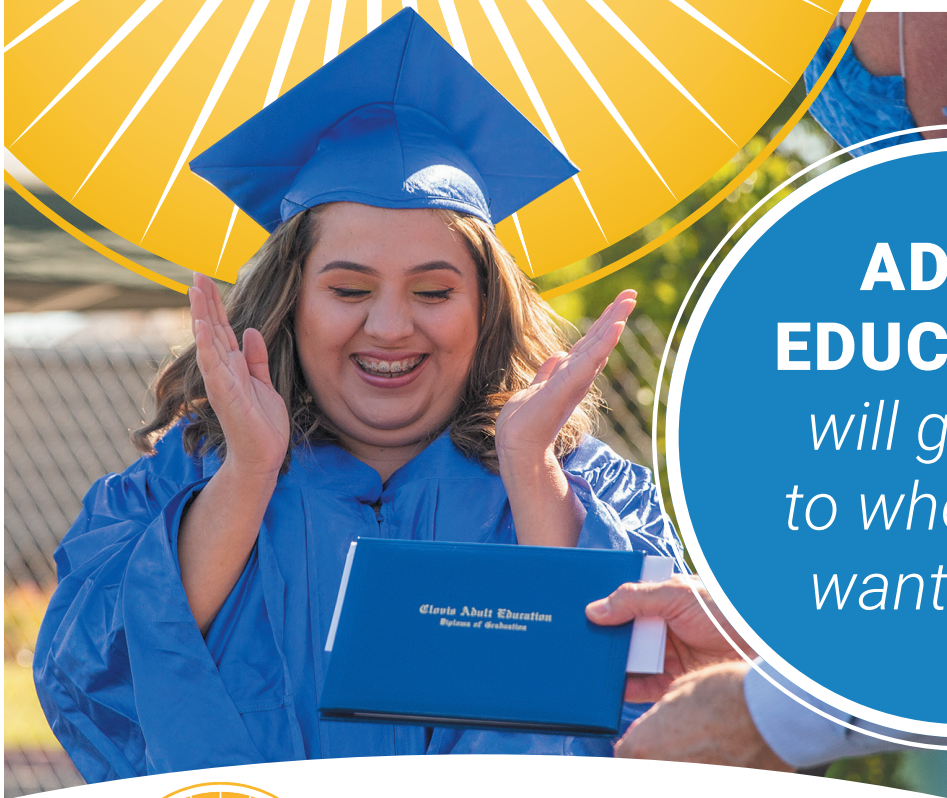
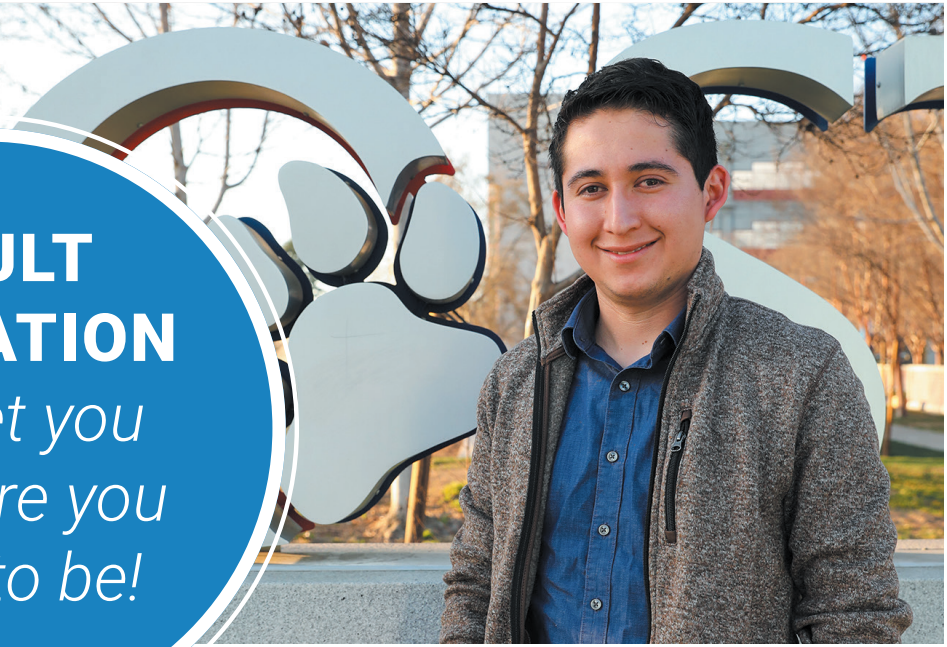


FIND YOUR PATHWAY TO SUCCESS



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EDUCATION**
*will get you
to where you
want to be!*



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MEETING STUDENTS WHERE THEY ARE

State Center Adult Education Consortium members
pivot during pandemic

BY DEBBIE ARRINGTON

Created in 2014, State Center Adult Education Consortium (SCAEC) builds partnerships, bridges and pathways that benefit students. Its members include 15 unified school districts, four community colleges, one community college center, two regional occupational programs (ROP) and a young adults in corrections program.

Serving an estimated 53,000 students, SCAEC and its members quickly pivoted when COVID-19 changed everything in Spring 2020.

"Our schools did whatever they could to accommodate students," says Sherri Watkins, SCAEC Executive Director. "Many schools went to parking lot testing. Some held drive-through graduations. Schools provided portable wifi hotspots, laptops and tablets; whatever they could do to let students stay home and stay safe while still continuing their education."

Adult learners were assisted as they pivoted their lives, too. Digital literacy classes for parents helped them become at-home educators, so they could better aid their own children during distance learning.

The pandemic's impact continues. A recent poll showed 45% of adult students attended in-person instruction while 55% preferred to study from home. Regardless of the mode of instruction, SCAEC members continue to meet the needs of students.

Adult education has long been the pathway forward for students from all walks of life, many of whom have major barriers to education and employment. These also are the members of the community who experienced the most negative effects of the pandemic and the resulting economic downturn.

Adult schools and community colleges play a major role in helping people get back on their feet. In turn, this impacts the California economy by meeting a huge demand for skilled workers.

With a flexible schedule designed for busy people, adult education is low- or no-cost, so a person can



Sherri Watkins, Executive Director of the State Center Adult Education Consortium, is part of the dedicated team serving adult learners.

PHOTO BY CLAIRE TAKAHASHI

**"Our schools
did whatever
they could to
accommodate
students."**

Sherri Watkins
Executive Director,
State Center Adult Education
Consortium

quickly gain the skills needed for a well-paying job without incurring student loan debt.

Part of the consortium's role is providing support to its members. Many of their districts need assistance with data and accountability, and transition services. The consortium's transition team connects students with adult schools, colleges and community resources for education and employment. The member schools are divided into subregions—North, South, Central and Clovis. Each has a transition specialist that creates cohesion for the team.

