



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CTE/ROP WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS

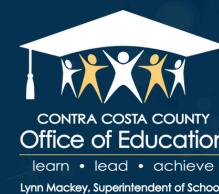
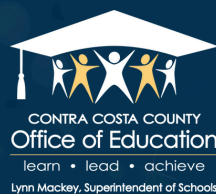


ROP 2025 Students Of EXCELLENCE Awards

Career Technical Education / ROP

April 29, 2025

77 Santa Barbara Road
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
www.cocoschools.org/ROP
(925) 942-3368



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools

Lynn Mackey

Deputy Superintendent, Business Services

Daniela Parasidis

Director, Student Programs

Nick Berger

Contra Costa County Board of Education

Annette Lewis

President

Sarah Butler

Vice President

Yazmin Llamas

Mike Maxwell

Daniel Nathan-Heiss

Student Board Members

Ishaan Savla

Dougherty Valley High School, SRVUSD

Luke Wilson

El Cerrito High School, WCCUSD



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
Office of Education
learn • lead • achieve

PROGRAM

Welcome and Introductions

Hilary Dito

Director, College and Career Readiness

Welcome from Contra Costa County

Lynn Mackey

Superintendent of Schools

Board of Education

Annette Lewis

President

Partners

David Schoenthal

Phillips 66

*Senior Advisor, Communications,
Public Affairs, & Government
Relations*

Steward Pimienta

Travis Credit Union

*Senior Community Engagement
Specialist*

Kate Trevelyan-Hall

Junior Achievement of

Northern California

Vice President of Development

Lindy Johnson

Contra Costa Transportation

Authority

Director, External Affairs

Theresita Gonzalez

Donor Network West

Community Engagement Specialist III

Student Awards Presented by:

Jeff Brauning

CCR Coordinator

Leslie Marley

CCR Coordinator

Azine Davoudzadeh

CCR Coordinator

Erin Pulley

CCR Manager



ADDIE GESICKI

California High School

ROP Careers in Teaching 2 | Teacher: Shanin McKavish

Over the past two years, Careers in Teaching has shaped Addie Gesicki's future. Her mentor, Mrs. Baker, praises Addie's calm, helpful nature and gift for supporting students. Addie says the class confirmed her passion for teaching and prepared her for success.

ANDREW HILTON

Heritage High School

ROP Digital Recording Studio | Teacher: Juan Carreon

Hands-on experiences and mentorship in Digital Recording equipped Andrew with technical skills and deepened his passion for using music to uplift underrepresented cultures. Known for his leadership and collaboration, Andrew stands out for inspiring peers and consistently demonstrating exceptional talent in class.



ALEX MIHAYLOV

Clayton Valley Charter High School

ROP Principles of Engineering

Teacher: Tyler Miller

Alex Mihaylov's passion for engineering shines through hands-on projects and mentorship. Mr. Miller calls his robot "the benchmark for the class." From robotics to rebuilding a Cessna engine, Alex's experiences fuel his dream of aerospace engineering and pushing technological boundaries.

ANEESH KRISHNA

Dougherty Valley High School

ROP Intro to Business

Teacher: Andrew Cardiasmenos

Aneesh excels in class activities like discussions, essays, and business projects. Outside of class, he leads Project Empower chapters in Cupertino and the Philippines, raises funds, and co-founded DermaAI, a skincare start-up that won iStart Valley's \$500 prize.



AMANI AL-OMARI

Heritage High School

ROP Advance Video Production | Teacher: Gus Guardado

ROP Advanced Video taught Amani technical skills and shaped her resilience, leadership, and creativity, fueling her passion for a video career. Her journey from self-doubt to confidence shows dedication and growth, earning praise as a skilled, committed, and creative leader in production.

ANNIKA YU

Dougherty Valley High School

ROP AP Computer Science A

Teacher: Albert Kim

"Through mentorship and coding, I have learned that education is not just about imparting knowledge, but about fostering curiosity and critical thinking in every student. My passion for teaching drives me to continuously adapt, grow, and create an environment where both creativity and intellectual development can thrive for the academy."





ASHTON WALKER

San Ramon Valley High School

ROP AP Computer Science A | Teacher: Janet Muirragui

Ashton started with no prior knowledge but soon realized AP-CSA provides a foundation for lifelong computer science learning. He has developed valuable group skills, including communication, teamwork, and conflict resolution, through activities like pair programming.



