



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
Office of Education

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**ROP/CTE**

*Students of Excellence  
Celebration*

**May 8, 2018**





**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION**



Contra Costa County  
Superintendent of Schools

**Karen Sakata**

Deputy Superintendent of Schools

**Lynn Mackey**

Director, Student Programs

**Janet Haun**

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# *Program*



## ***Refreshments***

### ***Welcome and Introductions***

Janet Haun  
Director, Student Programs

### ***Welcome from Contra Costa County Deputy Superintendent of Schools***

Lynn Mackey

### ***Welcome from Contra Costa County Board of Education***

Christine Deane, Board Member

### ***Welcome from California State Assemblymember Jim Frazier***

Charles Dulac, Assembly Field Representative, District 15

### ***Student Awards Presented By:***

Lynn Mackey, Deputy Superintendent of Schools

## ***Adjourn***





***Rose Figueroa, Law Enforcement Careers  
Pinole High School  
Patricia Blades, Instructor***

According to ROP teacher Patricia Blades, Rose is an outstanding student with a clear vision for her future. Rose plans on becoming a veterinarian and using her ROP law background to help create policies that ensure humane treatment and protections for all animals. Rose states, “ROP Law Enforcement Careers has directly helped me understand the significance of laws and policies in my personal life and the goals that I wish to achieve as a veterinarian.”



***Meagan McBride, Advanced Photography  
Concord High School  
Allison Villars, Instructor***

“Meagan shows excellence in the production of photographs that exceeds the quality of most student work,” says her teacher, Allison Villars. She goes beyond classroom assignments by “building her concepts, envisioning her ideas and executing her projects”, producing photographs that are well executed, focused and interesting with her own personal style. Meagan credits her ROP Advanced Photography class with expanding her knowledge of photography, helping her master advanced PhotoShop tools, marketing artwork, and creating in-depth meaning in still photographic images.



***Rashmeet Kaur, Publications  
Emery High School  
Alvin Burns, Instructor***

Rashmeet has always had a passion for design and photography, and her proficient technical skills may help her reach her goal in the future. For the last two years, utilizing her skills in Adobe PhotoShop and InDesign, Rashmeet has been responsible for sections of the Emery High School Yearbook. Her teacher, Mr. Burns, describes her as a model student, hard working with an eye for detail and a flair for design! She shows leadership and is always willing to help her peers and work on special projects after school.



***Georgia Moraes, Developmental Psychology of Children Clayton Valley Charter High School***  
***Analia Martin, Instructor***

Georgia has always had a passion for volunteering and assisting in her community, especially when it involves working with children. She has assisted in coaching a girls' soccer team, and also serves as a summer swim coach for children. In addition, she is involved in the CVCHS soccer and swim programs. In her ROP Developmental Psychology of Children class, Georgia is an outstanding student. Her creative, inquisitive nature and strong work ethic provide her with a foundation for working with children and observing their behavior. Future plans for Georgia include enrolling in college and possibly earning a teaching credential.



***Tanya Aggarwal, AP Computer Science A California High School***  
***Anh Nguyen, Instructor***

Tanya's teachers and peers all agree she is destined to become a leader in the future technology world. She is also willing to give back to her community. This summer she is planning to teach children from underserved populations how to code and encourage young girls to become computer programmers. "The future is in technology and ROP AP Computer Science has helped me realize my role in that and unlocked my potential. I am proud to be a woman in tech."



***Miguel De La Cruz, Play Production Richmond High School***  
***Asedo Wilson, Instructor***

Miguel has been inspired to take risks and come out of his comfort zone with the help of ROP instructor Mr. Wilson. He had never acted before taking a role in the production of *The Great Gatsby*. Being the center of attention and public speaking were areas where Miguel was lacking confidence. ROP provided a safe place where he was able to improve and gain confidence. "I found myself taking risks while acting in front of a crowd," he said. This newfound confidence is going to be important in Miguel's goal of starting his own company.



**Emma Hall, Journalism**  
**California High School**  
**Brian Barr, Instructor**

Emma's teacher, Brian Barr, writes that when Emma joined the newspaper, she struggled with her writing and interactions with peers, skills that are essential to journalism. She has progressed from being a staff writer her first year, to A&E editor her junior year, to one of the class's top editorships, managing editor, this year. Emma has proven to be an excellent team leader, role model, and public face of the school newspaper.