"Data and transitions drive our work as they are integral to meeting our regional goals of serving students," Watkins explains. "Every sub-region has different needs. My job is connecting the dots and building relationships. That's key to our consortium's success."

Meet the members



For more information about SCAEC member schools,
please see back cover of this publication.

IT ALL STARTS HERE!

There's not one road to success, and the journey is often not a straight line. To reach their goals, adult learners can choose several pathways that can lead to a new career, a better job, community college or university degrees, or technical certification.

Decide to pursue education

Each individual journey starts with that first step. Adult learners may choose one goal – or multiple goals.

Find an adult school or college program

Education providers are available at no or low cost with flexible schedules and proven success, close to where students live.

Create a plan to reach goals

The transitions team helps adult learners assess their needs and goals. Then, a personalized pathway to those goals is created.

Pick a program and pathways

Students can follow multiple pathways at once or stick to one program.

ABE

Adult Basic Education helps students gain the literacy and math skills they need to succeed.

ESL

English as a Second Language helps students become proficient in speaking, reading and understanding English while building needed language skills.

HSD/HSE

High School Diploma or High School Equivalency lets students fill in gaps in their education and earn their graduation certificate.

CTE

Short-term Career and Technical Education prepares students for a wide range of skilled, high-paying and high-demand jobs needed by our economy.

IET

Integrated Education and Training combines English literacy with career training. Students learn English including the vocabulary they need for the jobs they want.

Make progress

Students can see the progress they've made with their new skills and confidence. They may earn a short-term certificate, diploma or high school equivalency certificate.

Keep going

Adult learners join the workforce and start their new careers. Or they can transition to a community college or 4-year university program.

Meet our Transitions Team

Our Transitions Team connects adult learners with the programs and services they need, including assistance with academic and career counseling, college admission application, educational and career training, financial aid, career exploration, and community resource referrals.

PHOTOS BY CLAIRE TAKAHASHI



Pang Vangyi
Regional Transitions Coordinator



Oscar Hinojosa
Transitions Specialist



Mary Lopez
Transitions Specialist



Michelle Santesteban
Transitions Specialist

WORD ON THE STREET

ESL classes offer opportunities to grow

BY ANNE STOKES

Whether it's getting a job, meeting with your child's teacher or having a conversation with a neighbor, being able to read, write and speak English opens a lot of doors. English as a Second Language (ESL) programs enable students to do all of those things, as well as prepare them for citizenship and the workforce — all for free.

"They offer you a lot of information and a lot of basic skills that you're going to need," says Juan Carlos Romero, who knows the challenges firsthand. "It's the basis for everything because if you don't have English (skills), at least at a basic level, you're not really able to do a lot of things and (be part) of society."

Today, Romero attends California State University, Fresno, where he plans to graduate with a degree in plant science next year. But in 2014, he was just starting a new life here.

"I was completely lost," he remembers. "I didn't speak any English."

Romero started taking ESL classes at Clovis Adult School a few months after he arrived from Mexico. Within a year, he was able to enroll in Fresno City College and then transfer to California State University, Fresno. In December 2021, he became a citizen. He says that the skills he learned through the ESL program enabled him to continue his education.

"Before I got into Clovis Adult School, I went to Fresno State to check out their programs," he says. "They told me to go to adult education because I didn't have the English skills to get into Fresno State at that moment. So,

pretty much it's the basis of everything that I've done since then."

There are also opportunities for students who want to get in, get out and get a job. Several adult schools enable students

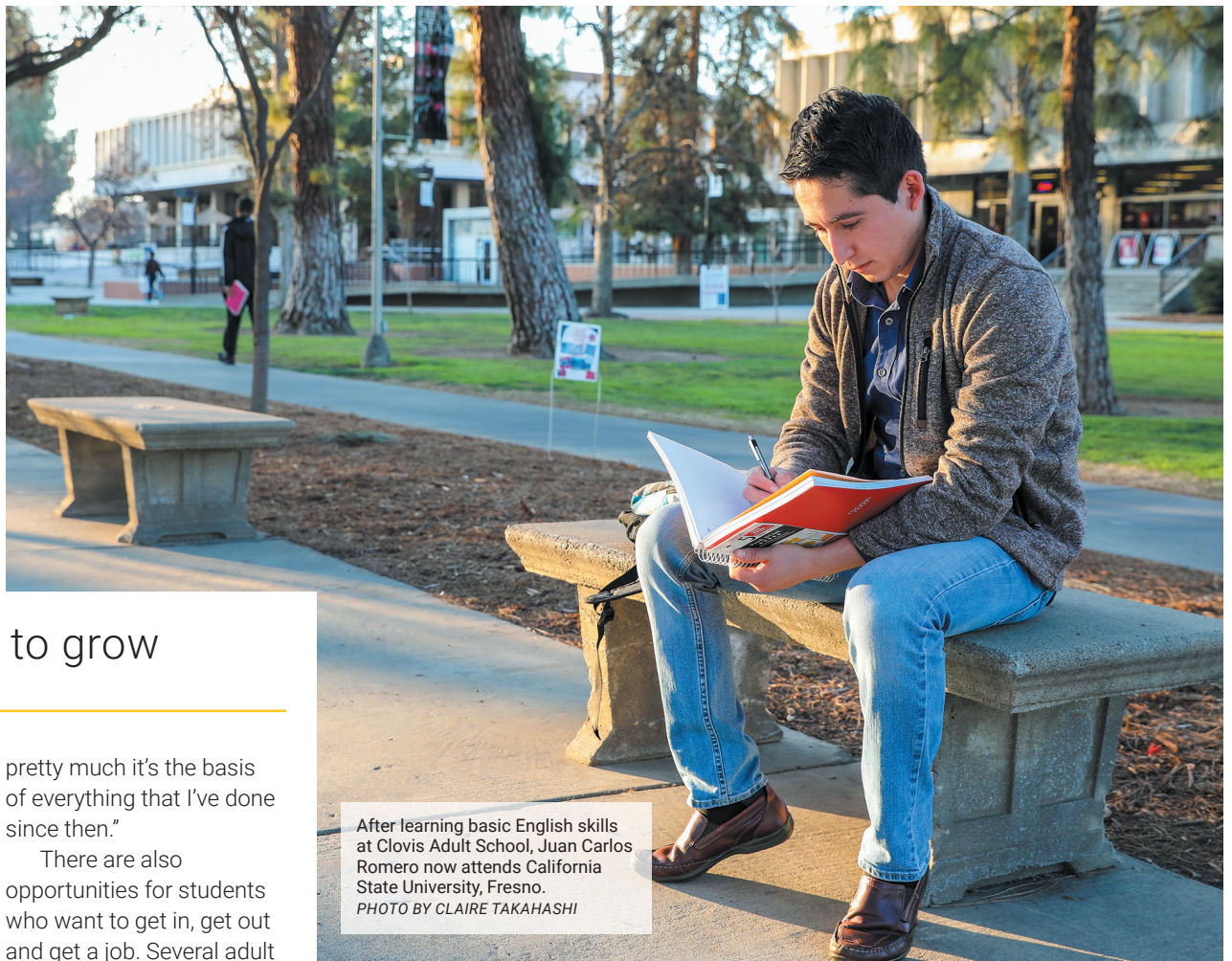
to take ESL and vocational classes at the same time with the help of in-class ESL tutors.

