



# Todd Road Jail Partnership

April 25, 2024

# Ventura Unified School District

## Ventura Adult and Continuing Education

### Career Technical Education

- Accounting
- Business
- Computer-Aided Design
- Computer Applications and Graphics
- Computer Systems Technology
- Digital Multimedia
- Medical/Pharmacy Technician
- Food Service and Hospitality Program
- Job Placement for All CTE Graduates

### Basic/Secondary Education

- High School Diploma
- HS Equivalency Prep (Eng & Span)
- Basic Math and English (Eng & Span)
- Workforce Development Academy
- ENCORE Senior Program
- Google Academy
- Todd Road Jail Program

### Concurrent High School

### Community Enrichment and Lifelong Learning

- Evening Classes in MS Office, CAD, SolidWorks, Accounting, Business, Medical Terminology, Keyboarding
- Concert Band
- Yoga, Quilting, Sewing, Visual Arts
- Spanish Language

### ESL/Citizenship

- English Language Classes
- Preparation for U.S. Citizenship
- ELL Math Success Program
- Paraeducator IET
- Caregiving IET
- Hospitality IET

### Testing Centers

### Adults with Disabilities



# Program Accreditation

- Dual accreditation by Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and Council on Occupational Education (COE)
- WASC accreditation required for Adult Basic and Secondary Education, High School Equivalency, ESL, Computer Literacy, Workforce Preparation, and Life Skills
- COE accreditation required for CTE Programs including the TRJ Food Service and Hospitality program

# VACE & Todd Road Jail

Ventura Adult and Continuing Education prepares diverse learners with academic, vocational, and technological competencies for the global workforce.

Both programs have similar goals: meaningful education & training for re-integration in order to *reduce recidivism*.



**Todd Road Jail Inmate Services** provided the following curricula:

Re-Entry Action Planning program  
Anger Management  
Drug & Alcohol Treatment Basics  
Sewing Classes (Restorative Justice)



**VACE** offers more traditional educational & training programs:

ABE & High School Equivalency Prep  
ESL  
Computer Literacy  
CTE Food Service & Hospitality Program



# Origins of a New Partnership

- Prior program success at CSH/DC
- AEBG funding allowed growth opportunities
- **Ventura County Adult Education Consortium's** strategic plan identified areas of need, including *servicing adults in correctional facilities*
- VACE utilized **AB104** funding to address this need
- VACE connected with **Cecil Argue, Program Manager of Inmate Services** at Todd Road Jail

## **Ventura Adult and Continuing Education prepares diverse learners with academic, vocational, and technological competencies for the global workforce.**

- Dec. 2015:** Signed MOU between VACE/Sheriff's Dept  
Application to COE to request accreditation
- March 2016:** VACE received COE approvals
- Aug. 2016:** COE site visit to TRJ and Burlington English installed
- Sept. 2016:** First BE Class of 15 inmates
- Oct. 2016:** CTE Program
- April 2017:** CASAS online E-Test implementation – WIOA Funding
- Sept. 2017:** Online access to Aztec's HiSET Prep – HiSET Testing Center
- Oct. 2019:** COE reaffirmation site visit  
VACE awarded 6 year accreditation
- July 2025:** Upcoming COE reaffirmation site visit



# Logistics of the Program

- VACE provides teachers, SmartBoards with laptops, curricula, teaching equipment, materials, and CASAS testing for Adult Ed courses
- Todd Road Jail provides classrooms, including pre-existing computer lab (no internet), training, IT support
- VACE brought in *a 3<sup>rd</sup> partner for a digital curriculum*



# What happens upon release?

In order to **best reduce recidivism**, 4 key components:

- While in Todd Road Jail classes, Instructors encourage inmates to identify as *VACE students*.
- Upon release, VACE does outreach to encourage inmates to come into VACE to continue classes and/or explore CTE/employment readiness options.
- All VACE students are issued ID Badges that permit them to ride public transportation in Ventura County without cost to the student.
- The continuum of curricula and Hi-Set testing from Todd Road Jail to VACE facilitates transition.



# Challenges

- Working in another institutional system
- Safety
- Staffing
- Identifying appropriate students
- Logistical difficulties in getting students to classrooms
- Inmate politics
- Student retention
- Data collection
- Maintaining contact after release
- Providing support after release

# Lessons Learned

- Good communication essential
- Need for flexibility – COVID Protocols
- Importance of braiding funding streams
- Long-term process
- Need for supplemental data measures
- P2E Grant provided additional support
- VACE Case Manager
- Advisory Committee input important



# COE Annual Report TRJ

Number of Students Enrolled 2016-17	Number of Students Enrolled 2023-24 (YTD)
753	368
Number of Student Hours 18,099	Number of Student Hours 7,205
Number of Certs 444	Number of Certs 221

Number of Students Enrolled 2022-23	Number of Students Enrolled 2023-24 (YTD)
271	368
Number of Students 12+ Hours 145	Number of Students 12+ Hours 291
Number of Pre/Post 139    Gains = 57	Number of Pre/Post 209    Gains = 92
Percentage of CTE Completers 82%	Percentage of CTE Completers 70%

Now ... Let's hear from our AMAZING instructors





# Instructors and Programs

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# Mrs. Dorn

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- **Adult School Instructor for 26 years**
- **Teaching Jail Programs for 7 years**

***“I want to give my students more than knowledge. I want them to gain both the confidence to believe in themselves and the capacity for self-learning outside of the classroom.”***





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- Computer Applications

- Computer Basics
- Keyboarding
- Word
- Excel
- PowerPoint
  - capstone project

- CASAS Testing

- Coordination and Proctor
- HiSet Proctor

# Ms. K



- 8 Years of Correctional Instruction
- Education and Programming Experience in Diverse Areas of Public Health

*“Every individual has the potential to attain their goals. My passion is encouraging students to reflect on where they have been, identify where they want to go and create a plan for getting there.”*





- Anger Management
- Substance Abuse
- Personal Growth
- Responsible Thinking
- Coping with Trauma
- Family Ties
- Peer Relationships
- Managing My Life
- Job Skills

# Chef Ty

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- 20 Years in the Food Service Industry
- Has taught adults and children of all ages, including those with special needs

*“Remember, just as you infuse flavor into your dishes, infuse your spirit into your career path.”*





- “Servsafe” Food Handlers
- Culinary Foundations
  - with hands-on activities
- Prep Cook
- Line Cook

# Ms. Tomatis



- 7 Years of Correctional Instruction
- Experience Teaching Incarcerated Youth and Adults

*“Meeting students where they’re at to get them where they want to be.”*





- HiSet Prep
  - Classroom Instruction
- HiSet Prep
  - Independent Study

## Certificates Issued

*current school year to date*



Microsoft Word 31

Microsoft Excel 21

Microsoft PowerPoint 14



Anger Management 35

Substance Abuse 39



Personal Growth 44

Food Handlers 33



Culinary Foundations 4

HiSet *New program*

**APPLAUSE!**





## For more information:

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