**Josh Peacock, Automotive Technology**  
**Alhambra High School**  
**Brian Wheeler, Instructor**

Josh's goal is to open his own automotive specialty shop to build and race cars. His teacher, Mr. Wheeler, notes that Josh has set an example for other students by taking on extremely hard tasks, with the understanding that mistakes are inevitable, and can be made right. Josh writes that one day he expects to look back and know that he was able to achieve his dreams because of the great start he had in his high school automotive class.



**Rebecca McCourt, AP Environmental Science**  
**Monte Vista High School**  
**Cheryl Costello, Instructor**

Rebecca has many wonderful goals in her future and wants to apply what she has learned in ROP AP Environmental Science to her own business. "I can run a company that cares for the environment, a company that actually recognizes the fact that we need to care for the planet that makes every aspect of our society possible, especially when it comes to industry," she said. Ms. Costello, Rebecca's teacher, calls her a "remarkable young lady" who will surely make a positive contribution to the world.



**Stephanie Baer, Broadcast Journalism**  
**El Cerrito High School**  
**Corey Mason, Instructor**

According to Mr. Mason, Stephanie has a great work ethic, a curious mind, and is a great leader in and out of class. She was an integral piece of the KQED Youth Takeover project this year exhibiting skills she fostered in her Media Academy experiences at El Cerrito High School.

Stephanie says, "I'm grateful to have been able to study real world learning experiences through ROP and the Media Academy during my high school career."



**Christine Tran, Sports Medicine**  
**Pinole Valley High School**  
**Daniel O'Shea, Instructor**

Christine's career goals have become clear as she focused on health courses like Human Body Systems and Sports Medicine. She was fascinated with how bones and muscles work together to provide stability, support, and movement to the body. Her teacher, Daniel

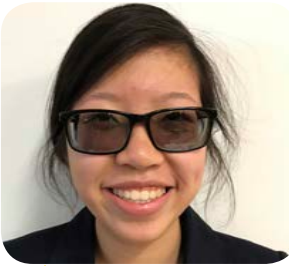
O'Shea, highlights her leadership abilities as Vice President of the student body, a top badminton player, and a volunteer in teaching elementary students about science. She plans to become an Orthopedic Nurse Practitioner and she has demonstrated the skills to be successful.



**Shiloe Skeeling-Peña, Advanced Sports Medicine**  
**Albany High School**  
**Danielle Stensvold, Instructor**

Shiloe stands out because of his insatiable love of learning and his desire to help others. He is determined to become a first responder firefighter, and has spent many

hours volunteering for the Oakland Fire Department, which would not have been possible without his ROP class in Sports Medicine. Shiloe's teacher, Danielle Stensvold, writes that he always goes the extra mile in completing his assignments.



**Shannon Lee, Human Body Systems**  
**California High School**  
**Dina Anderson, Instructor**

Though early in her life Shannon's mother taught her the Chinese proverb, "Having a thousand experiences trumps reading a thousand books," Shannon did not truly understand the meaning until she took ROP Human Body Systems. The

class provided her the opportunity to experience labs, dissections, and modeling that would be impossible to get from a textbook. Ms. Anderson, Shannon's instructor, states that Shannon has a superior intellect, is extremely well spoken, is highly motivated, and has phenomenal critical thinking skills — "she is the full package."



**Sam Millson, Creative Writing**  
**Alhambra High School**  
**Eliot Schain, Instructor**

In his ROP Creative writing class, Sam is developing many skills as a writer and communicator. His teacher, Mr. Schain, says that Sam's poetry has a "maturity and inventiveness... uncommon for high school students." Sam had his first paid publication in *Blue Marble Review*,

a literary journal for promising young writers. He is also a contributor to the weekly Backroads poetry readings, sharing his poetry with other aspiring classmates.

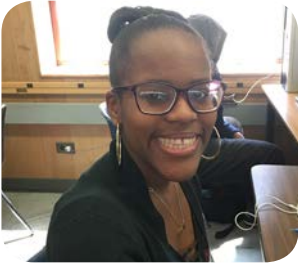


**Allison Gaul, Careers with Children**  
**Freedom High School**  
**Elizabeth Rodriguez, Instructor**

Allison says her ROP Careers with Children class has helped her develop many skills needed to teach children to learn and love learning. ROP has provided her with many opportunities to interact with children, including interning in

a 1st grade classroom and participating in the Bay Area Junior Achievement Program teaching third graders. Her teacher, Ms. Rodriguez, describes Allison as creative, patient, organized and a positive role model for children and peers. Off campus, Allison works at a children's event center and is hoping to be a 6th grade camp counselor in the Outdoor Education Program.





