



Tri-Cities ROP News

Issue No. 08-2024-2025

March 2025

Tri-Cities ROP:



because
everyone
deserves a
chance to
fly!



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and so much more!

Tri-Cities ROP News

Issue No. 08-2024/2025 - MARCH 2025

Tri-Cities ROP proudly serves students in the El Rancho Unified and Whittier Union High School Districts.

We are a WASC-accredited, career technical educational program located on the Pioneer High School campus in Whittier.

Leadership Team

DR. JOHN SMITH
Superintendent

MR. DANIEL BARAJAS
Director of Programs, Technology & Operations

MS. LETICIA COVARRUBIAS
Director of Business Services

MS. KATHI KENT
Director of Educational Services

MS. RACHELLE ROMERO
Director of Educational and Student Services

MS. RUTH SUDICK
Human Resource Coordinator



You've always had the power,
my dear.
You just had to learn it
yourself.

- Glinda the Good Witch of the North

Governing Board

MS. ESTHER MEJIA, PRESIDENT
El Rancho Unified School District

MR. JAIME LOPEZ, VICE PRESIDENT
Whittier Union High School District

MS. IRMA RODRIGUEZ MOISA, CLERK
Whittier Union High School District

MR. KEVIN JAMERO, MEMBER
Whittier Union High School District

MR. HECTOR LA FARGA, MEMBER
El Rancho Unified School District

MARCH 2025

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PUZZLES



Tri-Cities ROP
wishes you and yours
a very happy and restful

SPRING BREAK!

MARCH 24 - 31, 2025

School resumes
Tuesday, April 1st
(NO JOKE!)



www.tricityrop.org



Superintendent's Message



No Yellow Brick Road Needed. Tri-Cities ROP Students Know the Way to Defy Gravity and Expectations!

by Dr. John J. Smith, Superintendent

Greetings, Tri-Cities ROP Family, Friends, and Supporters!

This March, we're embracing a "Wicked" theme that's all about defying expectations. Much like the story that reminds us to challenge assumptions and carve our own paths, we encourage our students to rise above the limits, pursue their passions, and continue pushing toward excellence.

This spirit of achievement is especially fitting as we prepare for our upcoming An Evening of Excellence student awards ceremony next month, where we will celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of students in their ROP courses. These students have demonstrated skill, dedication, and perseverance, and we can't wait to recognize their hard work. Whether mastering techniques in Culinary Arts, diagnosing engines in Auto Technology, assisting patients in Nurse Assisting, or bringing creativity to life in Digital Design, our students are proving every day that success comes to those who dream -- and work for it.

With just a few months left in the 2024-2025 School Year, now is the time to push forward with determination. Finish strong. Take on new challenges. Seek opportunities to grow. Whether you're completing industry certifications, securing internships, or perfecting your craft, every step you take now is building your future.

Let's keep defying gravity AND expectations and making this year truly unforgettable!

Until next month,

DR. JOHN SMITH
Superintendent




"It's time to try defying gravity.
I think I'll try defying gravity,
and you can't pull me down."

- Elphaba



TRI-CITIES ROP

 10800 Ben Avon Street
Unit E
Whittier, CA 90606

 562.698.9571

 www.tricitiesrop.org

BOARD MEETINGS

Board Meetings are held at 4:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, unless indicated otherwise. (*)

GOVERNING BOARD

Ms. Esther Mejia, President
Mr. Jaime Lopez, Vice President
Ms. Irma Rodriguez Moisa, Clerk
Mr. Kevin Jamero, Member
Mr. Hector La Farga, Member

MISSION STATEMENT

Tri-Cities ROP prepares students for college and careers by offering excellent career-technical education leading to employment, industry certification, or post-secondary education.