BRODER GRANT

Liberty High School

ROP AP Computer Science Principles

Teacher: Ken Balderrama

Computer Science matters deeply to Brody Grant—not just for its global impact, but its personal significance. Teacher Ken Balderrama says Brody expanded his knowledge of processing systems and technology's power. Brody feels the class prepared him well for a future in computer science.



BRANDI PICO

Vicente Martinez High School

ROP Digital Photo | Teacher: Holly Rago

"In the ROP class, I am continuously growing as a photographer, honing my skills in lighting, angles, and editing while receiving valuable hands-on experience and guidance that fuels my passion for capturing the world around me."



COLE HELDER

Campolindo High School

ROP Advanced Wood Engineering | Teacher: Tren Kauzer

Mr. Kauzer reports that Cole has a friendly, confident personality, helping quieter students feel comfortable and encouraging authenticity. Self-motivated, Cole always has project ideas and makes the most of every opportunity to be creative in the shop.



BRENDA GALINDO FELIX

Dozier-Libbey Medical High School

ROP Community & Public Health

Teacher: Brittany Carkeek

Brittany Carkeek: "Brenda has significantly expanded health science exposure for AUSD students, crucially during a time of high demand for healthcare workers. Her leadership in teaching Stop the Bleed, CPR, and First Aid has greatly increased awareness and preparedness among her peers."



CORINNE JEANDHEUR

Clayton Valley Charter High School

ROP Civil Engineering and Architecture

Teacher: JoAnna Castillo

Corinne Jeandheur's passion for Civil Engineering and Architecture shows in her academic excellence and hands-on projects. Mrs. Castillo highlights her leadership and problem-solving skills. Designing models like Monticello, Corinne discovered the joy of improving lives and aims to create sustainable, eco-friendly designs.



DARYA NOURI

Las Lomas High School

ROP Human Body Systems | Teacher: Kathleen Mooney RN

Darya aspires to be a pediatric oncologist. The biomedical pathway helped her discover her passion for medicine, the impact she wants to make, and her purpose. It inspired her to further explore healthcare by joining HOSA.



ETHAN RUDNITSKIY

Las Lomas High School

ROP Advanced Wood Technology | Teacher: Hunter Lower

Mr. Lower says Ethan has excelled in pen making on the lathe. He's interested in becoming an electrician or electrical engineer, recognizing that hands-on experiences in Wood Technology will greatly advance these career paths.

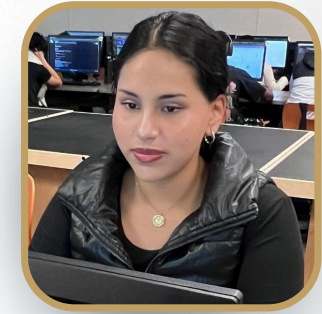


DEMETRIUS JENKINS

Pittsburg High School

ROP Drones | Teacher: Mahesh Goswami

Demetrius Jenkins says learning to pilot drones was a fantastic opportunity that also helped him develop adaptable skills. Teacher Mahesh Goswami calls him hardworking and passionate, with impressive drone projects. Demetrius is confident these experiences will benefit his future endeavors.



FIGRELLA CORDOVA

Pittsburg High School

ROP Game Design | Teacher: Mahesh Goswami

Fiorella Cordova says Mr. Goswami's teaching makes challenging projects easier and has helped her develop problem-solving, creativity, and focus. He praises her as a passionate student who excels in Unity and 3D animation. Fiorella believes these skills will support her college and career goals.



EMMANUEL MENDEZ

Antioch High School

ROP Advanced Web and Social Media Programming & Design
Teacher: Kent McCutcheon

"My ROP media classes have enabled me to create videos, with my greatest accomplishment being the commercial I directed and edited for The Antioch Historical Society, which is now used to attract new visitors to their museum." Emmanuel Mendez's exceptional leadership, technical skills, and dedication to both his craft and community make him a standout student in the Media Tech Academy.



GABRIELLA SOLORIO

Dozier-Libbey Medical High School

ROP Emergency Medical Careers/EMR
Teacher: Gretchen Medel

"My experience in the ROP First Responders class has not only equipped me with life-saving skills but has also ignited a passion for helping others and empowered me to make a real difference in critical situations."



GIANNA SOUZA

Campolindo High School
 ROP Introduction to Sports Medicine
 Teacher: Ray Albiento

Ray Albiento: "Gianna is an extraordinary young woman. I have seen many examples of her talents and have long been impressed by her diligence and work ethic."



