

Forestry Careers discussion



Crop forecasting at Tanimura & Antle



Enjoying Tanimura & Antle products



Produce packing at Tanimura & Antle



Forest ecology at Swanton Pacific Ranch



Connecting High School Students with Career Opportunities:

The South Coast Region Agricultural Education Consortium Senior Industry Tour



The 1st Senior Career Tour group with their chaperones at Tanimura & Antle



Climbing at Swanton Pacific Ranch



Farm machinery careers at T&A



Machining in agriculture careers at the El Camino Machine Shop



Forest biologist career exploration at Swanton Pacific Ranch



Discovering agritourism careers at Gizdich Ranch

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Need for Innovation

While Career Development Events (CDEs) and special career institutes exist, they are not available to all students.

- 4.6% of California FFA's 2016 membership participated in a state finals CDE contest
- 39% of 2014 graduates (of participating schools) met entrance requirements for California 4-year universities
- At least 37% of 2014 first year community college students in the region are required to take remedial math and English courses

A need exists to educate students regarding available careers and the necessary education, skills, and abilities for those careers. These careers may or may not require a college education.

How it Works

Purpose: To provide students a glimpse into multiple agricultural careers as well as provide information about the requirements to enter these careers.

How: Pre-planning, tour management, and event follow-up.

Focus: Four unique agricultural entities industry practices, career opportunities and career entry details.

Future Plans

This industry tour was the first of its kind for the lead author. Given the feedback from students and fellow teachers, the following strategies will be used to plan future tours:

- 1) Utilize evaluation forms to provide career exploration opportunities in pathways within the industry sector of Agriculture and Natural Resources for the 2017 tour
- 2) Disseminate comprehensive tour schedules prior to the event to engage students and allow proper preparation
- 3) Arrange for meals that meet the interests of teenagers

An exit survey revealed additional student career interests. Additionally, California Community Colleges Economic and Workforce Development occupational outlooks will be analyzed to identify areas of potential job growth.

Future tour stops will include career exploration in:

- Viticulture
- Feed Lot Management
- Poultry

Costs

Expenses included transportation, lodging, meals, thank you gifts for chaperones and presenters as well as necessary personal protective equipment for specific tour spots. 2016 tour included 25 students, 3 chaperones and 1 bus driver.

Total Expenses=\$4573.05

Cost Per Person=\$157.69

Donations Received=\$1288.00

Actual Total Cost to Consortium=\$3285.05

Results

- Attended by 25 high school seniors, 2 high school teachers, and 1 program director
- Students enjoyed the tour
- Participants indicated additional career interests for future tours
- Follow-up study planned to determine if the tour resulted in impact on career choice following high school graduation



Timeline: Tour lasted 2 days and covered 354 miles along the central coast of California.