



Farmworkers Institute of Education & Leadership Development

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NEWSLETTER OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2021

Brought to you by your FIELD Marketing-Communications Team



Members of our Chavez Corps assisting with fire clean up in Alder Springs after the devastating Creek Fire.

What's New at FIELD

October - November Newsletter

Did you know that the month of October was "Co-op Month?"

Cooperative worker-owned businesses are a powerful way to build wealth in underserved communities. FIELD's founder, Cesar Chavez, recognized cooperative businesses as a strategy to empower the communities we serve. With the financial support of Anthem Blue Cross Foundation and the Blue Shield of California Foundation, FIELD is exploring ways to bring Cesar Chavez's vision to life through the development of its Cooperative Program.

The Program is currently in its research and development stage. To help create a unified vision amongst FIELD staff, Erin Hicks, FIELD's Cooperative Program Manager, will be presenting an overview of the program's vision with staff throughout the month of November. In other developments, during the month of October, FIELD's Cooperative Program team grew from one to two! Julia Villarino, who previously served as an intern for FIELD, was welcomed as the new Program Analyst! During her internship with FIELD, she successfully helped the organization raise the Anthem Blue Cross Foundation grant that is now funding the development phase of the Cooperative Program.

Stay tuned for updates and opportunities to engage in the development of the program as we progress. Please feel free to reach out to



Erin Hicks (ehicks@fieldinstitute.org) to learn more or to share any questions, ideas, or any connections that you may have with potential partners, supporters, or experts that may be able to help us learn along the way.

Big things are happening with ECE during the month of November!!!

Donald Thornsberry, our FIELD-EPIC CTE Director, would like to thank all the ECE staff for all their hard work and dedication over the past few months with the Tehachapi ECE Center. The Center will be known as the "Helena Chavez Early Childhood Education Center" and it is the first FIELD ECE Center to be completed and licensed.

As many know, 5 of the 6 staff members we recently hired to work in the centers are former completers of the CTE ECE Pathway. Monica Hernandez, Olga Bernal, Hilda Sanchez, Jonathan Alvarico and Ofelia Valdez have all risen to the occasion and stepped up anywhere needed. ECE also "stole" Vanessa Calvo from the tutoring program to have her be the ECE Teacher for our Bakersfield site. Margoth Alvarenga has been an instrumental player in this endeavor as well by juggling her CTE Teaching duties with driving to Tehachapi to assist with the setup of the center. Although Celene Figueroa and Monica Castillo were in the southern region, it didn't stop them from contributing. Celene and Monica have constantly communicated with Donald and other ECE staff and through virtual tours of their own classrooms, have provided many inspirations for our pilot program. Donald states, "I also owe a sincere thank you to Guisela Giron! She has been instrumental in communicating with licensing, creating quotes for supplies and furniture and providing me with the information necessary to bring this center to life."

This first ECE center and the hiring of our former students has allowed CTE to begin our FIELD Social Businesses for ECE. The goal is to hire former ECE students to staff the centers, attend college classes to gain the units needed to advance in the centers, earn the degrees needed to become Site Supervisors, Directors and eventually owners in a cooperative of their own. These centers are the spark needed to ignite a lifelong learning process in our students.

Please let this project be a reminder about the importance of teamwork and collaboration. None



this could not have happened without collaboration among ECE staff members, teachers and administrators. It was definitely an arduous task; however, the team persevered and now have our first ever ECE Center!

However, it will not be the last! We have two more centers slated to open this month. Our East Bakersfield location will be open on Monday November 8, 2021 and our Cal City Center will open on Monday, November 15, 2021. The opening of these centers will provide us with the experience we need to incorporate centers into all the regions of FIELD.

We have more centers on the horizon in the south and in the north, so stay tuned!





