

CAREER ADVANCEMENT ACADEMIES - MADERA COMMUNITY COLLEGE CENTER

Support Services and Intentional Transition Strategy

Integral components that provide for a successful transition to next steps in the career pathway or employment for our students begin with their front door experience on our campus and building and maintaining relationships with our industry and community partnerships.

Career Advancement Academies (CAA) orientation spells out the support services students are entitled to receive as an enrolled and registered student; the rigors, expectations and benefits, are clearly established. Students are then prepared and ready for intense classroom instruction that provide embedded basic-skill instruction in our trade calculations and technical report writing design. We discovered that embedded tutoring allows our students to successfully grasp the physics involved in trade calculations. Encouraging additional written work with a one-page opinion paper following a tour allows the students to express themselves and provides the opportunity for the company to read their comments; as excerpts from their paper in the form of a thank-you to the company is sent on their behalf by the coordinator. The extensive hands-on technical instruction provides the students the relevant experience; noted industry speakers in manufacturing provide the motivation and speak on safety, hiring practices, career pathways within their company and continuing education. Our industry partners assist with mock-interviews and give much needed feedback as to dress, interview techniques, and encouragement. Our partners open their facilities to our students showing them behind the scenes on a typical or atypical work day.

A best practice, our students enjoy participating in are employee conducted welding demonstrations, within an industry facility; it gives the student and faculty an out-of-classroom experience as well as helps them improve their own techniques and styles. This experience allows them to ask questions about various welds and suggestions for improvement. We work with our industry partners to provide job shadow experiences that often time lead to full-time job opportunities for students who demonstrate the willingness and desire to go above and beyond their academic commitments.

California State University, Fresno supports student transitions to next steps in the career pathway by providing tours of the Schools of Engineering and Industrial Technology. Thus introducing the student(s) to the very different methodologies of these two majors; Industrial Technologists build what the Engineer designs. The interaction with university faculty and students plants a seed, as many are first-time community college enrollees, ensures yet another *best practice* to validate their chosen career pathway.

Leveraging additional external resources for our students exist because of our commitment to building relationships with industry and being assessable to our community partners who work tirelessly with us in improving Madera and Fresno County's' economic base through continued education. Fresno County Department of Social Services; Cal Works, and Workforce Investment Boards (Fresno and Madera counties) and our industry partners; Lyons Magnus, Wier-Floway Pumps, Grundfos Pumps, Georgia Pacific, Evapco, Eurodrip and Baltimore Air and Coil; all assist the student in various ways: case management, tuition reimbursement, industry tools and supplies, tours, mock interviews, job leads and most importantly, job offers.

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