



Newsletter

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Career Ready Leadership That Works

Central Union High School student participating in the "Dummy Drag" event at the IVROP Law Enforcement Skills Competition



The ROP/CTE Central Union High School Law Enforcement Skills Competition Champions.

IVROP Skills Competition

By: Juan Campos, Educational Services and CTE Coordinator

This past spring of 2016, IVROP held several skills competitions for high school students throughout the Imperial Valley. These competitions are not your ordinary high school sporting events. The skills competitions showcase the best career and technical education students in the region. IVROP skills competitions include: law enforcement, culinary arts, welding and agriculture, health care, and computer technology.

Inez Estrada is an IVROP Nursing and Medical Terminology Instructor at Brawley Union High School. Estrada stated, "the nursing competition is highly competitive and offers realistic activities." Estrada commented on the

rigor of the competition, "this local competition prepares students for the State competition, and exposes students that will not be going on to state to a variety of excellent health related workshops."

IVROP supports the provision of career technical education (CTE) classes throughout all seven comprehensive high schools in the Imperial County, and the Imperial County Office of Education's Alternative Education Department. CTE classes are designed to help prepare high school students for postsecondary career pathways through technical and occupational skills training.

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Calexico High School CTE Students Receive New Computers from Z-Global

By: Juan Campos



On June 6th, during a small ceremony at Calexico High School, 27 Career and Technical Education (CTE) students received Dell laptop computers from Z-Global, a renewable energy management company located in El Centro, Ca. The students were all selected as Z-Global "Scholars" through a comprehensive selection process developed by one of their CTE

instructors, Mrs. Norma Galindo. "There are over 3,000 high school students at Calexico High school, but these 27 students have amazing qualities beyond academics," stated Galindo during her closing remarks of the ceremony.

Mr. Alex Jaime, a long time CTE instructor at Calexico High. Jaime welcomed parents and students, and introduced several other Calexico and Imperial Valley adminis-

trators responsible for CTE services at the school. During his opening remarks, Jaime reminded the audience about the importance of career and technical education skills, and how students who partake in his technology class, or in Mrs. Galindo's health pathway classes receive career and job readiness skills along with industry recognized credentials that prepare them for work after high school. "Students have the option to work right after high school

See "Calexico High" on page 2



**ROP/CTE Information & Communications
Technology Skills, Quiz Bowl Winners from
Calexico High School with Dr. Finnell**



**Calipatria culinary team and quiz bowl
champions**

IVROP Skills Competition (cont. from page 1)

Another great benefit is that some of the IVROP/CTE classes offer students industry recognized credentials or certifications. Students are able to explore a wide range of careers while they are in high school, and if they choose, can pursue additional career training, or can pursue additional college and university training for their chosen career field after high school.

High School career and technical education teachers prepare students for the competitions throughout the school year. As an example, Cory Van Driessche's Legal Service and Law Enforcement class at Central Union High School won this year's IVROP Law Enforcement Skills Competition. "I took time out of my regular curriculum to teach the basics for the skills competition. We focused on the 10

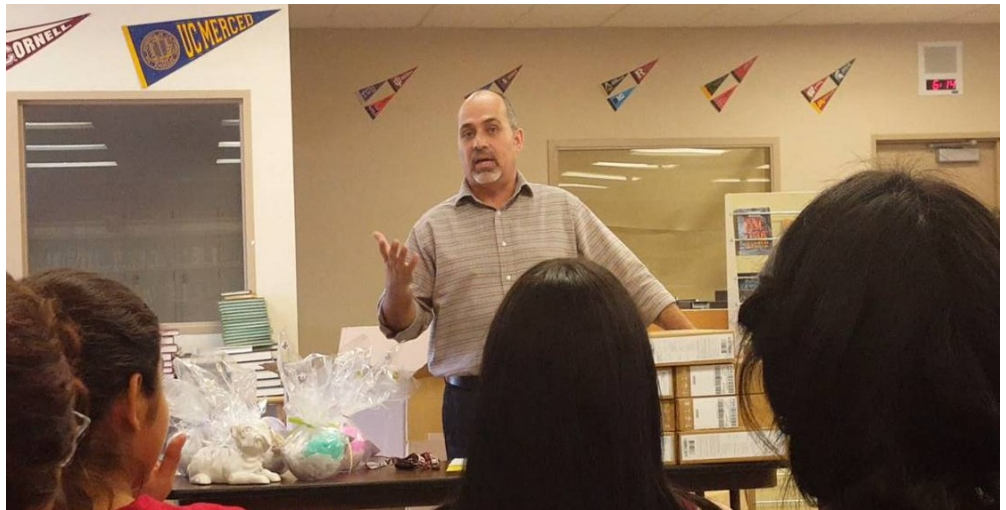
and 11 codes, penal codes, and the physical fitness requirements for entry level police officers," stated Van Driessche. This was the first year for Law Enforcement Skills. When asked about the competition Van Driessche said, "students realized the importance of not only being in good physical condition but also having the knowledge about the law."

