



# Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

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**IVROP**

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 visit our website [www.ivrop.org](http://www.ivrop.org)

## Student-Led Fall Festival at BUHS

Gloria Fortin's Careers with Children class at Brawley Union High School wanted to put on a special event for the children they serve. Fortin's students suggested a Fall Festival for the BUHS preschoolers and their families on November 21st. The activity was a great example of a Common Core Task for the students.

The students wanted to create a fair-like atmosphere with games and goodies for the children. Ms. Fortin assigned her students to come up with grade appropriate activities for the pre-school aged children. The students helped guide and demonstrate the activities during the festival.

Students in this course are learning about child development and the importance of play. What better assignment could there be than allowing students to put on the festival for the children? The Careers with Children class provides students with career technical education and work skills they can use after high school. By putting on the festival, the students applied what they learned in the class to create a new opportunity for children. This directly incorporates the principles of Common Core Standards.

The festival, held in the play area behind the Careers with Children class at BUHS, included a scavenger



hunt, face painting, opportunities for parents and grandparents to get their pictures taken with the children, and other age appropriate activities.

## When One Door Closes, Another is Opened



Project Éxito "Success" is a Face Forward Grantee that has been providing services to youth in the Imperial Valley since October 2013. Éxito provides services to youth, ages 16 through 24, who have been involved in the Juvenile Justice System.

Project Éxito participants

are given the opportunity to receive re-entry services through Project Éxito, which include case management support, workforce training, expungement of juvenile convictions, and educational advancement through program support.

Rosa Quintero decided to join Project Éxito in February 2014. "At first, I was hesitant to join the program," Rosa said. "I was thinking: how could they help me turn my life

around?"

It was not until Rosa joined Project Éxito that the thought of "el mundo no se cierra" became a realization for her.

"When one door closes, another is opened" became Rosa's definition of a fresh start. Rosa worked with Project Éxito Case Manager Marysol Medina, who interviewed and assessed the barriers for re-entry that Rosa was encountering.

## Project Éxito (continued from page 1)

One of Rosa’s barriers was the lack of financial support, which she planned to overcome by finding employment. With a local unemployment rate of 22.4% for the month of May, the scarcity of jobs made this barrier extremely difficult to overcome.

Yet Project Éxito Job Developer Mario Renteria, through our On-the-Job Training program, was able to place Rosa at La Resaca, a seafood restaurant in El Centro, CA. Project Éxito’s On-the-Job Training (OJT) allows participants to become employed under a 480-hour contract, which reimburses employers with 50% of a participant’s wage.

Along with finding employment, Rosa’s goal was to return to school and continue her postsecondary education. “I was born in La Cruz, Sinaloa, Mexico, and I came to the United States illegally when I was two,” Rosa said. “I was raised in a Spanish-speaking home with parents who didn’t have an education or

spoke English.

“I never really liked school,” she said. “I always struggled with it, and my parents couldn’t provide me or my sisters with educational support, so that didn’t help.”

In August of 2014, with the guidance and support provided by Project Éxito, Rosa was able to complete one semester of college units and is currently working on completing her Fall Semester. Rosa wishes to continue attending Imperial Valley College for the upcoming winter and spring semesters.

“Project Éxito helped me realize that college was possible for me,” Rosa said. “They helped me submit my college application and financial aid application. They even took me to meet with a counselor for my classes. I’m now on my second semester at IVC.

“I’ve also never understood how to operate a computer, let alone a laptop; but through their program work-



Rosa Quintero is turning her life around with the help of Project Éxito

shops, I’m now a proud owner of my own laptop and I can operate a computer on my own,” she said. “Through their workshops I also learned what to say and not to say during a job interview.”

## Meet Our Guidance Technicians

An IVROP Guidance Technician is located at each of the high schools served by IVROP. High school students are encouraged to seek their assistance for college and career plans.

