

APPRENTICESHIP

Construction Career Fair Gets Students Excited About Working in the Trades

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This past September, the San Joaquin and Calaveras Counties Electrical Training Center held their 16th Annual Construction Trades Career Fair in Stockton. The San Joaquin County Office of Education sponsors this event every year for all high school students in the area.

Throughout the day, students learned about the skill set for specific trades from 18 different construction apprenticeship programs. Garrett Greer, San Joaquin and Calaveras Counties J.A.T.C. training coordinator, spoke to the students on what it is like to be an apprentice in the trades. Kevin Lincoln II, the mayor of Stockton, also attended and participated in events with students.

Students had the opportunity to participate in exciting, hands-on learning activities from apprenticeship programs, such as fabricating cup holders from sheet metal which they got to take home. The operator engineers brought a miniature backhoe for the students to get the experience of working with heavy equipment. Electricians instructed the students on how to bend conduit piping.

At the DAS table, apprenticeship consultants Hershel Baser and Anna Latreille gave a short presentation about what it takes to be a registered apprentice in California and on the benefits of apprenticeship. Over 600 students from five high schools participated in the event. The students were engaged and attentive, and they were saving the DAS website on their phone as a favorite so they could share with their parents the available career opportunities in the trades.



Pictured left to right: DAS Consultant Hershel Baser Jr.; Stockton Mayor Kevin Lincoln II; Stanislaus County Office of Education Director II, Pam Knapp; and President of the Board of Education for Lodi Unified School District, Ron Freitas.