The skills competition is an added activity offered to students to help sharpen and test their work skills. Jackie Valadez teaches Medical Terminology and Medical Assistant classes at Southwest High. Valadez stated, "the skills competition provides students with the opportunity to showcase their knowledge acquired during their health science related courses."

Calexico High School (cont. from page 1)

because of their involvement in Calexico's CTE classes, they can also continue their pathway beyond high school and attend college and university level training in the areas of healthcare or technology," remarked Jaime. Jaime also thanked the Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program for all their work with all of the high schools in the county. Alex Jaime stated, "IVROP is supportive of CTE services in our school and they collaborate with our high school administrators and teachers to develop rigorous and relevant CTE programs for our students."

Several representatives from Z-Global's local branch office were on hand to congratulate students and hand them their new laptops during the ceremony. One of the representatives, Jesse Montaño, spoke on behalf of his company's commitment to education. "Z-Global has partnered with Calexico High through the efforts of Mrs. Galindo to support education. It is our hope that one day, you will all receive additional post-secondary training, whether it is higher education or career technical training, and will come back to work in your community, and maybe even work

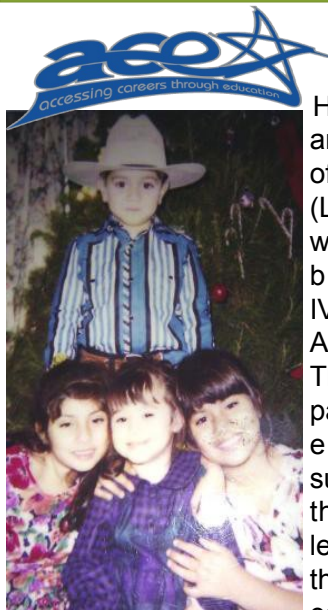


**Calexico CTE Department Chair, Alex Jaime, talks to students about the importance of
Career Technical Education**

for Z-Global," stated Montaño.

In her closing remarks, Mrs. Galindo went on to thank her students and their parents for all their hard work throughout the past academic year. She thanked her Principal, Gabrielle Williams, and the Calexico Unified School District Superintendent, Mrs. Maria Ambriz. Mrs. Galindo stated, "I am grateful to work with such hard working women that have a 'can do' attitude, and

who support career technical education at our school." During the closing moments of the ceremony, students posed with pictures with their two teachers, Jaime and Galindo, and with their parents. Some had unpacked their computers, and held them with pride as they thanked the Z-Global representatives during the small dinner reception that followed. Alex Jaime stated, "These computers are top of the line, and you all earned them."



It Takes a Village By: Ariel Lopez

Here is an amazing story of four siblings (Lopez Family) who happen to be former IVROP Project ACE students. The amazing part is how each one succeeded at the college level and how they helped each other out

during the process.

Here is their story written by the youngest sibling, Ariel Lopez:

"There has always been something in us that's made us stick together. When we were placed into foster care, the separation of being in different group homes took a toll on all four of us. My sisters and I were pulled into the same foster home, but Josh was

sent to another foster home in another city. We were lucky enough to have an aunt who took all four of us into her home without hesitation. Moving forward our aunt was the base for our foundation, but in each of our lives we had different people that also believed in us and kept pushing for us to continue to develop into the people we are now.

Bailey was clearly the trailblazer for the rest of us. Once she graduated from high school she began to take courses that would then lead her to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. Her journey wasn't easy as she always put us three younger siblings first to make sure we went on to college; she even moved to another city just so that the rest of us didn't have to switch high schools.

Cindol realized education was important during middle school with the help of her counselor, but it was the mentors she was able to gain through programs like ACE and IVROP that gave her the final push



From L to R: Ariel, Josh, Bailey, and Cindol

she needed. Two weeks before classes at SDSU started, our old ACE case manager drove Cindol to register for classes. It was that effort that let Cindol think that if someone believed in her ability, then she should also believe in herself, so she stuck through SDSU and received her Bachelor's of Arts Degree.

Josh always knew school was important and he found support in his football family. In fact, he moved out of state to continue pursuing his football dream and education, earning his Bachelor's Degree in Applied Psychology. Josh returned to

See "It takes a Village" on page 4

IVROP Main Office

687 W State Street — El Centro, CA 92243

The Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program (IVROP) is a public educational agency that provides regional Career Technical Education (CTE) and career preparation in Imperial County operating under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) formed by seven school districts and the Imperial County Office of Education.