"You need to be able to understand the instructor, you need to be able to communicate in certain, specific words. The tutors in there, the paraprofessionals, can help with that," says Oscar Hinojosa, transition specialist with the State Center Adult Education Consortium. "While their English is improving, they'll be able to get that certificate and go out into the workforce."

Such flexibility is key to supporting students, who may already be juggling work and families. Classes are available mornings, afternoons, evenings and online. Most are tuition free, including ESL and citizenship classes.

"You learn a lot," says Romero. "You're going from nothing to pretty much everything because you learn writing, reading (and) speaking. It's a pretty complete, solid program."

For more information on an ESL program near you, visit www.scaeclearns.org or call 559-207-3189.



After learning basic English skills at Clovis Adult School, Juan Carlos Romero now attends California State University, Fresno.
PHOTO BY CLAIRE TAKAHASHI

**"If
you don't
have English
(skills), at least at a
basic level, you're not
really able to do a lot of
things and (be part)
of society."**

Juan Carlos Romero
Clovis Adult School
ESL graduate

Community Resources

ESL programs throughout the consortium offer students support in and out of the classroom. Students can get referrals for help with their immigration journey, including legal issues surrounding DACA, AB 540, educational opportunities, civic engagement and other immigration services.

The State Center Adult Education Consortium collaborates with organizations including:

- **The San Joaquin College of Law**
- **The Fresno Center**
- **The Educational Leadership Foundation**
- **United Farm Workers Foundation**
- **The Dream Resource Center at Fresno Adult School**
- **The Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC)**

TICKET TO A DREAM

Adult schools set foreign-born students on the path to citizenship

BY GAIL ALLYN SHORT

Y esenia Quintanilla arrived in the United States for the first time from her native El Salvador in 1989 to live with her mother in Los Angeles. A decade later, she enrolled at Fresno Adult School to earn her high school diploma. The mother of two continued to pursue her education by enrolling in the school's English as a Second Language program.

"That's when one of the office assistants told me that I could get my citizenship, too," she says.

Fresno Adult School offers a citizenship course for anyone interested in becoming a U.S. citizen.

Quintanilla was curious. She remembered seeing long lines of people waiting to cast their ballots in Los Angeles, and she longed to be a voter like them.

"She told me what the next steps were

to become a voter, so I said, 'Send me information about the class,' " Quintanilla recalls.

Fresno Adult School's citizenship course gives foreign-born individuals like Quintanilla an overview of American government and U.S. history. They also learn how to complete the 20-page application for citizenship and about the citizenship test and naturalization interview administered by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Like the Fresno program, Clovis Adult School in Clovis also offers a free, joint ESL-citizenship program.

Joann Beshansky, department chairwoman of the Clovis Adult School ESL Citizenship program, says that among the topics she covers is the election process.

"Being a citizen, you can become anything. ... It gives you a ticket to your dreams."

Yesenia Quintanilla
Fresno Adult School graduate



"I help them understand that once you become a citizen, if you don't vote, you're violating your rights and your responsibility to the country," she says. "It doesn't matter who you vote for. You vote to have your voice heard."

Beshansky also teaches students how to memorize key dates and facts in American history and the U.S. government.

"And I always tell them, now you can help your children with their social studies lessons," she adds. "That's important because it empowers them."

Quintanilla says she frequently discussed what she learned in class with her children.

"I taught my son, and we would read together. Now, he knows about history," she says.

Beshansky, a naturalized citizen since

2008 from the Philippines, says she often shares her personal experiences about the naturalization process. She even plays "interviewer" to help her students practice for their interview.

For three years, Quintanilla attended the citizenship class at her own pace, and even became a volunteer teaching assistant and translator.

Then in 2018, Quintanilla realized her dream to become a naturalized U.S. citizen. She now works in the Fresno Adult School's front office.

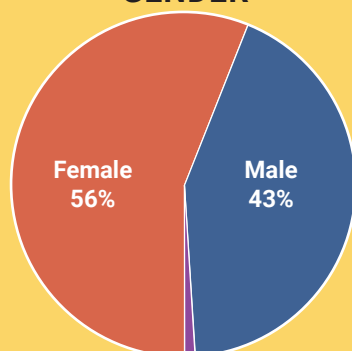
"If I hadn't had this class, I wouldn't have passed that test because it's hard," she says. "Being a citizen, you can become anything. It can help you to get a better job and more opportunities so you can help your family. It gives you a ticket to your dreams."

Who uses adult education?

According to California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, here's a snapshot of students who participated at State Center Adult Education Consortium member schools and programs.

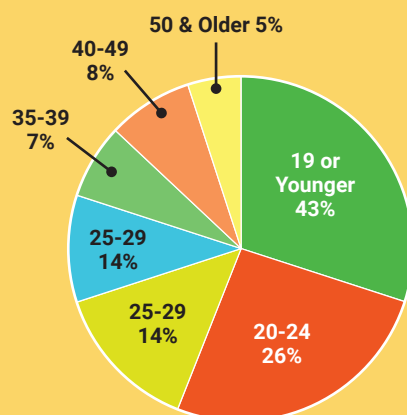
Statistics for 2019-2020,
calpassplus.org/launchboard

GENDER

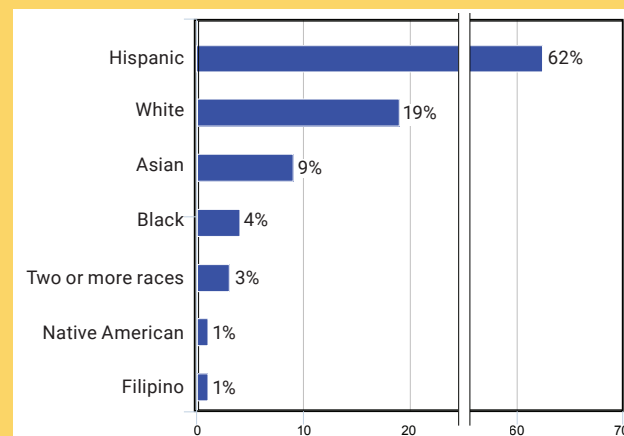


Non-binary 1%

AGE



ETHNICITY



Kings Canyon Adult School Learning Director Rich Ishimaru, at right, has seen hundreds of students earn their high school diplomas or equivalent. Gabriela Ponce, below, is one of those graduates. PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICH ISHIMARU AND GABRIELA PONCE

NEVER GIVE UP

Adult schools offer students a second chance to earn diploma

BY GAIL ALLYN SHORT

Gabriela Ponce of Reedley remembers the tough days she experienced as a teenager after her parents separated and her mother was left to care for the family alone.

