPR, AED, and first aid, and will receive a Red Cross certification for CPR that's good for two years. It will help them feel more comfortable in a situation where they have to perform CPR or use an AED to save someone's life.

They also learned about choking and the Heimlich maneuver, how to use an EPI pen for allergic reactions and how to use Narcan for opioid overdose.

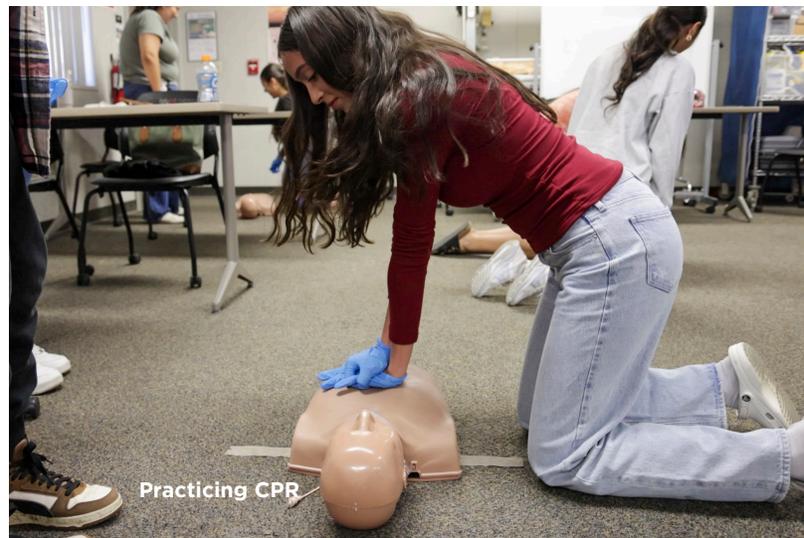
Various medical professionals visited to speak to the class, and Walkowiak said he hopes the experiences in class will help students feel comfortable in the possible scenarios they will face in the future. "It takes a special person to be in the medical field", Walkowiak said.

The class also took multiple field trips to experience industry partners at work first hand. They also received a visit and a demonstration from REACH Air Ambulance on the PC campus.

Alexea Rojo Andrade from Summit Collegiate High School says the CPR class was "hands-down one of the best interactive classes that I have ever had the chance to participate in! It's filled with continuous hands-on activities, like working with CPR practice mannequins, and taking trips to various places."

"Coming into the program I had few ideas of what I wanted to pursue as a career, but thanks to this program, after learning more about health career paths I am extremely interested in working as an EMT."

PC's Jump Start Summer Camp is made possible through a regional partnership between PC, West Hills College Lemoore, College of the Sequoias, and Reedley College. The program, which began on July 8th is taking place on the PC campus through August 1.



Practicing CPR

PC Student Named NASA Scholar



We are proud to announce that Porterville College Student Isaac Ceballos has been chosen as one of the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars for 2024. Qualified community college students are chosen from throughout the country to participate in unique NASA led "Missions" to advance their capabilities in STEM, helping to prepare them for better representation and service in STEM fields. The three missions are designed to challenge and build student knowledge and skills by focusing on NASA's mission goals, collaboration, and career pathways.

Mr. Ceballos is a second year student at PC taking courses in engineering and Math. His love of all things engineering comes from his time spent working on cars and machinery with his father inside his garage.

"My dad, he loves engines... but we had a little more of a language barrier when it comes to speaking because he speaks mostly Spanish and I speak mostly English, so we don't really have that much communication to speak to each other. But, the communication we do have is building things, engines, cars, stuff like that. We work on my car all the time, it's an old '96 mustang. I think that is where it really started to affect me and my love for science and STEM because, ever since [we started connecting], I've always loved building things."

During his time as a NASA Community College Aerospace Scholar (NCAS), he will first participate in "Mission 1: Discover" A 5-week, self-paced online course. This orientation to NASA sets a baseline for all students wishing to pursue subsequent NCAS missions. Students will gain a broad knowledge of what NASA has in its current plan and how they can play a role. STEM based activities embedded in the online course include live and recorded subject matter expert lectures, interactive multimedia on NASA content, interactions with fellow aerospace scholars, knowledge assessments including a final project, and guidance and support from trained professional educators.

If Isaac completes that first mission, he will move on to "Mission 2: Explore" which Allows students to participate in one of two educational simulation experiences. Exploration simulation is a gamified mission to the Moon or Mars where students develop a design solution that integrates multiple systems. This simulation highlights the acts of prioritizing and making trade-offs to remain within constraints. Career simulation situates students to take on mock roles as NASA employees to gain exposure to workplace structure and culture. This simulation highlights the personal responsibilities and team dynamics needed to accomplish a huge goal such as a lunar surface exploration mission.

