

[MAILING PANEL]

READY

*Inland Empire Desert's
Career Education Magazine*



CALIFORNIA
COMMUNITY
COLLEGES

Barstow Community College | Chaffey College | College of the Desert | Copper Mountain College
Crafton Hills College | Moreno Valley College | Mt. San Jacinto College | Norco College
Palo Verde College | Riverside City College | San Bernardino Valley College | Victor Valley College

READY *career
education*
at your local community college

*Learn more about Career Education
at your local community college
by visiting ReadySetCareer.org*



Support regional career education, and keep up with success stories in the community at news.readysetcareer.org

WINTER 2019
ISSUE TWO

READY *career
education*
at your local community college



CALIFORNIA
COMMUNITY
COLLEGES



Ashley Etchison
Director, Strategic Communications & Marketing, Strong Workforce Program

Sharing the Stories that Sustain Us.

The day our Inland Empire-Desert region career education programs connected, a light went on. Collectively and concurrently, we realized that every institution in the system was just like us – radiating with

transcendent stories of education-powered success.

It's these stories that sustain us as educators and administrators, giving context for our hard work in providing these classroom-to-career pathways. It's easy to get lost in the big picture – to get “too” focused on outcomes – until you realize that every one of these outcomes is the flashpoint for a life-changing, potentially multigenerational success story.

The success of our “Ready” Career Education Newsletter is testament not only to the amazing work being done by our students and faculty, but to the passion and connectedness on our campuses that brings these stories to light.

Truly, our 12 colleges could fill volumes with tales of triumph.

There's a U.S. veteran quadrupling his salary through an Aviation Tech program, and a lifelong

Disney fan now working for a digital animation firm that regularly collaborates with Disney. We've got burger chefs becoming welders and supermoms transforming into super-nurses. The best part? There are new stories like these being written every day. Across every sector and every demographic.

With this magazine, we'd like to highlight some of our favorite recent features from our 12 colleges. We'd also like to encourage community members, business leaders, and anyone else with an interest in cutting-edge career education to continue to share our stories at readysetcareer.org.

The 12 premier providers of workforce education in the Inland Empire-Desert region are now connected, ready to rise to huge workforce challenges. As an important community stakeholder, we hope that you'll choose to stay connected with us along the way. ■

Regionally READY.

Quick shots from our 12 “Ready” community colleges

PALO VERDE COLLEGE

Ready to Rock

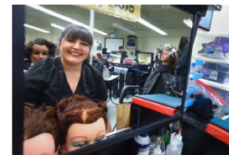


Palo Verde College's **Brian Wilson** switched from high-rise ironworker to welding and geology. Now, he says the leap of faith is paying off, and that he's finding career treasure in Blythe.

“If you are into rocks, Blythe is the place to be,” says Wilson. “I couldn't ask for anything better.”

RIVERSIDE CITY COLLEGE

Shear Compassion



Riverside City College's **Nancy Soto** switched to cosmetology as a way of getting into the workforce more quickly. Now, she's pursuing bigger dreams than she ever imagined.

The hair salon of Soto's dreams has silent shears, neutral smells and a calm and patient staff, so that children with autism might feel safe during a haircut.

“My sister works with children who have autism, and they should have a salon too,” says Soto.

CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE

Thrills don't pay the bills?



Crafton Hills College's **Emile Diaz de Leon** left an unsafe job in a Borax mine at the behest of his family... but his love for adrenaline and high-pressure situations stayed with him. Now, he's at the CHC

Fire Academy, training to become a first responder. *“I have thrill issues,”* says Diaz de Leon.

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY COLLEGE

Can't Keep Her Down...



San Bernardino Valley College's **Laverne Smith Clayton** was earning a six-figure salary when her world changed forever. The diagnosis of insulin-dependent diabetes came first. Then, she found out

she had Lupus, a chronic autoimmune disease.

Unable to continue her career, Clayton went back to school, and found a passion for Pharmacy Tech. Two years later, she was employed in her new career.”

“SBVC gave me the resources, the tutoring, the financial help, and the support I needed to succeed,” says Clayton. “I feel blessed, and I couldn't be happier.”

VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE

Ready to Launch

Victor Valley College's **Joseph Christian** started working toward his dream to be an aeronautical engineer as a senior in high school. As part of the K16 Bridge Program, he entered VVC's Aviation Maintenance with the ultimate head-start. And last summer, his hard work paid off when he landed an internship with NASA!

“You have to put in the work, nothing is handed to you,” says Christian. “But you get plenty of support and assistance from instructors who have worked in the industry and want to see you succeed.”

MT. SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Mom in the Morning... Nurse@Night.