IVROP was developed to enhance learning and occupational opportunities through effective business partnerships and to meet the needs of students, employers, and the community.

IVROP also serves as an advocate for adults and their families through education, training services and community connections that promote self-sufficiency, economic stability, and family stabilization.

For more information call or visit us online.



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Project Star Outstanding Participant

Since 2009 Project STAR (Succeeding Through Actions & Responsibility) has been working in collaboration with Imperial County Behavioral Health Services to help serve our local community with Mental Health Disabilities. Project STAR provides various types of workshops such as, basic employment skills training, basic skills, life skills, social skills, leadership and development training, along with other health based and community driven activities. This year Project STAR had the opportunity to

recognize participant Jose Luis Valenzuela (Joe) for his outstanding participation, achievements, and recovery. When participant "Joe" was interviewed by project STAR staff this is what he mentioned:

"I have been a Project STAR Participant since 2010. I was homeless depressed, and with anxiety. It has been the best support group I've ever had. It has given me back the will to live!

Project STAR has provided me with life skills, self-esteem, employment training, photography, art, computer, dancing, cooking, and guitar workshops. It also provided activities such as karaoke, bowling, watching movies, and trips to Sea world, San Diego Zoo, Mission beach, museums, and other fun places. Thanks to these workshops and activities, I have learned or enhance many of my skills. They have also given me the opportunity to socialize with others. Project STAR has also given me recognitions, rewards, and certificates. It has also allowed me to participate in the Community Involvement Committee (CIC). Without Project STAR I would be at home depressed, and I'd probably end up going back to the streets and to drugs. Also, in my case



Joe loves playing the guitar! He started learning in an ACE workshop and hasn't stopped playing since then.

I wouldn't have learned how to play the guitar—something I love to do. Playing the guitar helps me release my anxiety, and it gives me a good feeling.

IVROP Project STAR is the best. I love this program! I've seen how Project STAR has been helping many people in this community and has been very successful. People who have noticed me change have asked how they can get in the program, and the ones that are eligible have started going to get help.

My story is a success story because I'm alive, but not only that; I have learned how to play the guitar and enjoy the many good things that life offers me, too. Now I'm a happy camper. I have to add that Project STAR staff has a lot to do with my success and the success of all the other clients. Thanks with all my heart to Project STAR and its staff!"



Joe being recognized as Project Star's Outstanding Participant during the 2016 IVROP Showcase



It Takes a Village (cont. from page 3)

California and pursued his Master's Degree at Point Loma Nazarene University.

He has come full circle by providing the same family atmosphere and encouragement he experienced to the high school students he works with.

I realized school was important when I knew it could be my way out of the craziness that had happened in our lives. Even going through the foster care system, I knew I owed it to my-

self and to my siblings who had always looked over me to continue to better my future. Believing in myself helped me get through UC Davis with a Bachelor's of Arts.

We all benefited from family and community support, whether through sports, school counselors, ACE and IVROP. Yes, we had to become adults at a faster pace than we would have liked due to our experiences. However, with each other's support and those mentors along the way we've been able to push through it all.



IVROP PROJECT RISE

RELATIONSHIPS INSPIRE SUCCESS & EXCELLENCE



IVROP's Newest Project—Project RISE

Developmental Assets are the positive values, positive relationships and experiences which help bring out the best in children and teenagers. They are the building blocks of healthy, development which are essential for youth's successful growth. Research by the Search Institute has identified 40 concrete, positive experiences and qualities, called Developmental Assets, which have considerable influence on young people's lives. The assets are grouped into eight categories: Support, Empowerment, Boundaries and Expectations, Constructive Use of Time, Commitment to Learning, Positive Values, Social Competencies, and Positive Identity.

Data collected from Search Institute surveys of over 4 million youth from all backgrounds and situations have continually shown that the more Developmental Assets youth gain, the better their chances of succeeding in school and becoming happy, contributing members of their community.

IVROP-Project RISE's goal is to build and work with community networks to use Developmental Assets findings as a foundation for measuring and monitoring skills and resources that initiate efforts to improve youth's readiness for life after high school. Collaboration among community networks can result in the following outcomes:

- Activate schools, social services, health care organizations, as well as businesses in the Imperial County in order to create an asset building culture that will contribute to the educational development of young people.
- Invigorate existing IVROP Family Development and Stabilization programs by expanding and enhancing them to become more Developmental Assets rich.
- Influence civic decision by working with decision makers and opinion leaders to leverage financial, media, and policy resources in support of this positive transformation of the Imperial County.

Funding for the project is possible by the generous support of the Vesper Society.

For additional information regarding Developmental Assets please contact Fernando Calderon, Project Specialist, at (760) 482-2622.



Career Ready Leadership That Works



**Imperial Unified
School District**