TRI-CITIES ROP

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING DATES

2025

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Thursday, March 13, 2025

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Thursday, August 14, 2025

Thursday, September 11, 2025

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Thursday, November 13, 2025

Thursday, December 11, 2025



Taking a Peek Inside the Boardroom

March 13, 2025



The five members of our esteemed Governing Board -- three from Whittier Union High School District and two from El Rancho Unified School District -- join together on the second Thursday of each month to discuss matters of importance, to consider, and possibly take action on items placed on the monthly meeting agenda. The following is a quick look at a few items that were taken into consideration during the March 13, 2025 Board Meeting:

*The Board approved the following travel on school business:

(1) California Community College Association for Occupation Education, April 9-11, 2025, Sacramento, California. Attending: Candice Marsano, WLB and Pathway Coordinator.

(2) Skills USA National Leadership and Skills Conference, April 10-13, 2025, Ontario, California. Attending: Bill Buttinelli, Auto Technology Instructor (CHS).

(3) LAPD Police Museum, April 11, 2025, Los Angeles, California. Attending: Juan Cabral, Forensic Science/Administration of Justice Instructor (SFHS); Bianca Aguirre, CTE Counselor; and Jonathan Olmedo, College and Career Pathways Advisor (SFHS).

(4) FWATA Annual Clinical Symposium, April 15-20, 2025, Las Vegas, Nevada. Attending: Dr. Kristen Ross, Medical Core/Sports Medicine Instructor (ERHS).

*The Board approved the purchase of replacement network servers, firewall, and UPS battery back-up system for the Tri-Cities ROP Center.

*The Board approved the purchase of AV equipment for the El Rancho High School Culinary Arts classroom.

*The Board approved the purchase of AV equipment for the Whittier High School Culinary Arts classroom.

*The Board approved the Second Interim Financial Report as presented.

*The Board approved the Budget Adjustment Summaries for Funds 01 and 11 as presented.

*Dr. Smith discussed several pieces of proposed legislation relating to education and CTE.

*The Board was encouraged to attend the 32nd Annual Evening of Excellence event scheduled for Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., at the Whittier Community Theatre.

*The Board scheduled a Study Session for Friday, April 11, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., at Tri-Cities ROP.

Additional information on Tri-Cities ROP Board Meetings, including Agendas and Meeting Minutes can be found on the Tri-Cities ROP website at www.tricitiesrop.org or by clicking on the link below:

TCROP Board Info



Meeting Notice

The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at Tri-Cities ROP



The Board will also hold a Study Session on Friday, April 11, at 4:00 p.m. at Tri-Cities ROP



10800 E-News

News and Information from the ROP Center

Like Oz's Greatest Team, Our Tri-Cities ROP Team has the Heart, the Brains, the Courage, AND a Plan!

As we continue striving for excellence in Career Technical Education, our Leadership Team has embarked on an essential process: strategic planning. This effort ensures that we remain focused on student success, industry relevance, and continuous improvement.

A key part of this process is a SWOT Analysis -- a careful evaluation of our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. This step requires deep reflection and honest conversations as we assess where we stand and where we need to go. Our Leadership Team has begun this difficult but necessary work, identifying areas where we excel and recognizing challenges we must address.

Building upon this analysis, we will refine our goals to align with our mission of preparing students for careers and postsecondary success. We are committed to setting clear, measurable objectives that will drive our programs forward and enhance the opportunities available to our students.

Additionally, our Superintendent has been meeting with school principals to discuss next year's programs. These conversations will allow us to assess the needs of each campus, explore potential program expansions or enhancements, and ensure that we are offering students the best possible career pathways. By working collaboratively, we can make informed decisions that strengthen our programs and provide meaningful opportunities for all students.

To ensure our vision is comprehensive and forward-thinking, our Governing Board will join us in this process at our upcoming Board Study Session on April 11th where they will provide input and guidance. Their leadership and experience will help shape the direction of our strategic plan, ensuring that we remain responsive to the needs of our students, staff, and industry partners.

Strategic planning is not just an administrative exercise -- it is a commitment to our future. We value the contributions of all stakeholders and, as we move forward, we will seek feedback and engagement from our broader school community. Together, we can build a stronger, more innovative learning environment that prepares students for the workforce of tomorrow.

Stay tuned as we journey down our own yellow brick road on the pathway to success!