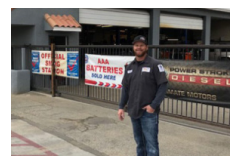
Mt. San Jacinto College's **Gari Hewitt** was just five classes shy of earning a bachelor's degree when she put her education on hold and embraced her new role as a stay-at-home mom.

When her second child began preschool, Hewitt went back to school. Hewitt graduated last May with an associate degree in nursing, and hasn't looked back.

“It has been a great experience,” Hewitt says. *“I've built some amazing relationships and an awesome support system with the faculty and staff and my cohort.”*

COPPER MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Another Future in Gear...



Copper Mountain College's **Adam Spitz** isn't just an automotive repair whiz. He's an entrepreneur.

Today, Spitz owns and operates Ultimate Motors, employs a crew of nine people, and is a walking advertisement for career education programs at local community colleges.

“Copper Mountain helped me learn the ins and outs of running a business,” says Spitz. *“It provided me the opportunity to hone my skills as an automotive service professional, and it gave me the confidence to move forward.”*

MORENO VALLEY COLLEGE

Re-Enlisting in Life

Moreno Valley College's **Anthony Carranza** didn't give up when his military career was cut short by a debilitating back injury.

Today, Carranza is preparing to become a certified dental hygienist and enter a profession that pays an average salary of more than \$90,000 in the Inland Empire.

“It was very affordable and I'm leaving without any debt,” says Carranza. *“The services for veterans are beyond belief, and I have a good career to look forward to. This has exceeded my expectations by far.”*

NORCO COLLEGE

ACE Up His Sleeve

Norco College's **Michael Anguiano** was looking for a new start, but wasn't sure where to begin. Then, he learned about the ACE (Accelerated Career and Employment) program.

Thanks to ACE, it took Anguiano less than seven months to build industry-certified training leading to job offers in the booming field of industrial automation. Almost immediately after graduating from the Norco College program he began working with Honeywell Intelligrated, which manufactures, installs, repairs and maintains state-of-the-art sortation and conveyer systems.

“I'm head over heels with what I'm doing for a living,” says Anguiano.

COLLEGE OF THE DESERT

Going Green in the Desert

College of the Desert's **Jocelyne Torres** is a believer in the power of workforce-focused career education. The San Joaquin Valley native graduated with an associate degree in architectural technology and is now working toward a Zero Net Energy certificate. Her connections at school quickly landed her an internship with a company specializing in energy-efficient buildings.

“It is a very intensive program, and it taught me how to balance life, work, and school,” says Torres.

CHAFFEY COLLEGE

Lifting Off the Stress

Chaffey College's **Jessica Vasquez** was sure she was going to be a nurse in an emergency room. But she spent some high-stress hours in an E.R. during a family crisis and suddenly, the reality of nursing set in. It was terrifying.

Instead, she took a job in shipping and receiving in a business that made airplane parts. She was fascinated with the hydraulic systems. Now, she's making this high-flying industry part of her future, as an Aviation Maintenance student at Chaffey.

“It amazed me that such a small little part had so much power,” says Vasquez. *“I felt excited, amazed, and in awe.”*

BARSTOW COLLEGE

A 1st Responder's 2nd Career

Barstow Community College's **Daniel Burgett** spent 25 years fighting fires in Barstow. Now, he is retired from firefighting and training for a second career as a welder. *“To get in the door you need a depth of experience,”* he says. *“[BCC] will bring employers in here ready to pick you up for a job.”* ■

USMC to MSJC: Meet Automotive Tech's Newest Recruit

Daniel Bailey deployed three times to Iraq as a U.S. Marine. He was happy to serve and loved his Marine family. But a shoulder injury put an abrupt halt to that part of his life. For a time he felt lost.

As a civilian, his children were schooling him on the rules of the house. He applied for jobs based on his 12 years of military experience, and civilian recruiters asked, "Yes, but what else have you done?"

People reminded him about his G.I. Bill, and how he could go back to school. But that didn't appeal. "You say test and I get anxiety," he said.

Then he did something unexpected. Bailey, 34, listened to his mother-in-law, the proud owner of a 1972 VW Beetle that needed to be refurbished.

"She said, 'Mt. San Jacinto (College) has an Auto Tech program. You like to tinker. Go try that out.'"

Turns out, she was right. Bailey liked the practical nature of the program, the teamwork, and the sense of accomplishment. "You can fix cars, you can't fix people," he said. But he might be wrong about that.

In the process of going to school, he fixed himself.