At times, her family was homeless as well.

"We were living at family members' houses about an hour away from my high school, and it was really hard for us to stay in school," she says.

Consequently, Ponce dropped out during her sophomore year.

For the next couple of years, she tried taking independent study courses on her own, but it did not work out, she says. Eventually, Ponce accepted a job as a sales associate at a dollar store in 2011.

"That's when I decided, 'I need to get my diploma. I can't do this my whole life,'" she recalls.

Ponce enrolled in Kings Canyon Adult School's free high school diploma program.

"I didn't have to pay anything," Ponce says. "Even if we needed things like notebooks and binders, the teachers would offer them to us."

Rich Ishimaru, Learning Director at Kings Canyon Adult School, says the school normally serves about 650 students.

"We offer high school diploma, ESL, and career technical education classes," he says.

Currently, students meet with their teacher once a week, in person, to get their assignments and get answers to questions.

"But we're pretty flexible," Ishimaru says. "So if a student needs more help, the teachers are allowed to put in more time."

Math, says Ponce, was always her toughest subject. "I struggled with math," she says, "But the teachers would show me online video tutorials that had examples and that was helpful."

Her teachers also encouraged her stay in school, she says.

"I had always wanted to be an elementary school teacher," says Ponce. "So they would tell me, 'You've got to finish adult school. You need that diploma to get into college.'"

Ponce completed the program in a year and graduated in May 2012, she says.

She eventually earned her teaching credential from Fresno Pacific University in June 2021.

But when her mother became ill, she put her dream of working as a full-time elementary school teacher on hold to be a caregiver. She accepted a part-time teaching position at Mountain View School in Reedley which offers independent study for K-12 students.

"I really like what I do there because I feel like I can relate to these students," she says.

And while some may hesitate to turn to an adult school to get their high school diploma, Ponce says, "If that's your only way to get your diploma, it doesn't matter where it's from. Just keep going until you get that diploma."

"Just keep going until you get that diploma."

Gabriela Ponce
Kings Canyon Adult School graduate

Why we need adult education in our region



1,012,748
Population*



8.8%
Population growth since 2010



24%
of adults age 25+ are not high school graduates



8.3%
are unemployed**



17.8%
live in poverty



17.9%
are English learners



13.7%
of adults age 25+ have less than ninth grade education

* Fresno County, 2021 total

** January 2022

Sources: U.S. Census, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Education Data Partnership

Health Care Career Growth

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the health care field is projected to grow 15% in the next decade and add 2.4 million new jobs— more than any other occupational group. Some of the fastest growing health care occupations include:



Nursing Assistant

2017: 103,345
2027: 131,054 (27% growth)
Median hourly wages: \$22.39
Median annual wages: \$46,578



Home Health Aide

2017: 31,461
2027: 37,329 (19% growth)
Median hourly wages: \$14.99
Median annual wages: \$31,175



Physical Therapist Assistant

2017: 5,114
2027: 7,710 (51% growth)
Median hourly wages: \$38.49
Median annual wages: \$80,063



Occupational Therapy Assistant

2017: 1,955
2027: 3,209 (64% growth)
Median hourly wages: \$40.30
Median annual wages: \$83,832



Health Technologists and Technicians

2017: 24,221
2027: 33,231 (37% growth)
Median hourly wages: \$37.56
Median annual wages: \$78,130

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Shireen Franco discovered she really did love nursing with the help of Fresno Adult School.
PHOTO COURTESY OF SHIREEN FRANCO

FINDING A PATHWAY

Adult schools give students a way to pursue healthcare careers

BY GAIL ALLYN SHORT

When Shireen Franco was a freshman at California State University, Fresno, she intended to become a teacher. But after working with children at a summer job, she began having doubts.

"I came to realize that teaching wasn't the best career choice for me," Franco says.

"I had nurses in my family. My grandma was a nurse. My stepdad is a nurse," she says. "So that's when I thought about pursuing nursing."

Her family, however, worried about the tuition. What if she spent money at a four-year university to major in nursing only to discover she did not like that profession either?

So Franco enrolled in Fresno Adult School to become a certified nursing assistant (CNA) through the school's Career Technical Education (CTE) program.

"I decided to go that route to make sure I enjoyed it and that nursing was something that I'd want to pursue," she says.

Fresno Adult School is part of the Fresno Unified School District, which is a member of the State Center Adult Education Consortium.

Franco credits her instructors at Fresno Adult School for teaching her the fundamentals of patient care.

"They taught us lifting techniques, and how to move patients properly," she says. "We learned there were certain ways we had to do the beds. It was all very



detailed oriented."

In just four months, Franco completed the CNA program and, with her certificate in hand, she enrolled in Fresno Adult School's licensed vocational nursing (LVN) degree program.

"In fact, I started working on my LVN prerequisites while I was still in the CNA program," says Franco. "That way, as soon as I finished, I was able to shoot right into the LVN program without too much of a delay. The teachers were amazing, and I felt supported by them."

Franco says she is especially appreciative that the cost of tuition for the LVN program was so affordable.

In just a year, Franco completed the LVN program and landed a job as a school nurse for the Fresno Unified School District.

While working, Franco went on to earn a registered nursing degree at Fresno City College and then a bachelor's in nursing from Fresno Pacific University.

Today, she is a pre- and post-operative nurse at a local surgery center. She credits Fresno Adult School with giving her the skills she needed early on to work as an LVN and pursue higher education.

"I felt really prepared and confident in what I was doing," she says. "I'm really glad about the route I took. It was the right thing for me."

"I'm really glad about the route I took. It was the right thing for me."

Shireen Franco
Nurse and Fresno Adult School graduate



WHERE *THE WORK* WILL BE

Vocational training provides work opportunities for all

BY KRYSTA SCRIPTER

Many assume that a four-year degree is the track to success and a life-sustaining career. But vocational training for jobs such as electricians, mechanics and chefs can provide lucrative career opportunities in far less time.

At Yosemite Adult School, students like Randy Brakke are offered a chance to learn skills that can lead to a long-term career.

Before joining the program, Brakke was a stay-at-home dad struggling to find work during the pandemic.

