



NOT YOUR USUAL CAREER FAIR
 Lincoln High School students map out their career, academic and financial pathways at the
CareerGPS Career Exploration Event



Over 1,200 Lincoln High School students mapped out their career, academic and financial pathways during the May 11th **Career GPS Career Exploration Event**, produced by LEED-Linking Education and Economic Development, in partnership with Western Placer Unified School District, Placer County Office of Education, Lincoln High School and presented by the Golden Sierra Workforce Investment Board.

Through interactive exhibits and engaging presentations, students were provided the opportunity to navigate career opportunities available through the distinct career pathways in a variety of industry sectors.

Students put in the driver's seat in planning their futures

Providing students the necessary tools to succeed in life after high school is the overarching objective of educators, employers and civic leaders. "Each of us has one

thing in common – we all travel our own, unique path to find our own future. CareerGPS connects students with information and opportunities to explore careers consistent with their own unique interests and critical to our regional economy," said David Butler, CEO of LEED. The event provided students a better understanding of the necessary skills, training requirements, and educational pathways.

"The CareerGPS event was an exciting, educational, and enjoyable event. I was able to see a variety of jobs offered to high school and college graduates, learn what those people do everyday, how much they enjoy their careers, and what skills are needed to work in that field."

—Student feedback

Student feedback on the event indicated that their career interests spanned the spectrum—special needs teacher, nuclear technician, small business owner, chef, lawyer, and more.

Some students even noted that they decided to change their desired career path, thanks to the hands-on exhibits they experienced at CareerGPS: a student who originally wanted to pursue a career as a police officer decided to continue to explore a career as a sheet metal worker, following a positive and interactive experience at the Ironworkers Local #118 Apprenticeship booth; a student who originally wanted to pursue a career as a sociologist decided to continue to explore a career as a pharmacist, due to her experiences at the North Valley and Mountain Biotech Center exhibit.



A Lincoln High School student tests her CAT backhoe skills at the Operating Engineers JAC (local apprenticeship program) exhibit.

No-Holds Barred Talk-Show Style Panel Discussion with Professionals: Students had the opportunity to put professionals in the hot seat through a no-holds barred talk-show format panel discussion with professionals from the FBI, PG&E, Johnson & Johnson, CirclePoint Communications, HMR Architects, CalTrans, as well as a former MTV "Real World" contestant-turned-school district public information officer. The panelists not only described their careers, but they shared information about salaries, job satisfaction and lifestyle impacts of their chosen careers.

Navigate Your Future CAREER GPS

A PROJECT OF



“Dream Job” Essay Contest: LEED sponsored and awarded \$250 per grade level to the winners of a post-event essay contest, which asks students to describe their future “Dream Job” and what steps they will take in pursuing their ideal career path. Winners were:

Freshman Cheyenne Nakatani: Cheyenne described her passion for working with and serving children, and wants to be a kindergarten teacher. “It’s a passion, and a passion should *not* be about the money at all. Isn’t that what a dream job is?” she wrote in her essay.

Sophomore Andrew Martinez: Andrew, who has researched and engaged in hands-on learning, wants to be a neurological surgeon. “My choice, I whole-heartedly believe, is the best way I can give back to our society,” he wrote in his essay.

Winners of the “Dream Job” Essay Contest (L-R): Junior Katie Emerson, sophomore Andrew Martinez, senior Gabrielle Edwards, and freshman Cheyenne Nakatani (pictured on the far left is LEED Workforce Development Manager, Penny Cobarrubia)

- **Junior Katie Emerson:** Katie wants to be mechanical engineer and has always been fascinated by how things work. “It has become a huge part of me to be someone who makes a difference in this world,” she explained in her essay.
- **Senior Gabrielle Edwards:** Learning about Bastille Day had a life-changing impact on Gabrielle, who wants to continue to share the fascinating stories and historical lessons as a history teacher. “Being a teacher changes people’s lives, and perhaps one day, I will change someone’s life with what I have taught them,” she wrote.

“It’s a passion, and a passion should *not* be about the money at all. Isn’t that what a dream job is?”

*—“Dream Job” essay contest winner, Cheyenne Nakatani
Future kindergarten teacher*

LEED thanks Lincoln High School’s ROP instructor, Jan Caldwell and her students for the assistance with the event promotions and event-day coordination activities; and the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce—Bob Romness, CEO and Cindy Eveler, Board President (Elect) and Chair of the Education-B.A.S.E. Committee who assisted with event outreach to business partners and the Dream Job Essay Contest judging.

About LEED-Linking Education and Economic Development

LEED—Linking Education and Economic Development is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization serving the six county Sacramento region (Yolo, Yuba, Sutter, Sacramento, El Dorado and Placer). For 16 years, LEED has been the Sacramento region’s key leader in aligning regional educational resources to meet local workforce needs. Through dynamic educational, business and economic development partnerships, LEED is guiding the Sacramento region to growing an innovative and well-educated and prepared workforce, developing a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Pipeline, and ultimately, providing the Sacramento region a competitive advantage in a very competitive economic marketplace.

For more information please contact Penny Cobarrubia, LEED’s Director of Workforce Development, at 916.552.6800 x270 or pcobarrubia@leed.org.