**Chelsea Mullins, Art & Animation**  
**Antioch High School**  
**Erin Susoev, Instructor**



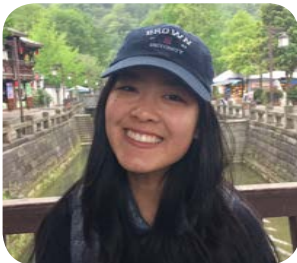
Chelsea’s passion for drawing and animation started when she was young, and the pursuit of a career in this field has become her goal. In her ROP Art & Animation class, Chelsea is mastering 2D and 3D animation, skillfully delivering creative projects which impress her instructor, Ms. Susoev. Her artistic skills put her far ahead of her classmates, but she graciously lends a hand to other students in the class. After graduation, Chelsea plans to attend college, perfect her animation and drawing skills, and hopefully be able to share her talents at Pixar or the Disney Studios.



**Sofia Kniveton-Insogna,**  
**Advanced Digital Photography**  
**Berkeley High School**  
**Gabriel Berent, Instructor**



Sofia is described by her teacher as showing “outstanding promise as both a photographer and a designer.” Sofia designed a website which highlights current social issues in our society. Her attention to detail, creativity and determination make each project she undertakes unique and meaningful, and a powerful way to convey her “intellectual and conceptual ideas.” In addition to mastering technical skills in PhotoShop, Sofia excels in her ability to shoot with studio lights thanks to her strong work ethic.



**Tracy Pan, Sports Medicine**  
**Northgate High School**  
**Glen Barker, Instructor**

Tracy Pan is both a leader in her ROP Sports Medicine class as well as in her high school, Northgate, says her teacher Glen Barker. For the past two years as a football trainer, Tracy spent 600 hours covering all practices and games, in addition to supervising rehabilitation programs. Tracy says that the Sports Medicine program catalyzed her passion for medicine and building her leadership and organizational skills.





**Alexis Tongue, Art of Video Production**  
**Heritage High School**  
**Gustavo Guardado, Instructor**

Alexis has exhibited a passion and a high level of skill in her Video Production class. She goes above and beyond the ordinary and is always pushing herself to produce her best work. She has gained valuable real world experiences in her ROP class, which she will put to good use in her future. Mr. Guardado, says, "Alexis has proved over and over again she has what it takes to overcome any obstacle in her path to become a true professional." Alexis will be extremely successful in any future endeavor, because of her outstanding work ethic and tremendous talent.



**Zachary Welker**  
**Television Broadcasting Productions**  
**Heritage High School**  
**Gustavo Guardado, Instructor**

In his application, Zach states that he cannot wait to thank his ROP teacher, Mr. Guardado, during his Oscar and Emmy speeches. According to Mr. Guardado, it is only a matter of time.

Zach began his video career in elementary school making stop-motion films with stuffed animals, Legos, and play-doh, and he has not slowed down since. Talented and committed, and a force both in front of and behind the camera,

Zach was awarded a merit scholarship to attend Hofstra University in New York to major in Film Studies and Production.



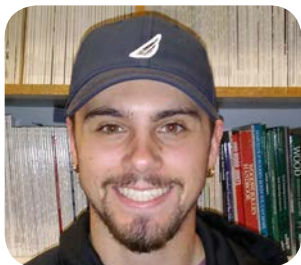
**Tyler Colman**  
**AP Computer Science Principles**  
**San Ramon Valley High School**  
**Janet Muirraque, Instructor**

Although Tyler knows he wants a career in medicine, he also understands the inseparable connection between medicine and technology. Learning the underlying principles of computer science will provide a foundation for using technology to diagnose and treat patients. As the class Master Solver, demonstrating solutions, and rationales to problem solving, the critical thinking skills developed during class will serve him well as he pursues a medical degree.



**Zachary LeClaire**  
**AP Computer Science Principles A**  
**San Ramon Valley High School**  
**Janet Muirragui, Instructor**

Zachary has been a stand out computer student since his freshman year. His apps often served as the standard to compare with other students' apps for debugging purposes. This year he participated in San Ramon Valley's Robotics Club, where he programmed his team's robot in C++ and Java, along with one other student, and successfully competed in two robotics competitions throughout California. Zachary plans to pursue his passion with further studies in artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics.