***We are so proud
of our Cesar
Chavez
Environmental
Corps (CCEC)***

Our CCEC

Natural Resources team were in Alder Springs in late October assisting with fire clean up. Congratulations for a successful effort to assist the community of Alder Springs that was devastated by the Creek Fire. An inspirational experience to see all the good work accomplished by landowners who lost everything. Efforts were led by Drew Nelson, the FIELD Institution's Cesar Chavez Environmental Corps (CCEC), and the Forestry Field Operations team of Sierra RCD. There were plenty of challenges over the two weeks that a good solid partnership and good team work was able to overcome. And for the young corpsmembers – plenty of skills development, character building and stories to last a lifetime being involved in this meaningful project.



Chavez Corps Natural Resources

Community Assistance: The Chavez Corps Natural Resource crewmembers assisting the community of Alder Springs that was devastated by the Creek Fire in September 2021





New School Site Openings...**EPIC Expands our Free and Flexible Education**

EPIC de Cesar Chavez High

School has expanded our footprint in California and we are now offering classes in 8 additional locations. The team has worked hard to get these locations ready for our students and are excited to continue our Core Purpose of empowering the underserved to be self-sufficient.

New EPIC Locations include:

- Moorpark and Santa Paula in our Southwest Region
- Modesto, Paso Robles and King City (*ESL only*) in our Central Region
- Woodland and Yuba City in our North Region
- Brawley in our South Region – *coming soon*

Dominique Chastain with students in our new Modesto EPIC location.



Modesto Bee reporter Andrea Briseno sits down with our President/CEO, David Villarino and Delilah Martinez to talk about our new school site opening in Modesto, CA

“Institute creates a safe haven for immigrants to advance their educations, careers – Andrea Briseno”

“Adults yet to complete their high school education and seeking to advance their skills can do so free of cost through a newly launched institute in Modesto.

Educators across Stanislaus County have sought help from the Farm workers Institute of Education and Leadership Development (FIELD), said Delilah Martinez. “Within the last year, we had educators reach out to us and say, ‘There’s a gap here for our students and we’re trying to find means with which to fill that gap,’” said Martinez, director of educational programs at FIELD.”

Read more at: [Modesto Bee News - Economic Mobility Lab](#)

A special thanks to Dominique Chastain for her help in coordinating the development of this article and for being available to meet the Modesto Bee team on site.



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH...September

Did you know that our amazing EPIC teachers select students each month to be featured as "Students of the Month" on all our social media platforms?

Check out our EPIC students selected by their teachers for the month of September...we celebrate their efforts and stories!

JOSE MATA ROSAS ~ As our students continue to strive to be the best, we want to feature Jose Mata Rosas. His teacher Ms. Ruby Torres says he is deserving of being one of many of September's students of the month. Jose is an EPIC de Cesar Chavez high school student in Riverside.

Jose works more than 40 hours a week and makes sure to attend a class every day, even if it's just for a couple of hours. His job often asks him to work overtime, but he still makes school a priority. During class, Jose is actively engaged in all class activities and goes above and beyond to help others in the classroom. His desire to learn is infectious to the other students in class. Jose perfectly models FIELD's core values.

Congratulations Jose, keep up the good work!



ALFONSO MARCIAL ~ Congratulations to another one of our September students of the month, Alfonso Marcial. Alfonso attends EPIC de Cesar Chavez high school in Riverside and has been chosen to be Riverside's September student of the month by his teacher Ms. Galia Minshew.

Alfonso attends his classes daily on time and wants to finish high school and have his diploma, so he can obtain a better-paying job. He gets up at 3:00 am to go to work in Temecula as a machine operator and leaves his work every day to attend school at night. Alfonso says attending classes daily helps him a lot in his work and home life. Although it's difficult he's determined to obtain his diploma.

In addition, the required government classes are a preparation for him to take his citizenship exam.

He tells his children that education is the most important thing. Alfonso returned to school as an adult and he is a great example that it's never too late.

Alfonso says: "Si Se Puede!"





STUDENTS OF THE MONTH...September continued...

SAVANNAH KOLBE ~ Congratulations to Savannah Kolb as one of our September students of the month. Savannah attends our EPIC de Cesar Chavez high school in California City.