IYANA WILLIAMS

Sylvester Greenwood Academy
 ROP Food Service & Hospitality Careers & Foods 1 & 2
 Teacher: Michael Petrilli

"My experience in the ROP class has been a transformative journey, equipping me with practical skills, professional discipline, and a deeper understanding of career pathways that will shape my future in both healthcare and culinary arts."



GRACE TRUHE

Liberty High School
 ROP Exploring Computer Science
 Teacher: Ken Balderrama

"From what I have seen of Grace's character, I know that she will take full advantage of any educational opportunities afforded her through CTE programs and that she will continue to grow in being a wonderful positive contributor to our world."
 - Ken Balderrama



JAMONTAY BRIDGES

Floyd Marchus School
 ROP Culinary Arts 2 | Teacher: Elisa Arreola

Ms. Arreola reports that Jamontay shows exceptional culinary skills, strong leadership, and a great work ethic. He has helped with food preparation and serving at the Thanksgiving Feast for three years. His positive attitude and teamwork make him a perfect nominee for the Students of Excellence Awards.



HAKIM JABBAR

Golden Gate Community High School Pittsburg
 ROP Computer Science Discoveries
 Teacher: Dharmendra Lal

Hakim is thrilled to be considered for this award. The computer classes have transformed his academic journey, helping him excel in assignments and discover a passion for coding and AI.



JOYCE WU

Dougherty Valley High School
 ROP Careers in Teaching 2 | Teacher: Jessica Tsuji

"My ROP Careers in Teaching shaped my development as a person. It has given me real-world experience, taught me teaching skills, and reaffirmed my love for science."



KATE MURPHY

California High School

ROP Play Production | Teacher: Laura Woods

Kate Murphy, known as “Head of Shop,” stands out for her leadership, creativity, and technical skill in theatre. Instructor Laura Woods praises her maturity and safe, math-driven designs. Kate says Play Production strengthened her problem-solving and teamwork—skills she’ll carry into Environmental Engineering.

MINA ALJANABY

Dozier-Libbey Medical High School

ROP Sports Medicine | Teacher: Kim O’Leary

Mina Aljanaby is a “force” in Sports Medicine, praised by Ms. O’Leary and a coach who called her the best student in 15 years. With 750+ volunteer hours and leadership roles, Mina found purpose in caring for others and is driven to keep learning.



KIARAH CAROLYN RAYCHEL BURKS

Antioch High School

ROP Careers in Teaching | Teacher: Rebecca Quiñones

Kiarah Carolyn Raychel’s special education internship has deepened her empathy and understanding, shaping her career goals of promoting equality in education and creating accessible learning environments. This experience sparked her passion for working with children with special needs, including speech or occupational therapy.

NAREN VENKAT

Heritage High School

ROP Robotics Engineering | Teacher: Robert Pardi

“I am confident that with the foundation of my career being laid by ROP, I am well-prepared for my future in the mechanical engineering industry.”



KINSLEY EILERING

San Ramon Valley High School

ROP Careers in Teaching 1 | Teacher: Cindi Sekera

Kinsley Eilering’s intellectual curiosity and love of learning make her an exceptional student, says teacher Cindi Sekera. Kinsley shares that Careers in Teaching gave her clarity about becoming a teacher. She plans to study child development and inspire future students to love learning.

NOAH MATIAS

freedom High School

ROP Photo 2 | Teacher: Ann Marlow-Rendler

Noah Matias consistently demonstrated a remarkable blend of creativity, determination, and growth in the ROP photography class, mastering technical skills while developing a unique artistic vision.





PRINCESS SARAH RAMOS

John Swett High School
ROP Multimedia 1 | Teacher: Ken Leslie

Mr. Leslie says Princess is an exceptional student with outstanding academic achievements, character, and leadership. She excels in graphic design and art, and her consistent attendance and punctuality reflect her dedication and reliability, making her a strong future leader.



SANTI MARTINEZ

Clayton Valley High School
ROP Computer Integrated Manufacturing and Robotics
Teacher: JoAnna Castillo

Santi Martinez excels in Honors PLTW ROP, especially in CIM and Robotics. Ms. Castillo praises his leadership as Robotics Club Master Builder and his mentoring skills. Santi values hands-on experience in CAD and automation, fueling his passion for innovation and preparing him for engineering.



ROBERT ENACHE

Clayton Valley Charter High School
ROP Creative Writing | Teacher: Casey Gardner

"Robert demonstrates a rare ability to speak to the heart of a topic, regularly showing a deep understanding of both the craft and the purpose of not just his own writing, but the field of writing as a whole." -Casey Gardner



SONIA GUPTA

Dougherty Valley High School
ROP International Cuisine | Teacher: Dave Offerman

"In the ROP class, I have gained valuable skills in time management, communication, self-sufficiency, and business finance, while learning to adapt creatively in the kitchen and prepare for future independence and entrepreneurial success."



