

VISTA

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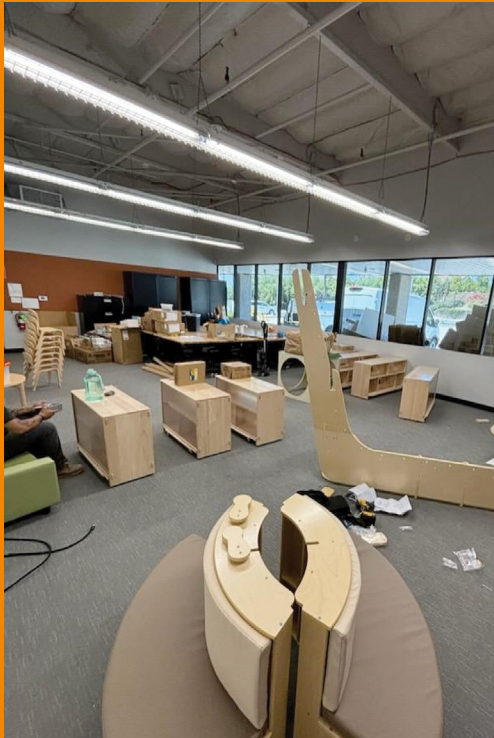
Trade Tech and Children's Paradise

Collaboration for New Educators

Published by the



Collaboration Creates New Educator's Pathway at Trade Tech High



One of the best examples of collaborative and community-focused thinking among our Chamber members is the creation of North County Trade Tech High School's (NCTTHS) Future Educator's Pathway that launched in August. By partnering with leadership staff at Children's Paradise Preschool and Infant Centers, they have created something really special for students interested in working with children as a career path after high school.

By Julie Smith Taylor

“It’s been such a great process and we are very happy to see how many students have signed up...”



“Julie Lowen, Founder of Children’s Paradise along with NCTTHS Founder Doreen Quinn saw an opportunity last year and planned a visioning session in the Fall of 2023,” says Chloe Medina, NCTTHS Principal. “We imagined what a collaboration would look like, how we could work together, and what we would need to add a Future Educator’s Pathway to our curriculum. We also arranged field trips to the Children’s Paradise location on Melrose Ave. for students to gauge the level of interest in a program like this,” she explains. The consensus was clear. Both sides were eager to commit to making this idea a reality.

“Julie generously offered to build out a comprehensive lab classroom setting on our campus where our students can work and learn in a space that replicates a preschool classroom at one of their facilities,” says Medina. “Our initial goal was to attract at least 12 students to the pilot program. Twenty-six students enrolled in the first cohort of the two-year pathway, which is a very exciting sign that there is a lot of interest in the field. The classes are taught by an instructor with a CTE credential in Education, Child Development, and Family Services. We plan to continue growing the pathway into one of our signature offerings and a compelling reason for students to enroll at Trade Tech,” says Medina.

NCTTHS offers its students, in a more intimate school setting, (there are currently 150 students this semester) several career pathways from which to explore with the goal of not only earning a high school diploma but be trained and in some

cases certified to step into a living wage career right after graduation. Staff are in the process of articulating classes with Palomar so that students in the Pathway will have the opportunity to earn up to six college credits in the field.

Diane Prospero, Director of Child Development at Children’s Paradise is equally pleased with what has transpired so far. “It’s been such a great process and we are very happy to see how many students have signed up,” she says. “Students who visit us during field trips get to tour our classrooms, interact with different age groups on the playground, learn how the school operates, see what teachers really do and then participate in hands-on activities. It’s a great way to really understand what it’s like to work in Child Development.”

Prospero says there has been a shortage of young people interested in becoming teachers in early childhood education since the pandemic. This program can help bridge that gap. “We hope that in their last semester at NCTTHS, students will beef up their resumes by spending a few hours a week at our facility to not only earn some additional service hours but gain valuable, hands-on experience to supplement their newly earned certifications.”

With so many caring and dedicated professionals involved in this partnership, the future is looking very bright for students at NCTTHS!



Did You Know...

- **Students can enroll at Trade Tech at any grade level! 9th-12th graders are welcome! We accept transfers from anywhere and have plenty of credit recovery options for those who need it.**

- **We are way more than a "trade" school! We offer a wide variety of career pathways as well as all the classes students need to meet A-G requirements to enroll at a four-year university upon graduation, if that is their goal.**

- **Every Trade Tech student has a Personal Learning Plan that supports them to achieve their individual post-secondary goals?**