



# SANTA ANA

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# C O L L E G E

*"Santa Ana College inspires, transforms, and empowers a diverse community of learners."*



## CAREER EDUCATION (CE) SPOTLIGHT



*Career Education & Workforce Development Division*

*by Jonnathan Duenas & Raquel Requena Ramirez*

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### **Santa Ana College: Where Students Always Come First**

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the way the world operated and how it will continue to operate long after its outbreak subsides. Santa Ana College (SAC) adapted quickly to ensure the safety of its students and quickly became a COVID-19 testing site, and later, a COVID-19 vaccination site. Through it all, our students persevered and continued their educational journey through remote instruction.

Through special funding, Career Education (CE) faculty purchased instructional supplies and equipment to help CE students succeed in their new environment. Departments including Fashion, Photography and Child Development purchased equipment and software that would not only help students succeed, but also introduce them to the equipment and software used in the industry. Manufacturing purchased a camera system that would allow them to record videos to aid students in understanding material by seeing it demonstrated. Our Speech Language Pathology Assistant Program purchased licenses that allowed their students to complete their practicum in a virtual environment instead of having to go to a physical site during the pandemic. The School of Continuing Education purchased laptops that are being lent out to students which allows them to connect and succeed in their online instruction.

Remote instruction has proved to be a challenge across the board for our faculty, staff and students, but SAC has always strived to assist their students. One thing is certain, through pandemics, remote instruction, and upon our return to campus, at SAC, our students always come first!



## **SAC Offers Career Exploration Events Using Virtual Platforms**

SAC participated in various events during the 2020-2021 academic year. These events all helped increase awareness and promote our CE pathways as well as other Career and Academic Pathways under Guided Pathways. To start, SAC joined Vital Link's Regional Automotive Pathway Event held from January 25th – February 12th. This event exposed hundreds of high school students from all over Orange County to the various Automotive Technology degrees and certificates offered at each of the five community colleges in the region. During this time, students were able to access an online platform to virtually tour each college and learn more about their individual Automotive pathways. In addition, students were able to participate in weekly activities led by each college faculty to further their understanding and knowledge of the field. SAC provided a Parts Labeling Activity to get students more acquainted with the parts of an automotive engine.

Moreover, SAC held a panel with representation from a faculty, CE counselor, and student services coordinator to answer student questions and provide more detailed information about our offerings and connections to industry, as well as how to best prepare in high school to transition into SAC's Automotive Pathway. Students had a lot of questions and showed strong interest in SAC's programs. The Student Services Coordinator for CTE Transitions was also able to support this event by attending a panel for Spanish-speaking parents. During this panel, she was able to answer questions about SAC's Automotive and Adult Education programs. In addition, the Career Education & Workforce Development Division also attended virtual College and Career Fairs throughout Orange County K-12 schools to promote all the college's CE pathways, student support programs, and financial aid options.

CTE Transitions also provided specialized workshops for high school students on how to claim articulated course credit and how they can advance their career at SAC. Lastly, SAC held 39 virtual workshops as part of the Guided Pathways College and Career Exploration Month event series. These workshops were targeted to help current SAC, adult education, and high school students learn more about career opportunities under each Career and Academic Pathway. Faculty, staff, deans, and industry representatives affiliated with each CAP organized specialized events to engage and inform students. The Career Center hosted Career Exploration workshops for each CAP and serviced 97 students.

Way to go SAC!



# SAC Student Success Story

Fernanda Ramirez is a current Engineering Student in the Design, Make, and Move Pathway here at SAC who aspires to enter the Aerospace Engineering industry. She got straight A's in high school, and although her courses at SAC are challenging, she continues her success by embracing programs offered to our students.

Her determination and desire to go into the Aerospace industry have driven her to overcome challenging obstacles in her life to continue on her educational and professional journey. She has overcome financial burdens and juggles challenging classes with increased workloads by using the services provided by SAC's MESA, Bridge 2 Engineering (B2E), and EOPS programs. On top of being a hard-working student, she was the Treasurer of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. She also helped reinstate and was President of the Society of Women Engineers and was part of the SAC Foundation Mentorship Program.

Ms. Ramirez is a testament to how resilient, determined, and inspiring our students are here at SAC. Like many of our students, she has had to overcome the challenges presented by COVID-19 while on her educational journey. She continues to be a fantastic student and member of SAC's outstanding programs. We are confident that she will continue her academic journey and become an asset in the Aerospace Engineering industry!



**Fernanda Ramirez**  
Engineering Program

"I feel like B2E and MESA are the two organizations that were most influential to my success going through my life at SAC. Mayra from B2E is just an amazing person throughout and she will put everything aside just to help you out. I can always count on Mayra to come through for me. I remember I had an interview with Northrop Grumman scheduled and I was so backed up with school work that I had completely forgotten to update my resume. I had no time to work on it, and I brought my outdated resume to Mayra and just dumped it on her. She put everything aside and reviewed it for me and gave me various interview tips. When I got to the interview, the interviewer complimented my resume and that gave me so much confidence for the rest of the interview! I also want to recognize Cathie, Suzi, and Abby from the MESA program. They are such caring people and have so much life advice to offer! They have all also played a huge role in obtaining all my internship and research opportunities."

*-Fernanda Ramirez*

**SHARE YOUR STUDENTS'  
SUCCESS STORIES!**

Submit entries to:

<https://forms.gle/2Q95YPbS1LicndQf8>

# FACULTY & STAFF SHOUT OUTS



## CE FACULTY, STAFF & PARTNERS



Faculty and staff collaborate and give examples of how their daily work changes the lives of students here at SAC.

Learn how we are practicing some of the Guided Pathways Pillars.

**Tyler Johnson**



"Working in the Research Office enables me to utilize the data that we have to better understand how our students are succeeding in their CE programs and how well the students do after completing their courses of study. Also, working with the CE faculty on exploring student outcomes is key in enabling the program faculty to better understand their students' needs and how they can further improve aspects of the programs to better suit our students."

**Enter the Path**

**Jazmin Quijada**



"By coordinating the Academic Computing Center (ACC), I provide direct assistance to students. I ensure students have the necessary resources such as online tutoring, computer technology, software, printers, and other equipment needs to keep them focused on their educational path."

**Stay on the Path**

**David Roper**



"I focus on providing students with the most up-to-date information, technology, and learning opportunities available. Students who learn on the latest equipment or study the most current information can apply their education immediately in the automotive field. I also assist students with obtaining employment by maintaining close relationships with Orange County automotive dealerships and repair shops, as well as providing job leads for interested students."

**Ensure Learning**

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