**Aidan LaHonta, Construction Technology**  
**Alhambra High School**  
**Jay Heeb, Instructor**

Aidan has been involved in the Residential & Commercial Construction Pathway at Alhambra High School for four years. During this time, he has produced many high quality furniture and cabinetry projects, including a maple and Shaker candlestand table, maple regulator clock, and a mahogany Adirondack chair. As a member of the school's SkillsUSA Cabinet Making team, Aidan's skills shine in the competition. Aidan credits the ROP Construction Technology class with giving him skills in collaboration and time management, and the ability to troubleshoot a problem and follow through to a resolution.



**Drew Halvorson, Careers in Teaching**  
**California High School**  
**Jessica Heagle, Instructor**

We need great teachers and Drew Halvorson is destined to become one. Drew wants to become an elementary school teacher and help inspire children to be their best. She is a leader in and out of the classroom, often demonstrating a dedication and work ethic beyond her years. Ms. Heagle says, "If we could attract and keep the Drews of the world, not only would the classrooms they inhabit be brighter places, but we will also inspire even more generations to the profession."



***Jose Martinez, Auto Technology  
Pittsburg High School  
Joe Maciorowski, Instructor***

Jose has always had a love of automobiles and a curiosity about how they work. His father instilled this in him at a very young age while working on their own cars. Mr. Maciorowski says, "Jose has become my go-to student when we have a job that takes problem-solving skills and a willingness to stick it out and get it done." Through his coursework he has gained confidence and mechanical skills that will serve him well in the future.



***Bethany Long  
Engineering Research & Development  
California High School  
John Reed, Instructor***

Bethany's teacher, Mr. Reed, says that Bethany has "established herself as my top student for her outstanding body of work prior to this year. In the Engineering Research & Development capstone, Bethany removed all doubt about her outstanding drive, self-direction, and engineering skills by being the most outstanding student in a challenging class." Bethany credits this class with teaching her to "self-manage and have the ability to design, execute, and lead my own projects."



***Krystal Balajadia, Play Production  
Deer Valley High School  
Joyce Thrift, Instructor***

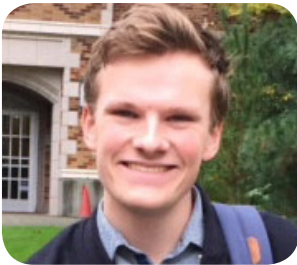
Krystal has contributed to the Academy of Performing Arts at Deer Valley in countless ways. She was the sound technician for nearly 50 events, was a major contributor to the set design team for the spring musical, and served as a leader through her dedication, hard work, and focus on details. This year Krystal and another student started their own graphic design collective called Metal Co. in order to design posters for theater events.



***Colby Reyburn, Digital Recording Studio  
Heritage High School  
John Carreon, Instructor***

Dedicated, hard-working, and talented all describe Colby. But his most impressive characteristic is the ability to bring out the best in those with whom he is working. His skill and leadership allow him to successfully manage

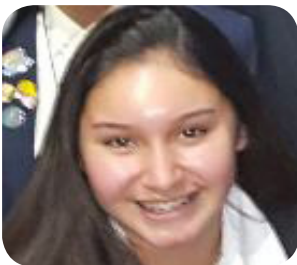
the school's technical team that handles sound for a variety of school events, as well as oversee all technical aspects of the school's renowned theater productions. Colby will apply the technical and people skills he has learned to the real world as he pursues a career as a theatrical technical director.



***Jack Wise, Journalism Productions  
Northgate High School  
Karen Jenkins, Instructor***

According to Jack, journalism is the key to righting the wrongs of the past. He has a penchant for seeking out topics on social justice, human rights, and politics. His ROP teacher, Ms. Jenkins, has never seen a student journalist as

professional as he. As a staff writer and editor of the school newspaper, he has stuck to his goals of never deviating from the truth and uplifting the voices and social movements of the oppressed. Jack will continue to pursue his career by studying journalism at Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario.



***Cristina Garcia, Medical Technologies  
Las Lomas High School  
Kathleen Mooney, Instructor***

Cristina represents all that is good in our youth today. She is an outstanding student and an even better young lady. She serves in many leadership roles through her involvement with Las Lomas High School's HOSA (Health

Occupations for Students in America) club. She has represented her school and the state of California in national competitions through HOSA.