RUBI NAJERA GONZALEZ

John Swett High School
ROP Careers in Education | Teacher: Erin Walk

"My experience in the Careers in Education class has transformed my perspective, teaching me the power of leadership, cultural responsiveness, and adaptability, while inspiring me to make a lasting impact on others."



TEAGAN IRANITALAB

California High School
ROP PLTW Human Body Systems
Teacher: Elizabeth Ghiassy

Teagan reports that the Human Body Systems course gave her a solid foundation in anatomy and physiology, linking knowledge to real-world applications. Hands-on experiences, like dissections and using medical tools for data analysis, increased her passion and understanding of the human body.



TYLER BARAJAS

Clayton Valley Charter High School
ROP Culinary Arts 101 | Teacher: Marcellus Waller

"In the last 2 years, I have witnessed Tyler blossom into not only an excellent student who knows the path he wants to take after high school but, a leader of others in our CTE pathway." - Marcellus Waller



YOUSSEF GHALY

Clayton Valley Charter High School
ROP Advanced Sports Medicine
Teacher: Annie Martin

"The practical skills I acquired increased my confidence and preparedness whether I was dealing with everyday injuries or managing emergencies at work."



TYLER SHAFFER

Liberty High School
ROP Advanced Automotive Engineering
Teacher: Jon Dorr

"My ROP class has helped me in so many ways; learning how to do alignments, using the snap-on scanner, and a voltmeter. It was very satisfying to know that I solved a real-world problem and helped someone out."



YONGLIN ZHU

California High School
ROP Newspaper Production | Teacher: Brian Barr

"Looking back, I'm grateful that I decided to choose this pathway all four years, not only has it shaped me into a stronger person, but it's also taught me skills that I will forever use in my life."

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

to students who were nominated

ANOUSHKA SHETH

California High School
ROP Computer Science
Principles
Teacher: Rae Anne Crandall

BENJAMIN HO

California High School
ROP Principles of Engineering
Teacher: John Reed

GENESSEE TAYLOR

Pittsburg High School
ROP Advanced Graphic Design
Teacher: Marilyn Narayan

GIOVANNI MORELLO

Heritage High School
ROP Digital Recording Studio
Teacher: Juan Carreon

KENJI AGUIRRE

Pittsburg High School
ROP Web Design
Teacher: Mr. Goswami

LANCE SAMANIEGO

Freedom High School
ROP Advanced Graphic Design
Teacher: Lori Butler

MAANIKA THAKUR

Dougherty Valley High School
ROP Empowering Entrepreneurs
Teacher: Andres Cardiasmenos

TAYLOR KONING

Dougherty Valley High School
ROP Computer Graphic Arts
Teacher: Jeff Silverman

EARLY CHILDHOOD APPRENTICE



CESIA MEJIA

Richmond High School

ROP Careers in Teaching | Teacher: Victor Zaragoza

Mr. Zaragoza has known Cesia since her freshman year, and she has always stood out for her dedication, curiosity, and kindness. Her love of learning goes beyond grades, and he's confident she'll do exceptionally well in all she pursues.

SCAN TO SUPPORT CCC ROP



[BIT.LY/CCCROP-DONATE](https://bit.ly/cccrop-donate)



[BIT.LY/SUPPORT_CCCROP_WBL](https://bit.ly/support_cccrop_wbl)

Celebrating Excellence in Career Technical Education

RETIREE RECOGNITION



We Thank You For Your Dedication

SCOTT PYEGEORGE

Pittsburg High School



ROP Sports Medicine



Scott PyeGeorge began his teaching career in 2002 teaching High School. Starting at Alhambra High School and had an overlap year 2012-2013 when he was teaching at both Alhambra High and Pittsburg High School. After that year Scott took a full time position teaching at Pittsburg High and was also hired as the school's athletic trainer through Children's Hospital of Oakland. He was also Alhambra High's athletic trainer from 1994 -2013. That job was through the Mt. Diablo Medical Center/ The Health and Fitness Institute before they were purchased by the John Muir Medical Center. Scott also taught some in college as well. Scott's 23 years as a teacher and athletic trainer has touched the lives of many students and students athletes. We honor him today for keeping student athletes safe, helping students learn about Sports Medicine and making an impact in their lives. Thank you for your dedication and time to ROP.