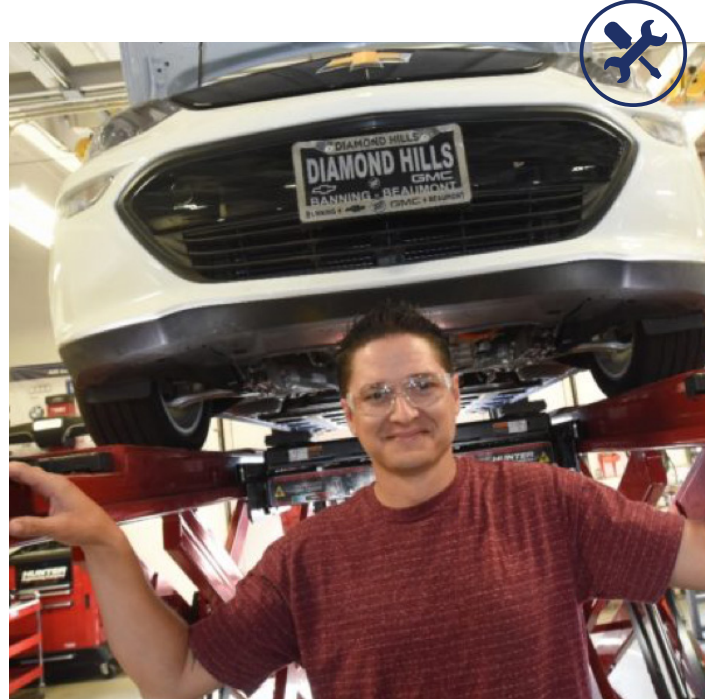
He has become a good researcher, because he wants to know about the idiosyncrasies of different vehicles. He has conquered his test anxiety because the tests are "hands on" observations of his work, something the military prepared him for.

Bailey wears a huge grin as he gazes at the well-stocked tool room, packed with thousands of tools for every vehicle repair need. He has found new confidence in his abilities and a new mission for his future. His home life is stronger, and yes, his mother-in-law's '72 Beetle is looking good.

"He is arguably my best student," said Bob Pensiero, a longtime faculty member at Mt. San Jacinto College who leads a program that currently has 180 students. "He will do well."

Fracisco Margaux, who earned a \$1,000 veterans scholarship from the college to cover books and supplies, said that the support was vital in her journey, from serving as a helicopter crew chief during two tours in Afghanistan with the Army, to starting the paramedic program at Moreno Valley College in the fall of 2017.

"Everybody goes through a hard time adjusting, and it's nice to come to a campus where people are so supportive and can relate to what you're dealing with." ■



CC Grads Finding a Home in Hospitality, Culinary Careers

When it comes to illustrating the importance of a community college education in finding a new career, Isidro Hernandez is Exhibit A.

A successful chef in the Coachella Valley's thriving hospitality industry for nearly 30 years, Hernandez, 53, is now an applied science/culinary arts technician at College of the Desert, where he is bringing his extensive industry experience to help others break into the business – all while earning an associate degree himself en route to a new line of work as a college instructor.

"At College of the Desert, we are teaching people how to be successful in this demanding industry," says Hernandez.

Born in a small town near Guadalajara in the Mexican state of Jalisco, Hernandez moved to the Coachella Valley after graduating from high school in 1982 with hopes of earning a college degree. Those plans changed after he married and had the first of his four children. "I had to choose between raising a family or going to college, so I focused on raising my family," he said.



With an affinity for cooking that was nurtured while watching his grandmother create classic Mexican dishes, Hernandez embarked on a career in the food industry. He first found a job at the Nest Italian restaurant in Indian Wells, where he washed dishes, bussed tables and served as a waiter.

In 1983, he began working at Wally's Desert Turtle in

Rancho Mirage, where an accomplished French chef took him under his wing, and taught him some of the finer points of fine French dining. He left as the establishment's executive sous chef in 2000, and soon after became an executive chef at the nearby Springs Country Club. After the youngest of his children moved away to attend San Diego State University, Hernandez decided it was time to switch gears and embark on a teaching career.

"I had more time on my hands and I wanted to take what I learned as a professional chef and pursue a culinary arts instructor's career," Hernandez said. "But in order to teach, you need a degree, so I enrolled at College of the Desert."

Jeffrey Azer and Kurt Struwe, two of College of the Desert's Culinary Arts and hospitality/chef advisors, are among Hernandez's biggest fans.

"Isidro embodies everything we're trying to teach about the hospitality industry at College of the Desert," Azer said. "He is making use of all of the resources we have to redefine himself and his career. The fact that he is also a wonderful, caring human being, makes it even sweeter." ■

California Ready to Commit to Career Education

Advanced Transportation and Logistics, which includes Automotive Technology, is one of six emerging "priority" sectors identified in the Inland Empire-Desert region. Thanks to increased state funding, these critical pathways are beginning to get the resources they require.

