



CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT >> HIGHLIGHTS <<

HIGH SCHOOL HEAD STARTS:

- [Career Learning Academies](#)

HEADLINE NEWS:

- [NEW Entrepreneurship Workshops Launched with the Marin SBDC](#)

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) UPDATES:

- [Featured Staff: Dolly Salazar](#)
- [Community Feature: Advisory Committees Take the Lead](#)
- [CTE Tied to Strong Wage Growth](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **April 19** - 2017 Marin County All-CTE Meeting, 3:30 p.m., Indian Valley Campus
- **April 21** - High School Counselor Conference, noon, Indian Valley Campus
- **April 22** - [Marinovators](#), 10 a.m., Kentfield Campus

**For event details please contact
415.457.8811 ext. 8205**

Career Academies Overwhelmingly Popular for High School Students

College of Marin's (COM) Indian Valley Campus is gearing up for a summer full of high school learning academies in an effort to help students hone in on careers while earning college units.

"We are eager to bring high school students to our campus and provide them with a hands-on college and career experience that might propel them in certain lines of work," said Katheryn Horton, CTE and Workforce grants administrator.

Offered in partnership with the Main County Office of Education (MCOE), the academies were developed with state grant funding dedicated to the improvement of high school-to-college career pathways. Marin County high schools offer a number of career pathway opportunities to students, including engineering, multi-media, health care, and more. COM's CTE and Workforce Development Department partners with local high schools by offering courses and experiences to help enhance these pathways. Some of the offerings include articulated classes, dual enrollment opportunities,



summer academies, campus tours, and classroom presentations.

“The goals are to provide high school students with college experience, give them work skills and expose them to the world of CTE,” says Horton. COM is proud to offer the following learning academies in Summer 2017:

- [Education Careers Academy – April 10-14](#)
- [Introduction to Game Development – June 12-16](#)
- [Career Exploration – June 12-16](#)
- [Introduction to Health Occupations – June 19-22 and 26-29](#)
- [Solar Energy Academy – June 23 and 26-30](#)

To learn more about the academies, please visit www.marincareers.org

Business workshops launched in partnership with the Marin Small Business Development Center

COM's CTE Department, Workforce program, and Community Education Department are collaborating with the Marin Small Business Development Center (SBDC) hosted at Dominican University to provide multiple small business and entrepreneurial training workshops this spring at both the Indian Valley and Kentfield Campuses.

“We are very excited about our partnership with the Marin SBDC to provide relevant small business training workshops for local business owners, entrepreneurs, and COM students,” stated Elizabeth Pratt, COM's dean of career technical education. “The relevant information provided by the SBDC trainers is critical for the success of our local businesses and a huge benefit for our students.”

The collaboration between COM and Marin SBDC came about because of the desire for COM's adult and business students to access entrepreneurial training and for the SBDC to provide workshops throughout the county.



According to Miriam Hope Karell, director of Marin Small Business Development Center,

the workshops are fulfilling a need in the community. "We are thrilled with the positive response and the attendance at the COM/Marin SBDC workshops. We are receiving great feedback from the community," said Karell. A total of 11 workshops are being offered this spring including a **"Business Basic Series"** in both English and Spanish, **"Financing and Funding a Business,"** **"E-Commerce and Online Sales and Marketing for Businesses,"** **"From Kitchen to Market - the Ins and Outs of Starting a Food Business,"** and **"Craft a Winning Pitch."**

The next class is **Craft a Winning Pitch**, which will take place on April 18 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Kentfield Campus. The "This workshop is not just a class on how to get funding," according to Miriam, "It's also extremely important for small business owners to know how to sell their product/service and 'brand' their business." For more information or to register for the SBDC Workshops at College of Marin, please visit www.marincareers.com or call the [Marin Small Business Development Center](http://www.marincareers.com) at 415-755-1100.



Career and Technical Education Presents: Dolly Salazar



Dolly joined the CTE staff as a student worker in the spring 2017 semester and has already made a big impact for students, faculty, and staff at the Indian Valley Campus in Novato. Dolly grew up in Novato and always knew that I wanted to pursue higher learning at COM. She is the proud mother of a beautiful three-year-old boy who she believes is her driving force. She finds the Indian Valley Campus to be absolutely gorgeous and feels more like a retreat than an institution.

While completing the Environmental Landscaping program, Dolly worked for one and a half years at the Indian Valley Organic Farm and Garden through the Federal Work Study Program. After completing her certificate, Dolly chose to pursue her associate degree at COM.

She continues working both at the organic farm supporting the environmental landscaping faculty and with the CTE department as a student assistant. Dolly intends to pursue studies with Sonoma State University and, after graduating from COM, she plans to develop her own small business involved with organically-sourced handmade products.

"I was so surprised to learn just how many local residents and students did not know about the organic farm at the Indian Valley Campus, myself included," said Salazar, who hopes that more community members will get to know the "magical little place tucked away just beyond the soccer field at the far end of the campus."

Advisory Committees Connect Employers with Career and Technical Education

Did you know that each of our CTE programs relies on Business Advisory Committees to help shape and evaluate each of our programs? CTE faculty and administrators meet formally and regularly with business people to share insights on new workplace technology, specific needed skills, job/internship openings, and more. In fact, it is the responsibility of each advisory committee (who represent a cross-section of a particular occupational area or discipline) to ensure the program is serving the needs of students, the local businesses and industries, and to provide expertise pertaining to training for the industry.

This academic year has brought a flurry of activity for CTE programs at College of Marin. The advisory committees have been able to meet and provide invaluable insight to faculty members, who strive to align their programs with the world of work that welcomes our CTE students. To date, eleven programs have hosted at least one advisory committee meeting and even more are scheduled before the end of Spring Semester.

Faculty and local businesses have sought different formats for advisory committee meetings this year to make attending and contributing as convenient as possible for members. The venue for meetings has ranged from COM, various locations in the community and, more recently, virtually, using teleconferencing and videoconferencing technology.

If you or someone you know is interested in participating in an Advisory Committee and sharing your expertise to help improve academic programs at COM, please contact the CTE Department at 415.457.8811 x8205.



Big Wage Gains for Students Who Earn Associate Degrees or Certificates at California Community Colleges

In a press release on March 29, 2017, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office reported some bright news regarding earnings for individuals who enter the workforce after completing certificate and associate degree programs. The press release states that "students who complete an associate degree more than double their annual pre-degree earnings after two years in the workforce and nearly triple their pre-degree earnings after five years in the workforce. About 48 percent of students who graduated with an associate degree earned \$56,000 or more annually five years after getting their degree. That is the median wage of someone with a bachelor's degree living in California, according to the U.S. Census Bureau."

The press release goes on to detail that "students who complete a certificate nearly double their pre-degree earnings after five years in the workforce. About 44 percent of students who graduated with a certificate earned \$56,000 or more annually five years after graduating." The Chancellor's Office notes that these figures represent "median annual incomes for those who complete 179 of the most widely enrolled program areas and do not transfer to a four-year institution."

To read the full press release please [click here](#).



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For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who have completed the program, and other important information, please visit our website at <http://www1.marin.edu/gainful-employment>