"With a family to support, the opportunity means a lot to me," Brakke says.

With a family of four, Brakke needed work that could support his wife and two kids. Brakke saw posters for OSHA certification at Yosemite Adult School and decided to check it out.

Previously, Brakke worked in construction. At Yosemite Adult School, he began taking the pre-apprenticeship program to become an electrician. Thanks to the help of his instructor and mentor, Tony Misner, Brakke was able to get a job as an apprentice while he continues his training.

Brakke credits a lot of his success to Misner, who helped him get his current job and provided the support he needed to get through the pre-apprenticeship program. "I can't speak highly enough about him," Brakke says.

Misner says career technical education (CTE) programs can be life-changing for students like Brakke.

"The program that Randy went through is the pre-apprentice program. That's what's called a short-term

CTE program, which is less than six months," he says.

CTE programs are often quicker to finish and less expensive than traditional college education routes, Misner says, while still providing family-sustaining salaries. On top of that, Misner says he's been doing this so long that he almost always has a connection for students looking for a job. That's how he got Brakke his work as an electrician apprentice.

"I got a phone call from one of the secretaries on campus that said, 'Hey, I have a friend who's an electrician and they are looking for someone to mentor. Do you have anyone?' And Randy was one of the ones that popped up," Misner says. "He impressed every one of the three professional instructors from the trade union and I go, yeah, this is a kid that needs a break."

Misner, who's passionate about mentorship, says most adult education programs lose their students when they don't make that necessary connection.

"I think a lot of those students weren't connected to the school. They didn't have mentorship," Misner says. "They had teachers that were so busy teaching the curriculum that they forgot they're teaching humans."

It's certainly true for Brakke, whose life drastically changed once he became an electrician apprentice. Without the guidance of instructors like Misner, Brakke says, his life would look very different.

For those who are considering taking courses at Yosemite Adult School? "Absolutely do it, take full advantage of it," he says. "It was well worth it."

Most in-demand jobs

According to Indeed.com, these careers rank among the most in-demand jobs in Central California:



Home Health Aide

Average starting salary:
\$30,696



Physical Therapy Aide

Average starting salary:
\$35,674



Nursing Assistant

Average starting salary:
\$36,393



Construction Worker

Average starting salary:
\$39,381



Truck Driver

Average starting salary:
\$68,140



Web Developer

Average starting salary:
\$68,330

Fastest-growing industry

Between now and 2024, construction will be the fastest-growing industry sector in Fresno County, according to labor market projections.

Construction is expected to account for
4,500 new jobs, a 33.3% increase.



KEEPING UP WITH THE TIMES

Digital literacy skills can make all the difference for job seekers

BY ANNE STOKES

In today's labor market, computer skills are king. And while many assume it's only older job seekers who need to update their marketable skills, adult schools are also a welcoming place for younger workers looking to upgrade their career options.

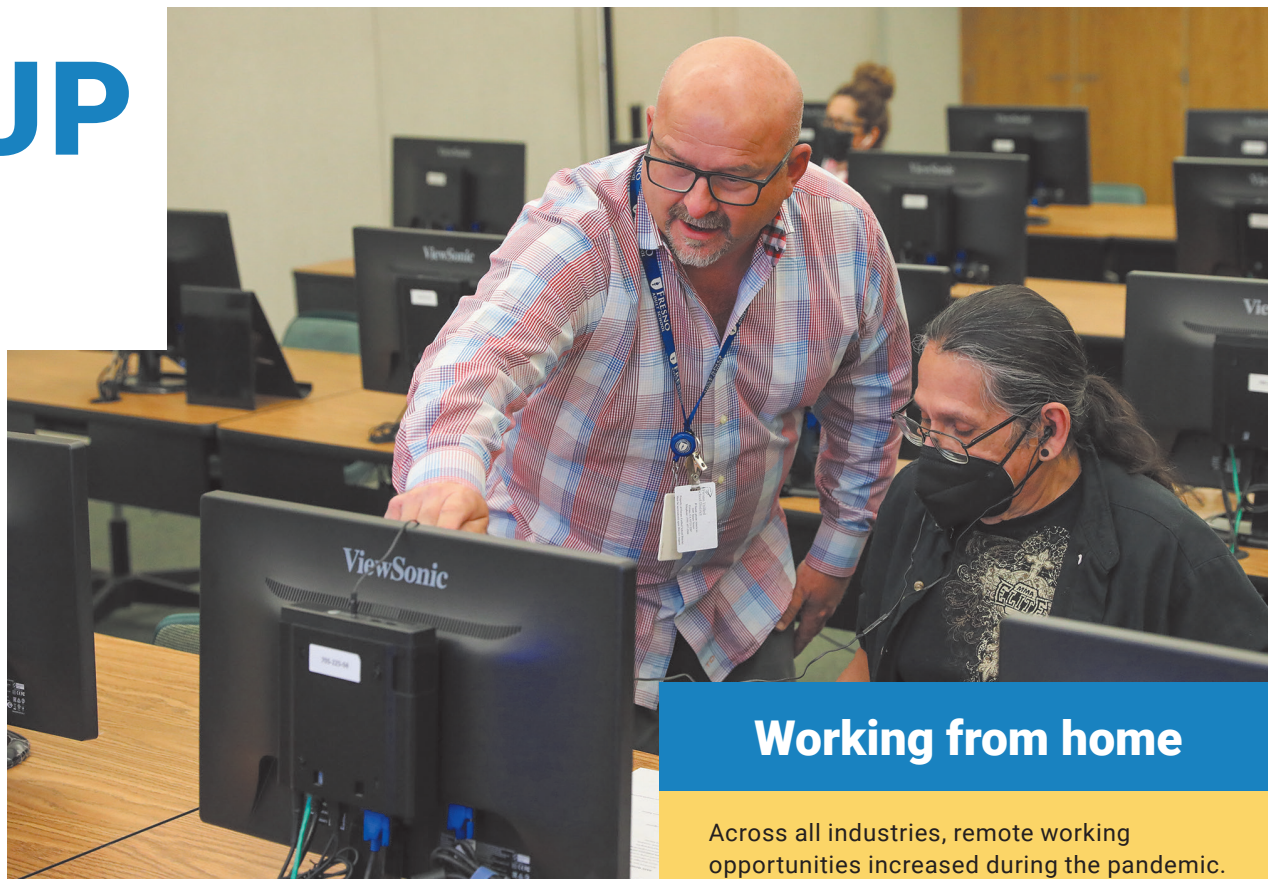
"Many people are coming into my technology class in their 20s or 30s and they've never had a typing class," says Leroy Grider, digital literacy instructor at Fresno Adult School. "Even though they're very familiar with what they perceive to be technology, they really haven't done anything in the office technology space."