**Emmanuel Madrigal**  
**Television Productions**  
**Deer Valley High School**  
**Kiel Olff, Instructor**

Mr. Olff, Manny's ROP teacher, states "Manny has already done what ROP sets out as a goal: to utilize our hands-on training, and put those skills to work in the real world." Combining

the knowledge and skills learned in class with hard work and amazing talent, Manny has been tapped by the school district to film a variety of projects. These experiences have helped prepare him to start his own successful business filming music videos.



**Stephanie Roman, Advanced Sports Medicine**  
**Dozier-Libby Medical High School**  
**Kim O'Leary, Instructor**

Before taking her Sports Medicine class, Stephanie Roman was unsure about what career she wanted to pursue. As a student trainer for varsity football for two years, she

shadowed the senior trainers and the physicians to watch and learn from them. Her teacher, Ms. O'Leary, describes Stephanie as a "quick study" for all things medical, as well as being reliable and responsible with great listening skills and the ability to stay calm in stressful situations. Stephanie will be working at Kaiser Permanente as a student intern in the Orthopedics/Podiatry/Sports Medicine Departments. After college, Stephanie would like a career as a nurse practitioner.



**Karla Avalos, Computer Applications**  
**Concord High School**  
**Laurie Harris, Instructor**

According to ROP teacher, Ms. Harris, Karla has a special gift that she shares freely. That gift? . . . her joyful, can-do attitude. While working many hours outside of class and helping care for her young sister, Karla still manages to master

course objectives and help others that may be struggling. After graduation, Karla will pursue a career as a dental assistant or hygienist before taking on her dream of owning her own business.



***Medaja Elias, Accounting  
Concord High School  
Laurie Harris, Instructor***

Dedication, collaboration, and perseverance are words that best describe Medaja Elias in her ROP Accounting class. Her positive attitude and willingness to assist other students enhance the classroom environment, and her enthusiasm

for tackling college-level material are qualities appreciated by her teacher, Mrs. Harris. She credits the class with helping her understand how businesses operate in terms of marketing and money management, and strategies for financial independence as an adult. After college, Madaja would like to pursue a career in sonography, possibly as an ultrasound technician.



***Christian Rodriguez, Computer Graphic Arts  
Pittsburg High School  
Marilyn Narayan, Instructor***

Just a year ago, Christian had barely sent an email. He avoided technology, instead focusing on physical activity. Through hard work and a positive attitude, he is now designing magazine covers, Valentine's cards, and T-shirts. His good-

natured personality and natural leadership help promote a safe and supportive environment not just in the classroom, but campus-wide, where he is president of the Restorative Justice Club.



***Caitlyn Graves, Law Enforcement Careers  
Heritage High School  
Matt Carr, Instructor***

Caitlyn is a top performing student who serves as Class Sargeant, which entails assisting her teacher with supervision and overseeing teamwork.

Additionally, Caitlyn has given countless hours of service to the Brentwood Police Department

Officers, and the community. Her passion for knowledge and justice includes attending advanced narcotics seminars, and has resulted in a scholarship from the California Narcotics Officers Association. Caitlyn plans to become a police officer.



**Jaime Mendoza, Digital Photography**  
**Kennedy High School**  
**Steven Pinto, Instructor**

“Jaime can capture those magical moments that make the chaos of the world seem choreographed,” says Jaime’s ROP teacher, Mr. Pinto. Jaime’s talent and dedication have him known as “the camera guy” around campus. He

is hired by staff and outside organizations to design logos and T-shirts, and was recruited to take the official school yearbook portraits of nearly 1,500 students. This experience inspired Jaime to start his own digital advertising company, MYBB, which he will continue to develop after graduation.



**Suchit Bandaram, AP Computer Science A**  
**Dougherty Valley High School**  
**Preet Dalziel, Instructor**

Suchit Bandaram is an exceptionally talented student, according to his teacher, Preet Dalziel, with an aptitude for math and science as well as computer concepts. In addition to his mastery of class material, Suchit has worked outside the classroom with his friends to create an app that connects tutors to tutees. He has also competed successfully in hackathons. Suchit credits his ROP class with giving him the tools and confidence to pave the way to becoming a computer scientist.



