



Anne E. Campbell • County Superintendent of Schools

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NEWS RELEASE

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The San Mateo County Office of Education Announces Expansion of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Efforts during Kick-Off of CTE Month

REDWOOD CITY, CA. In an effort to provide students with the 21st century skills needed to compete in the global economy and find fulfilling work in the Bay Area, the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) is expanding its Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program. The initiative has experienced early success in helping school districts develop their own CTE programs by linking them with key local industries in fields such as biotech; financial literacy; information technology; arts, media, and entertainment; and transportation. The expansion will allow the County Office to support more districts and schools, reach more students, and play a stronger role in coordinating and connecting school districts, colleges and universities, and industries.

Career and Technical Education programs have gained interest and traction in the county as schools look for broader opportunities to help students develop the skills they need to be successful in 21st century college and workplace settings. Parents and students are also interested in finding pathways to careers that will allow high school and college graduates to remain in the high-cost Bay Area. Finding ways to build bridges for students into regional industries is one of the goals of the CTE program.

“CTE is a key part of our strategy to promote equity and excellence in education,” explained San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools Anne E. Campbell. “CTE programs offer students the opportunity to explore various career options and then put in place the classes and experiences they need to succeed in the career of their choice. This is particularly helpful for students who might not otherwise gain such exposure and support.”

SMCOE’s announcement coincides with the beginning of CTE Month, which SMCOE and school districts across the county are celebrating in February. As part of CTE Month, SMCOE is shining a light on some of the [County’s innovative CTE programs](#). For example, Jefferson Union High School District’s new Product Innovation and Design pathway will help students learn career practices and problem-solving while building real-world skills. The district is in the process of creating special spaces on campus, including fabrication and technology labs, to support the new pathway.

For more information on CTE efforts in San Mateo County, please contact Dr. Vera Jacobson-Lundeberg, SMCOE’s Director of CTE, at vlundeberg@smcoe.org or 650-802-5605.

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The San Mateo County Office of Education is committed to ensuring excellence and equity in education by inspiring students, investing in teachers, invigorating leaders, and involving communities.