Grider points out that many employers require familiarity with software programs as well as 40- to 50-word per minute typing speeds, skills not necessarily used on social media, smartphones and tablets where many younger people get their digital experience.

In order to prepare students for the digital-savvy job market that awaits them, adult education offers a variety of professional certificates to help them land the job they want — including Microsoft Office and Google suites, project management programs such as Trello, and even introductory courses in Sequel and Lean Sigma Six — all for low or no cost.

"Students might be in service work and wanting to upgrade to something with fewer weekends and nights, something that's more 9-to-5," Grider says. "They know they need to do something to break out of a service industry type of job, but they can't quit their job to do that. We offer time shifting so they can work independently when they have the time."

Not only do digital literacy classes train students in the



Digital literacy teacher Leroy Grider works with a student at Fresno Adult School.

PHOTO BY CLAIRE TAKAHASHI

office tools and programs needed to advance or upgrade their careers, they also give students the opportunity to display those skills in their job search.

"We work on a comprehensive portfolio for each student so they have a master application, they have a resume, they have a cover letter prepared," Grider says. "Recently this year, we've added video elevator pitch. We use a free online application called Sendspark and students can video tape themselves talking about why they should get the job with a company and what they bring to the table."

Grider notes that now is a good time for those looking to change careers as most companies are clamoring for employees due to the pandemic and the "great resignation."

"Now's the time to get outside your comfort zone and get the skills you need to be successful," he says.

For more information on available digital literacy classes, visit www.scaeclearns.org to find a program close to you!

"Now's the time to get outside your comfort zone and get the skills you need to be successful."

Leroy Grider
Digital literacy teacher, Fresno Adult School



Working from home

Across all industries, remote working opportunities increased during the pandemic. And according to a 2021 Glassdoor study, things may not return to "business as usual" anytime soon.

- Online job searches for remote positions increased **460%** between June 2019 and June 2021.
- A 2020 McKinsey Global Institute survey of 278 executives found they planned to reduce office space by **30%**.
- According to a Gartner poll, **48%** of employees are likely to work remotely at least part of the time, an increase from **30%** before the pandemic.

In order to take advantage of such opportunities however, job seekers need the skills to compete in a digital "office." To meet those workforce needs, educator Leroy Grider says digital literacy courses have come to include curriculum that covers remote working communication skills and virtual collaboration programs.

"Many companies prefer somebody who is bilingual and we have a large bilingual population here in Fresno. The other thing with remote workers is (companies) want to be cost effective ... and it's a fairly reasonable cost of living compared to most areas of the country," explains Grider. "We think in Fresno we're uniquely poised to have very good results with remote work."

WORKING PARTNERSHIP

Workforce development and adult schools team up to promote job readiness

BY GAIL ALLYN SHORT

Today, many job sectors are experiencing worker shortages. But filling those open positions means workers must have the education needed to qualify for those jobs.

In fact, two-thirds of jobs in the next 10 to 20 years will require some level of post-secondary training, says Tracie Scott-Contreras, Executive Director of the Workforce Development Board of Madera County.

The Workforce Development Board works with community partners to make sure local businesses have the talent pipeline to meet their needs now and in the future.

Among those partners are adult schools. They offer high school diploma and equivalency programs, career tech programs, certifications and more so graduates can successfully enter the job market.

"There are certain jobs that have huge hiring needs," says Scott-Contreras. "Healthcare is certainly one of those. Anything in transportation and logistics or supply chain-related (jobs) are in demand, too. Hospitality and tourism-related businesses are struggling."

The board partners specifically with adult schools and community colleges to provide affordable ways for people to train for good-paying, in-demand jobs in areas such as agriculture – including ag-tech and ag business – as well as transportation and logistics, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, retail, hospitality and tourism, and the construction trades.

"Regionally, we're also involved in training for green

energy careers and are beginning to look at occupations in water systems," she says.

"Many adult schools offer unique and targeted vocational and career tech education opportunities and most of them come at little or no cost to the students," she adds.

The board works with adult schools in three primary areas: First, it refers English-language learners to adult schools for ESL instruction, so they will be more marketable and competitive in the labor market, she says.

Second, it connects individuals lacking a high school diploma to the adult schools' high school diploma and high school equivalency programs, so they can qualify for jobs requiring that level of education.

"The third way that we work with adult schools is to make sure that we have strong referral processes in place for individuals who are completing programs and are ready to move into post-secondary training, vocational training, an apprenticeship or directly into the labor market," Scott-Contreras says.

Additionally, transition specialists with the State Center Adult Education Consortium are available to help adult school graduates move on to the next step in their education or training.

"Adult schools are a wonderful resource regardless of whether you're looking for educational assistance, job-seeking assistance or skills development," she says. "So it's important that people know that these programs are here for the community."

"Adult schools are a wonderful resource regardless of whether you're looking for educational assistance, job-seeking assistance or skills development."

Tracie Scott-Contreras
Executive Director, Workforce
Development Board of
Madera County



Tracie Scott-Contreras, Executive Director of the Workforce Development Board of Madera County, sees a huge need for more skilled workers.
PHOTO BY CLAIRE TAKAHASHI

Need a path to a well-paying career?

Workforce Connection, a program of the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board, helps individuals gain the skills needed to qualify for in-demand jobs. Here's how:

- ✓ **Academic and career skill-level evaluations:**
Case managers administer assessments so people can discover their interests and identify the right career path for them.
- ✓ **Job-ready skills workshops:**
"With our job-ready workshops, we go over the soft skills like communication and helping students improve their teamwork skills," says Martha Espinosa, Marketing and Grant Manager for the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board. "We discuss dress codes and grooming, and we offer resume writing workshops and interview skills workshops to prepare folks to get into the workplace."
- ✓ **Paid work experience:**
Workforce Connection offers paid work experiences, so those completing their vocational training can gain on-the-job training before they graduate.
- ✓ **Job placement and follow up:**
The Workforce Connection team is on hand to help participants find full-time, good-paying jobs with benefits.

Find out more about Workforce Connection at www.workforce-connection.com

Higher Education, Low Cost

Higher education doesn't have to break the bank. Adult school and community college programs are surprisingly affordable and offer significant advantages for graduates looking for work.

NO-COST CLASSES

Adult schools offer no-cost and low-cost career technical education programs. In addition, adult learners can study English, earn diplomas or certificates, prepare for citizenship, improve literacy and gain digital skills – all for no cost.

LOW-COST COLLEGE

A majority of local college students are eligible for financial aid and fee waivers. Even if paying full tuition, the cost savings are huge when comparing two years of full-time coursework at a local community college against a four-year university.