Abraham Anaya



Serving Brawley Union, Desert Valley, and Calipatria High Schools

### Guidance Technicians can assist with Career Technical Education Services:

- Career Exploration and Assessment
- Career Pathway Information
- IVROP Class Schedule
- Scholarship Applications & Essays
- Employability—job search
- Imperial Valley Career Readiness Certificate and ACT KeyTrain Curriculum

Crystal Valenzuela



Serving Imperial and Holbrook High Schools



Debbie Burquist



Serving Central Union and Desert Oasis High Schools

Janeth Coronel



Serving Southwest and Desert Oasis High Schools

Marcela Morlett



Serving Calexico and Aurora High Schools

Kristian Salgado



Serving Calexico, Aurora, Holtville, San Pasqual, and Community Schools



## Beginning is the First Step to Change

Mi Familia is truly pleased to share the success of Daniel and Melanie Gaxiola.

Daniel and Melanie attended 30 hours of the Nurturing Parenting program. During their participation, Mi Familia's instructor validated the couple's willingness to make positive changes in their lives, as well as establishing a healthy family environment by maximizing their potential as parents.

"I learned that feelings are very important because they affect you. Instead of yelling or telling a child or teen *because I said so*, you can go about a situation using problem solving techniques," Melanie said.

The Nurturing Parenting Curriculum aims to improve a father's and mother's relationship with the child or children. It also assists parents by providing strategies that promote healthier nurturing choices. These

classes touch upon inappropriate expectations, levels of empathy, corporal punishment, family roles, and power independence.

It also teaches them to be accountable for their behavior and to become proactive parents in their children's lives, as well as edify their parental growth. Clients always displayed consideration and respect towards their classmates and their instructor. Mr. and Mrs. Gaxiola participated and were highly involved in every group conversation with a positive attitude and regard to other parents' feelings.

During their participation in the program, Daniel and Melanie were undergoing stressors as well as barriers that withheld them from success. The couple was highly motivated to attend parenting classes in order to improve family structure, levels of empathy, as well as family roles. Mi Familia identified the barriers of Daniel and Melanie and created a family development plan that focused on improving the areas of need, and strengthen their weak-

ness. This would promote the reunification of their family.

"It is somewhat difficult to apply the learning when we only see the kids for a couple of hours," Melanie said.

Mi familia provided Daniel and Melanie the tools and guidance with the purpose of improving and applying new parenting methods. The parenting skills taught to clients promoted positive discipline and nurturing routines.

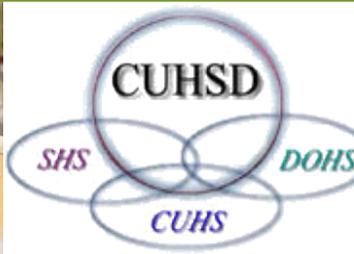
Throughout, Mi Familia parenting classes, Mr. and Mrs. Gaxiola demonstrated to be capable of reflecting on their parenting weakness and changing them to strengths. Support and guidance was well accepted by both Mr. and Mrs. Gaxiola, allowing them to recently successfully reunify with their children. Struggles and trials will always be obstacles in the human kind, but Mr. and Mrs. Gaxiola did not quit, instead proving to be examples of determination and tenacity.

## IVROP Main Office

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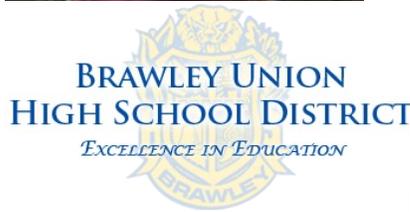
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www.facebook.com/IVROP





IMPERIAL COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

IVROP Career Technical Education in Action: Fire Science—Imperial High School, Desktop Publishing—Calipatria High School, Welding—Brawley Union High School, Automotive Maintenance—Central Union High School, Food Technology—Calexico High School, and Dental Assistant—Southwest High School



## IVROP Upcoming Events

**1st Annual IVROP Employer & Community Forum — February 25**  
Please RSVP to [drodriguez@ivrop.org](mailto:drodriguez@ivrop.org) or call (760) 482-2615.

**17th Annual IVROP Showcase & Recognition Ceremony — March 24**  
For more info visit [www.ivrop.org](http://www.ivrop.org)

**Dancing With the Stars Gala — May 1**  
For more info visit [www.ivropcf.org](http://www.ivropcf.org)

**Project ACE College Conference/Jump Start Expo — February 27**  
For more info visit [www.ivrop.org](http://www.ivrop.org) or call (760) 337-3096