The final step of the mission process, after completion of the first two, is "Mission 3: Explore" An Engineering Design Challenge. Students participate in a week-long robotics competition with an NCAS partner institution OR a 3-week hybrid (online/onsite) capstone project at a NASA Field Center. STEM based activities for all students will include an engineering design challenge as well as facility tours, live subject matter expert presentations, a resume workshop, a networking event, a job shadowing opportunity, and a 4-year college campus visit. Students affiliated with an NCAS partner institution will participate in a robotics competition. Robotics Competition: Students affiliated with an NCAS partner institution will participate in a robotics competition. During the 4-day engagement, students collaborate with team members as a fictitious aerospace company vying for a NASA rover contract. Working in assigned roles, students utilize STEM-industry mentors to guide the rover design. Capstone Project: Students unaffiliated with an NCAS partner institution will participate in a capstone problem based on current challenges faced by NASA mission directorates. Thus, this engagement begins with online activities two weeks prior to the actual onsite event to brief students on the emerging and relevant details of the problem. Leading up to and during the 4-day onsite event, students develop possible solutions to the capstone problem and report them to a panel of NASA guests.

This past year Porterville College was invited to participate in the California Space Grant Consortium with the sponsorship of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Office of STEM Engagement to promote STEM preparation at California Community Colleges using low-cost programmable micro-computers. The goal of the grant is to provide workforce training and critical preparation to bridge students to university STEM degree programs.

The NASA Aerospace Scholar program is just one of the internship opportunities available through this partnership with PC. For more information, visit the PC Innovation Centers Website at <https://www.portervillecollege.edu/programs-and-classes/innovation-centers/index.html>



Caring Campus Is Spreading Cross Campus Awareness



The Caring Campus Committee kicked the program into high gear this month as they introduced the next step in their plan to improve student/staff interactions on campus. They sent out the first in a series of monthly newsletters that will recap recent Caring Campus activities, introduce new initiatives, celebrate success stories, and create an open platform for discussing the implementation of the five behaviors - their new initiatives leading into fall for classified professionals.

They are currently working on their “Cross Departmental Awareness” initiative and sharing information on each department with the entire campus. Essentially cross-training individuals so that they are aware of what each department does and is responsible for on campus. The working theory is that, with this information, our staffers are better equipped to answer questions from students and provide more “personalized” help to those who need it. Now, when someone needs to be referred to another department on campus, it can be done so in a more personal manner. Instead of sending a student to “talk to someone in financial aid” they can send a student to “see John in financial aid... he can help you with FAFSA Application issues” etc.

Caring Campus is an initiative put forth by the Institute of Evidence-Based Change. With the help of Jean Petty our Coach and Debbie-Lou Angeles the Caring Campus Liaison, the Caring Campus committee focuses on initiatives and actions that have been proven to enhance student belonging and build relationships.

New IT Director Named

Please join us in congratulating Manuel “Manny” Caceras on his official appointment as the Director of Information Technology for Porterville College!

Mr. Caceras was born in Venezuela, South America, and moved to the United States when he was 18. He studied information technology at Fresno City College and National University and has over 20 years of experience in technology and 15 years in administration. Throughout his career, Manny has been extensively involved in both K-12 and higher education - giving him a unique ability to address the technological needs of diverse educational environments such as Porterville College.

He has held various roles at PC, starting as a System Support Specialist I and continuing to become a System Support Specialist II. He has served as Interim IT Director since Jay Navarette’s Retirement last year.

“I am thrilled to take on my new role as Director of Information Technology. I will continue to bring my skills and experience to help advance the college’s technological capabilities and support its strategic goals. I am particularly looking forward to collaborating with faculty, staff, and students to enhance our IT infrastructure and ensure that we provide the best possible technological support for the college community.”



Manuel Caceras

Important Upcoming Dates

| Dates | Event | Time/Location |
|-------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| August 22 | FALL FLEX DAY | VARIOUS |
| August 23 | PC WELCOME DAY | 8:00AM TO 12:30PM PC CAMPUS |
| August 26 | FALL SEMESTER INSTRUCTION BEGINS | VARIOUS |
| September 2 | LABOR DAY HOLIDAY | CAMPUS CLOSED |

“Optimism doesn’t mean that you are blind to the reality of the situation. It means that you remain motivated to seek a solution to whatever problems arise.”

-The Dalai Lama