State Center Community College District

(Fresno City College, Clovis Community College, Madera Community College, Madera Community College at Oakhurst and Reedley College)

Tuition and fees:

\$1,380 per year

(\$46 per unit and 15 units per semester)

Books and supplies (estimate):

\$1,854 per year

California State University

(Undergraduate programs)

Tuition and fees:

\$7,422 per year

(six or more units/semester)

Books and supplies (estimate):

\$2,058 per year

University of California

Tuition and fees:

\$14,000 per year

Books and supplies (estimate):

\$1,200 per year

*Tuition and fees based on 2020. Sources:
University of California, California State University,
State Center Community College District*

'EVERYBODY NEEDS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED'

Adult school principal answers frequently asked questions

BY ANNE STOKES

Housed in the basement of St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco, California's first adult school taught Gold Rush immigrants reading, writing and arithmetic — skills they'd need to build new lives. Today, adult education still provides valuable opportunities for many. We talk with Ed Schmalzel, Principal of Clovis Adult Education, about what adult education can offer students now.

"Everybody needs the opportunity to succeed in America, everybody," he says. "Our goal is that when they complete their program, they have the confidence to not accept the status quo. Whether on the job, in their homes or in the community, when they see something that needs to change, when they see something that can be done better or ran more efficiently, they'll be the ones able to do it."

How do adult education programs serve students and communities?

"One of our mottoes (is) 'We improve lives through education.' Another motto is that 'It's never too late,' (especially for) those students who want to complete their high school diploma or earn their high school equivalency, learn English, assimilate into their community, and those who want a better job.

"I think the joy of working in adult education is seeing that we don't just make an impact on one student or one generation of students; we're impacting their kids and even their kids' kids."

What types of programs and classes are available?

"We have courses that start at grammar-school level reading and math up to students who may have dropped out in high school and need to complete ten credits or all four years.

"In our valley, we have a very large population of English as a Second Language (learners) and that is where adult schools become a hub for their community. ... We hook them up with all kinds of services, so it's really a social service hub as well as an educational hub.

"Short-term vocational training is also really important for many of our students who want to get to that next level, get that job training and get that job they've always wanted."

Some programs — like ESL and high school equivalency classes — don't have any prerequisites to enroll. Are there any for other programs?

"If there are prerequisites and you don't meet them, they'll have courses and tutoring to help you and support you to get to that level; we don't just turn people away. If it's required to have a high school diploma, we have something for you ... that's what we do."

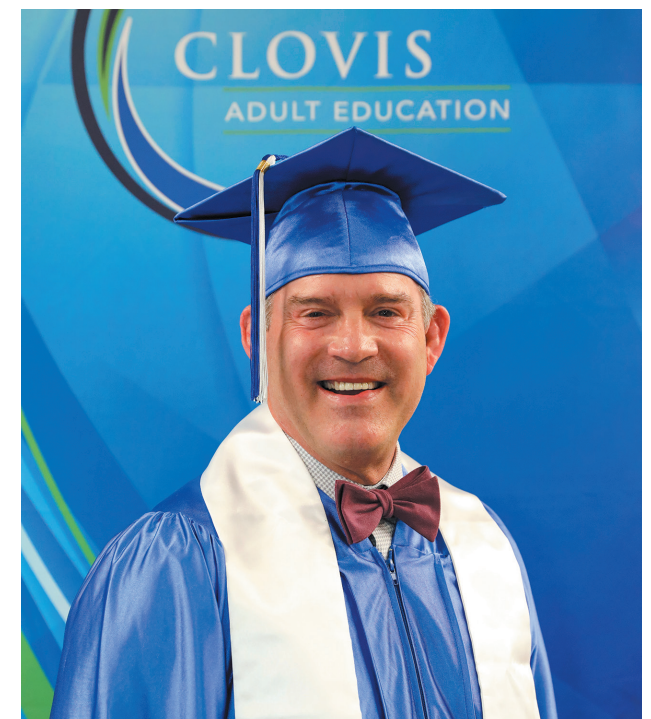
Ed Schmalzel, Principal of Clovis Adult Education, says it's never too late to earn a high school diploma — and wear a cap and gown.
PHOTO BY CLAIRE TAKAHASHI

How much do classes cost and is there any financial support available?

"There's zero cost for academic (classes like the GED) and ESL, ... CTE (career technical education) programs do have fees.

"We have such a connection with our community-based organizations that the majority of our students are on some type of support or scholarship to get through. ... Students might be getting aid, support or a scholarship from local agencies like our Department of Rehabilitation, Workforce One Stop, or the Veterans Administration. ... Transition Specialists from the State Center Adult Education Consortium can help students make those connections to support services."

Enrollment can be completed online, by phone or in person. Visit www.scaeclearns.org or call 559-207-3189 to find the right school and program for you.



WHERE LEARNING NEVER STOPS

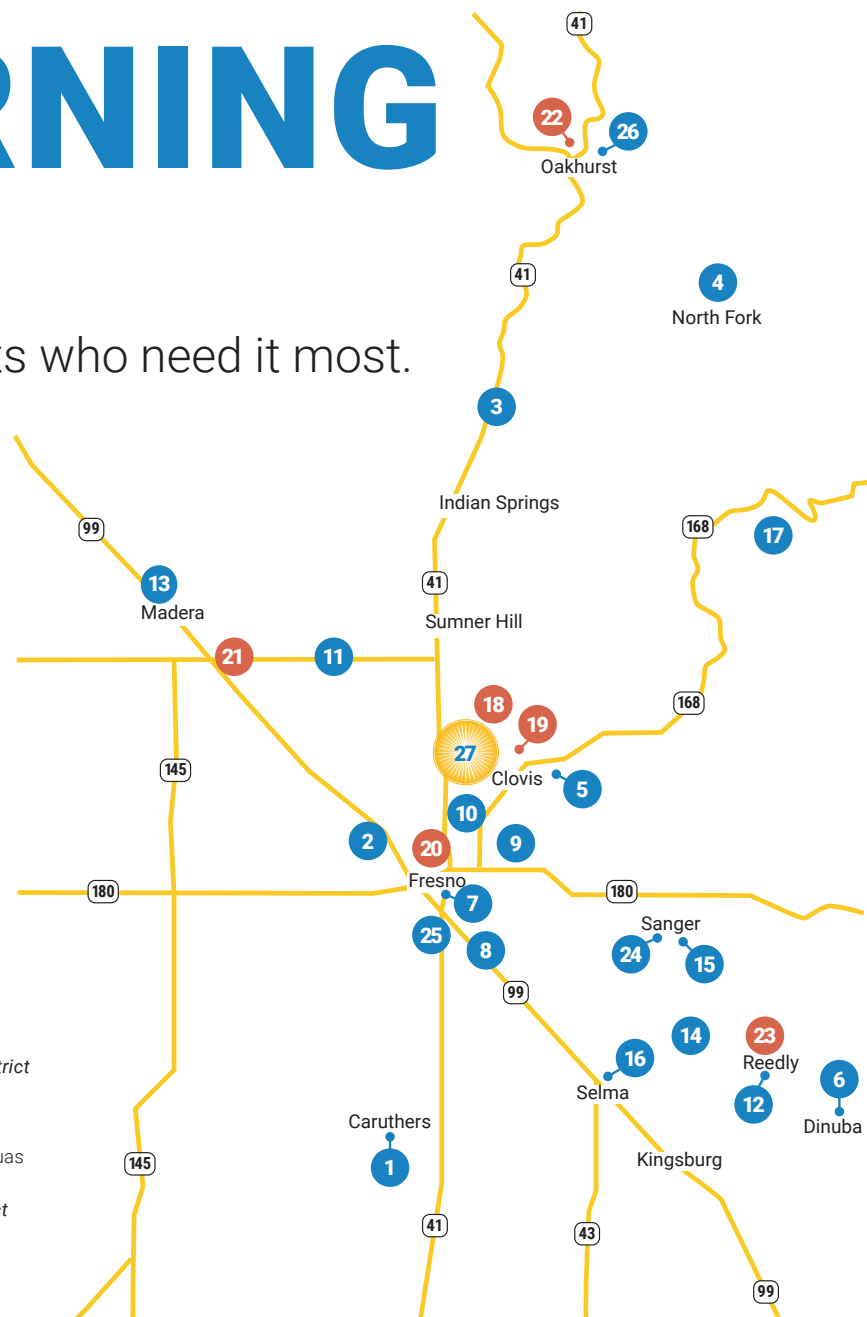
Adult education brings skills, knowledge to students who need it most.