**Brigitte Marinier**  
**Advanced Sports Medicine**  
**Campolindo High School**  
**Ray Albiento, Instructor**

Brigitte Marinier has a passion for the field of medicine, and her diligence, determination and strong work ethic are evident to her teacher, Mr. Albiento. This year, Brigitte has logged over 200 internship hours helping the Campolindo High School Program with injury evaluation, treatment, rehabilitation, game preparation and medical game coverage. In addition, Brigitte maintains exemplary grades and performs volunteer work with the Leo Club, serving as its president. Brigitte credits the ROP Advanced Sports Medicine class with making her more aware about the “human anatomy and how fragile it truly is.”





**Emmanuel Obinyan, Marketing**  
**Deer Valley High School**  
**Steve Kish, Instructor**

Emmanuel Obinyan discovered the career path he hopes to pursue in his Marketing class. The school student business, The Den, was in jeopardy of not meeting its goal of raising scholarship funds for Business Academy students. Emmanuel stepped in and took the reins by developing an innovative marketing plan and then executing the plan by engaging fellow students to join him. The result was a 25% increase in morning sales over last year. Emmanuel's success in marketing will allow him to enter the field after he completes his service as a Marine.



**Audrey Brady, Careers in Teaching**  
**Antioch High School**  
**Tamsen Armstrong, Instructor**

Audrey discovered a deep appreciation of teaching through her own childhood challenges with communication. Her internship at a local elementary school not only helped her realize how rewarding teaching could be, but her students inspired her to dream big and follow her passions. While observing Audrey's enthusiasm and creativity, ROP instructor Ms. Armstrong states that she felt a sense of renewal in her own choice to become a teacher. Audrey will attend Montana State University to major in Elementary Education and minor in Creative Writing.



**Sara Hernandez,**  
**Careers in Teaching Internship**  
**Ygnacio High School**  
**Thatcher Palmer, Instructor**

Mr. Palmer, Sara's ROP instructor, states, "I can truly say, without a shadow of a doubt, that Sara is the most dedicated, motivated, responsible, and compassionate student I have seen come through our ROP program and internship." Sara also received high praise from her mentor teacher at Ygnacio Valley Elementary where she demonstrated a skill set and a maturity beyond her years. Sara's passion for helping and working with others in and out of school has flourished in the Education Academy at Ygnacio Valley High School.



***Madelyn Arechiga Smith***  
***Advanced Media Communications***  
***El Cerrito High School***  
***Theodore Grover, Instructor***

With a passion for creating in-depth documentaries, Maddie convinced her ROP teacher, Mr. Grover, to let her tackle a challenging project this year. Enlisting the help of other students as sound engineers, videographers, and editors, Maddie produced a full-length documentary about four women who experienced World War II at different extremes, including her Austrian grandmother and a Jewish author who wrote about her own experience during the Holocaust. Mr. Grover states that Maddie's examination of cultural history has affected all who have seen it. Maddie will continue to expand her skills and will study documentary film making after graduation.





## Special Recognition to Students Who Were Nominated

Alexandria Ilagan, Multimedia  
John Swett High School, Ken Leslie, Instructor

Enrico Manding, Robotics Technology  
Heritage High School, Rob Pardi, Instructor

Tyler Coach, Construction Technology  
Antioch High School, Dylan Howell, Instructor

Douglas Dahm, Advanced Architectural Design  
Monte Vista High School, Kathleen Krier, Instructor



Jogre Aaron Suasin Jr., Culinary Careers  
Clayton Valley Charter High School, Martha Sotelo-Singer, Instructor

Angel Campos, Web Design  
Kennedy High School, Krys Simon, Instructor

Ryan Liu, Biotechnology  
Dougherty Valley High School, Katherine Huang, Instructor


Julia Coyne, Careers in Teaching  
Alhambra High School, Yadira Zapata, Instructor

Zaria Henderson, Sports Medicine  
Pittsburg High School, Scott Pygeorge, Instructor  
Kelli Uemura, Civil Engineering & Architecture  
Clayton Valley Charter High School, Scott Farquhar, Instructor

Kimberly Pang, Careers with Children  
Deer Valley High School, Stephanie Marple, Instructor

Adelina Romelfanger, Introduction to Engineering  
Monte Vista High School, Rodger Johnson, Instructor

Neha Kaul, Play Production  
California High School, Laura Woods, Instructor



Leilani Corral, Medical Interventions  
Pinole Valley High School, Dan O'Shea, Instructor

Cecilia Chak, Human Body Systems  
Pinole Valley High School, Daniel O'Shea, Instructor



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