"These are high cost programs," said Dean Joyce Johnson, who heads Career Education programs at Mt. San Jacinto College. According to Johnson, these programs require smaller class sizes and expensive upgrades on equipment.

In 2016, California lawmakers delivered a big upgrade in ongoing funding levels, amounting to about \$200 million each year for California community colleges. Johnson said she notices the difference.

"Our reputation is rising in the eyes of our board and our leadership," Johnson said. "Instead of being a drain on the budget, Career Education programs are pulling their own weight."

6 Emerging Sector...

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Advanced Transportation & Logistics
- Business & Entrepreneurship
- Energy, Construction & Utilities
- Healthcare
- ICT/Digital Media

1,000,000+ Job Openings By 2025

"Middle skills" positions, requiring career education beyond high school, represent the fastest-growing segment of California's job market.



“
This is an area that will
always be in demand.
”

Alex Zamora

High School Graduate, potential
Cybersecurity student at
Moreno Valley College

SECTOR SPOTLIGHT

CyberHubs: How the Inland Empire is Filling the Cybersecurity Job Gap

The need is profound. More than 300,000 cybersecurity-related jobs remain unfilled across the country. 35,000 of those are in California, with close to 700 in the Inland Empire alone.

To serve this need, a consortium of local community colleges in San Bernardino and Riverside counties are renewing their commitment to training students with the workforce-ready skills needed for careers protecting data from online thieves.

At the core of this movement is the Inland Empire CyberHub Centers project, a regional support network designed to build and strengthen cybersecurity programs at various colleges while building more accessible cybersecurity career pathways for students in middle and high school. Chaffey College, College of the Desert, Moreno Valley



College, Mt. San Jacinto College, Riverside City College, and San Bernardino Valley College are among those signing on so far. “This is the future,” said Donna Woods, a statewide community manager for California CyberHub and a cybersecurity educator in the Moreno Valley Unified

School District. “And we have to be ready for it.” The CyberHub Centers project is the latest in a series of programs catering to this booming career sector.

Recent projections suggest that by 2020, there will be more than 1.8 million cybersecurity-related job openings nationwide, which is up 20 percent from 2015 estimates.

Riverside City College, for example, has its own cybersecurity center and an information security and cyber defense educational pathway for those interested in pursuing careers in cyber defense while San Bernardino Valley College offers certificates and degrees in information security and cyber defense. Similarly, Moreno Valley College hosted the Air Force Association’s 2018 Cyber Camp and Coding Olympics, which provides foundational knowledge in cybersecurity to participants and is free for middle and high school students.

To better reach students in this age group, Moreno Valley College, Mt. San Jacinto College and San Bernardino Valley Colleges are adding cyber components to their campus makerspaces while Riverside City College is planning to expand its existing on-campus cyber center. Other colleges are expected to follow suit.

According to computer security specialists, there are some 1.5 million cyber attacks each year, which averages out to more than 4,000 every day and more than 170 attacks every hour. In 2016, there were 112,000 openings for information security analysts, but less than 97,000 workers employed in those positions. Employment research further suggests that while there are 200,000 additional openings at jobs that require cyber security-related skills, employers are struggling to find candidates with the skills to fill them.

One of these future candidates is Canyon Springs High School graduate Alex Zamora, who hopes to build a career as a computer systems analyst or engineer. Zamora plans to enroll at Moreno Valley College and eventually transfer to CSU San Bernardino.

“It’s one of the most intense fields that is out there, and what you do is so involved in our day-to-day lives,” says Zamora. “This is an area that will always be in demand.” ■

A Whirlwind in Barstow: BCC Dean Sandi Thomas

Sandi Thomas is a force of nature. The longtime Dean of Instruction and Workforce Development at Barstow Community College operates from a location that looks more like a warehouse or a factory than a community college. And she produces workers ready for local industry.

One of her most important tools is a state grant that started in 2016 called “Strong Workforce.” The money allowed her to purchase new tools, new equipment and to hire new instructors to make sure that hiring officials at nearby businesses had a trained and ready workforce.

“I want to get these students out to the jobs where they are needed,” says Thomas.

She does that by using some online classes, some hands on instruction, and giving credit for work experience in some cases where she can work with partners in industry, such as Edison, who pay well for skilled labor.

BCC student Daniel Burgett credits Thomas for her hands-on engagement. “I’ve never seen a dean interact with the students like she does,” he says. ■

Career Education by the Numbers

18 of 20 Hottest Careers start here...

According to the National Skills Coalition, 18 of 20 of the fastest-growing occupations in the U.S. require on-the job training, an associate degree or a postsecondary credential.

50,000+ Average Salary...

Career education grads earn more in the Inland Empire-Desert region.

#1 fastest-growing economy in California

It’s not L.A., and it’s not Orange County...