



November 2025

## WE Will! K16 and California College Guidance Initiative Kick Off 2025/2026



WE Will! K16 Collaborative, in partnership with the California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI), led by Selma Gonzalez and her team, hosted a Community of Practice for CCGI district partners. The event was held at the San Joaquin County Office of Education, where Dr. Troy Brown, a subaward partner, and his team warmly welcomed attendees and generously provided the meeting space

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## PROJECT PARTNERS SUCCESS STORIES

### ARCH Apprentices Launch the Year with Leadership, Inspiration, and Community Celebration



The San Joaquin County Office of Education's College and Career Readiness Department launched the 2025-26 Apprenticeships Reaching Career Horizons (ARCH) program with a dynamic leadership event on September 17, 2025.

Apprentices representing pathways in Agriculture, IT, Hospitality and Marketing, and Education participated in interactive workshops designed to strengthen communication, teamwork, and career readiness. Motivational speaker Colleen Lawson inspired students to step into their "10X version" – the most confident version of themselves – reminding them, "I do not need permission because I already have influence."

The day concluded with an Apprentice Recognition Dinner, bringing together families, mentors, employers, and community partners to celebrate the apprentices' achievements and commitment to their career journeys.

Supported by the We Will! K-16 Education Collaborative grant, the event showcased the power of collaboration in connecting education and workforce development. Apprentices left with new tools, professional networks, and a shared message of empowerment: their future has already begun – and they are leading it.

## HOSA Fall Leadership Conference Inspires Future Health Professionals



On October 25, 2025, Buhach Colony High School hosted the HOSA Fall Leadership Conference, uniting more than 125 students from



six regional high schools for a day of leadership, learning, and inspiration.

Through hands-on workshops such as DNA Exploration, Folding Out Stress, and I See My Future & It's Bright, students explored pathways in health and medicine while strengthening skills in teamwork and communication. A motivational keynote encouraged participants to prepare for their futures in healthcare with confidence and compassion.

HOSA—Future Health Professionals—empowers students to pursue careers in health and medical fields through education, collaboration, and real-world experience.

A special thank-you goes to BCHS HOSA advisors Jena Ipock and Jasmine Alexander for hosting an engaging and impactful event that continues to inspire the next generation of healthcare leaders.

## **VolunTEEN Pathways Program joins theTrunk or Treat at Mercy Medical Center Merced**



The VolunTEEN Pathways Program at Mercy Medical Center Merced joined in on the hospital's third annual Trunk or Treat celebration, bringing extra excitement and community spirit to the event.

This year's Volunteer Services theme, "Pirates of Mercy," set a festive tone as families and children of Mercy staff and volunteers came together for an evening of fun. VolunTEENs participated by helping distribute candy and greeting families—spreading smiles and embodying the kindness and teamwork that define the program.

Through events like Trunk or Treat, the VolunTEEN Pathways Program continues to strengthen community connections while encouraging youth to engage with healthcare in meaningful, compassionate ways.

Be sure to reference our Calendar of Events linked below to find any upcoming WE Will events as well as those within the region.

Please share all the great stuff going on within the region! To get it placed on calendar please email Diana Hernandez  
[dianahernandez@ucmerced.edu](mailto:dianahernandez@ucmerced.edu)

We look forward to sharing and being apart of your events!

[CALENDAR OF EVENTS](#)

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