Support and protect this valuable resource in Central California! State Center Adult Education Consortium is dedicated to the needs of adult learners in Fresno and Madera counties, and parts of Tulare County. Find a school or program near you:

- 1 Caruthers Adult School**
Caruthers Unified School District
13620 S. Kincaid Ave.
Caruthers, CA 93609
559-495-6440
www.caruthers.k12.ca.us
- 2 CLASS (Central Learning Adult/ Alternative School Site)**
Central Unified School District
2698 N. Brawley Ave.
Fresno, CA 93722
559-276-5230
cl.centralunified.org
- Chawanakee Adult School**
Chawanakee Unified School District
• **O'Neals Campus**
45077 Road 200
O'Neals, 93645
- 3 • North Fork Campus**
33030 Road 228
North Fork, 93643
559-868-4200
https://sites.google.com/mychawanakee.org/chawanakee-adult-school
- 5 Clovis Adult Education**
Clovis Unified School District
1452 David E. Cook Way
Clovis, CA 93611
559-327-2800
clovisadult.cusd.com
- 6 Dinuba Adult School**
Dinuba Unified School District
8470 Ave. 406
Dinuba, Ca 93618
559-596-2066
www.dinuba.k12.ca.us
- 7 Fresno Adult School**
Fresno Unified School District
2500 Stanislaus St.
Fresno, CA 93721
559-457-6000
www.fas.edu
- Fresno County Superintendent of Schools**
www.fcoe.org
- 8 • Alice M. Worsley School**
3333 E. American Ave., Bldg. 702, Ste. D, Fresno, CA 93725
559-600-4934
- 9 • Violet Heintz Education Academy**
4939 E. Yale Ave.
Fresno, CA 93727
559-443-4851
- 10 • Career Technical Education/ Regional Occupational Program**
1318 E. Shaw Ave., No. 420
Fresno CA 93710
559-497-3860
https://rop.fcoe.org

- 11 Golden Valley Adult School**
Golden Valley Unified School District
12150 Road 36
Madera, CA 93636
559-645-3580
edops.gvusd.org
- 12 Kings Canyon Adult School**
Kings Canyon Unified School District
740 W. North Ave.
Reedley, CA 93654
559-305-7085
adulted.kcusd.com
- 13 Madera Adult School**
Madera Unified School District
2037 W. Cleveland Ave.
Madera, CA 93637
559-675-4425
www.madera.k12.ca.us/adulted
- 14 Parlier Adult School**
Parlier Unified School District
900 Newmark Ave.
Parlier, CA 93648
559-646-2731
www.parlierunified.org
- 15 Sanger Adult School**
Sanger Unified School District
1020 N St.
Sanger, CA 93657
559-524-7775
sangeradultschool.com
- 16 Selma Adult School**
Selma Unified School District
1420 2nd St.
Selma, CA 93662
559-898-6590
www.selmausd.org
- 17 Sierra Adult School**
Sierra Unified School District
33280 Lodge Road
Tollhouse, CA 93667
559-855-3020
sierrausd.org
- State Center Community College District**
www.scccd.edu
- 18 • Clovis Community College**
10309 N. Willow Ave.
Fresno, CA 93730
559-325-5200
www.cloviscollege.edu
- 19 • Clovis Community College/ Herndon Campus**
390 W. Fir Ave.
Clovis, 93611
559-324-6400
www.cloviscollege.edu
- 20 • Fresno City College**
1101 East University Ave.
Fresno, CA 93741
559-442-8200 ext. 8473
https://www.fresnocitycollege.edu/student-services/programs/adult-education.html

- 21 • Madera Community College**
30277 Ave. 12
Madera, CA 93638
559-675-4800
www.maderacollege.edu
- 22 • Madera Community College at Oakhurst**
40241 Hwy. 41
Oakhurst, CA 93644
559-683-3940
www.maderacollege.edu/about/oakhurst-campus.html
- 23 • Reedley College**
995 N. Reed Ave.
Reedley, CA 93654
559-494-3000
www.reedleycollege.edu
- 24 Valley ROP**
1305 Q St.
Sanger, CA 93657
559-876-2122
www.valleyrop.net
- 25 Washington Adult School**
Washington Unified School District
5865 S. Clara Ave.
Fresno CA 93706
559-495-5690
www.washingtonunified.org/wuas
- 26 Yosemite Adult School**
Yosemite Unified School District
50200 Road 427
Oakhurst, CA 93644
559-683-8801
www.yosemiteusd.com



STATE CENTER ADULT EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

7942 N. Maple Ave., Suite 103 | Fresno, CA 93720 | 559-207-3189
www.scaeclearns.org | Facebook www.facebook.com/statecenteraec
Twitter @statecenteraec | Instagram www.instagram.com/statecenteraec/



Members of the SCAEC team: From left, Mary Lopez, Oscar Hinojosa, Pang Vangyi, Sherri Watkins, Allyson Adams, and Michelle Santesteban.
PHOTO BY CLAIRE TAKAHASHI