Savannah is very driven and has her eye on the prize, a high school diploma! She works at Home Depot and makes every effort in attending class daily. She has a 97% attendance rate, working diligently in the classroom. Savannah has successfully completed 7 Units of Cyber High courses in several subjects.

"Savannah is a very respectful young lady who gets along with all her classmates. She has a positive attitude and is a great student overall." Says her teacher Mr. Tony Arevalo.

Savannah will attend Cerro Coso College with a goal of working in the Human Resources field.

Way to stay focused Savannah!



EPIC TEACHERS and COUNSELORS

A friendly reminder to submit your Student of The Month candidates to Vanessa Jacobo according to the dates assigned for your school site!

Also follow our EPIC page on Instagram or Facebook for monthly postings of our students!

[EPIC Facebook](#)

[EPIC Instagram](#)



What's Happening in CTE

An Update from CTE Director,
Donald Thornsberry

Our CTE Work-based learning project started off a bit rocky but has since gained traction and nearly all of our students have a site they are completing their WBL at. Any student that has not secured a site has been completing project-based learning to fulfill their hourly requirements. I owe a debt of gratitude to all of our FIELD staff members and Teachers that have allowed the students to do their WBL in their classrooms and offices. I personally witnessed one of our Business students in Soledad performing business-related tasks, such as filing and organizing, to satisfy the requirements of the Business Management Pathway. These real-life experiences that our FIELD staff are providing for our CTE, ESL and EPIC students is one that our students will never forget, so thank you very much!

The WBL was implemented to serve many purposes; however, the main purpose was to provide quality hands-on, real-life experiences for our students.

Another reason this program is so important is to provide students with communication and life skills needed to not only get a job but to keep a job.

Students are required to approach a business of their choosing and try to negotiate a workspace with the organization to complete their hours. This serves multiple purposes. It teaches them communication skills, which are vital in industry and for meeting the Model Curriculum Standards for CTE. And, the last bi-product of this endeavor is to get FIELD's name out in the communities in which we serve. Having our name in the communities attracts new students to our programs and thus strengthens all our programs by generating ADA for our organization, which translates into stronger learning opportunities for our ESL, CTE and EPIC students! Donald Thornsberry, our FIELD-EPIC CTE Director, would like to thank all the ECE staff for all their hard work and dedication over the past few months with the Tehachapi ECE Center





Congratulations to the Chavez Corps Corpsmember of the Month... **Mark De Leon**

Congratulations to our Cesar Chavez Environmental Corps August employee of the month Mark De Leon.

Mark started with CCEC in September 2020 as a corpsmember tutor and transferred to the Natural Resources department in February of 2021.

Mark has excelled to a crew lead after only 3 months of working in Natural Resources. He has completed the CTE Natural Resources course as one of the few who not only spends week after week on a spike with limited resources for completing his classes but also looks out for the well-being of fellow corpsmembers and equipment while on a spike.

Mark has begun the Sawyer Training and is seen as a very responsible corpsmember. Mark, unknowingly motivates fellow corpsmembers to work out with him to keep up their physical strength, spends time playing board games to raise morale, and builds the crew as a family by showing appreciation to corpsmembers by giving thanks to them for their hard work while helping him with tough tasks always with a smile on his face and a positive attitude.

Mark is a prized corpsmember for CCEC...thanks Mark!



FIELD Recycling News...

Congratulations to **Shay Nichols** from our recycling team at the Cesar Chavez Environmental Corps. She is officially forklift certified! Everyone is proud and excited for her & was definitely made possible with the team support. This is what CCEC is all about.

Alina Mendoza is part of our recycling team at CCEC. Her work ethic is remarkable and only improves day by day. She's always willing to work on any task given to her & is always taking steps to improve in her work and in her personal life. Alina recently enrolled at Bakersfield College. FIELD looks forward to seeing her continue on her journey to reach her goals.



SHAY NICHOLS



ALINA MENDOZA

REMEMBER TO FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

- Facebook - [FIELD](#), [EPIC](#), [ESL](#), [Chavez Corps](#)
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- Twitter - [FIELD](#), [CCEC](#)
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UNTIL NEXT TIME....



FIELD

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