STRATEGIC PLANNING 2024-2025 TIMELINE

JANUARY - FEBRUARY



- LEADERSHIP TEAM TO WORK ON:
 - SWOT Analysis of their departments
 - Review feedback from Leadership/Classified Staff Survey
 - Advisory Meeting Feedback

MARCH



- SHARE SWOT ANALYSIS (DRAFT) RESULTS WITH GOVERNING BOARD ("SWOT" = STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, THREATS)

APRIL



- STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION TO BE HELD AT TRI-CITIES ROP MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
Friday, April 11th - 4:00 - 6:00 PM

- TCROP LEADERSHIP TEAM WORKS ON & COMPLETES STRATEGIC INITIATIVES
Monday, April 14th - Wednesday, May 14th

MAY 15



- UPDATE TO STRATEGIC PLAN
Goal Settings - Final
1. Goal Action Steps
2. Track Progress Metrics
3. Accountability Timeline



Out and About

On Friday, March 7th, several members of the Tri-Cities ROP Team attended the Whittier Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Luncheon at the DoubleTree Hotel in Whittier. Special featured guest was the Honorable State Senator Bob Archuleta, 30th District. The event was designed to foster dialogue between community members and policy makers.



Pictured above (LtoR): Daniel Barajas, Senator Bob Archuleta, Candice Marsano, and Rachelle Romero.

Tri-Cities ROP Educational Foundation to Host 32nd Annual Evening of Excellence Student Awards Ceremony

Preparations are well underway for our 32nd Annual Evening of Excellence student awards ceremony scheduled for Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., at the Whittier Community Theatre, 7630 Washington Avenue in uptown Whittier.

Approximately 60 students, nominated by their teachers for having achieved excellence in their ROP course of study, will be honored this year. Of the 60 students honored, six will be selected to serve as Student Speakers at the event and will present their award-winning essays to our guests. One student, XX, will be presented with an award for winning our annual Program Cover Design Contest. XX is a Digital Design student in Mr. Luis Hernandez's class at Pioneer High School. His design will grace the cover of our event programs.

The Evening of Excellence is a proud and long-standing tradition at Tri-Cities ROP. We are honored to recognize these hard-working students who are truly deserving of an award. There will be many in attendance at the event, including school administrators, city officials, and local business partners; however, the VIPs of the evening are our students who are committed to their passion -- finding success in college, careers, and life.

If you would like to support our students, we strongly encourage you to purchase an ad (see page XX) or make a one-time donation to the Tri-Cities ROP Educational Foundation. Whichever method works best for you and your budget, you may rest assured that your contribution will be used knowing that the use of our funds goes back to our Tri-Cities ROP students and programs.



Tri-Cities ROP EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION Board Members

Ms. Cathy Warner, President
Mr. Kirk Kain, Vice President
Dr. David Gonzalez, Secretary
Dr. John Smith, Treasurer
Mr. Andrew Lara, Member
Ms. Crystal Torres, Member

Tri-Cities ROP Educational Foundation plays a vital role in supporting students on their path to success. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Foundation is comprised of dedicated local business leaders who generously volunteer their time to serve and make a difference in the lives of students. Their mission is to provide support and financial assistance to Tri-Cities ROP students.

One of the Foundation's signature contributions is co-hosting the annual Evening of Excellence student recognition awards ceremony, an inspiring event that celebrates students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement in their ROP courses of study. This year's ceremony, set for Wednesday, April 23rd, will honor approximately 65 students for their excellence in career technical education.

We ask that you please consider donating to the Educational Foundation. Your contribution allows us to provide scholarships to very deserving high school students. **To donate, simply click on the "Donate Now" button.**



If you would like **to learn more about the Foundation**, please click on the **Educational Foundation logo found at the top of this page**. We thank you, in advance, for your kindness, support, and generosity.



TRI-CITIES ROP *and the* TRI-CITIES ROP EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

EVENING OF EXCELLENCE

Advertising and Donation Opportunities

The following advertising opportunities in our Evening of Excellence program book are available for purchase:

Business Card Size	4" x 2.58"	\$75
1/4-Page (Horizontal)	4" x 5.25"	\$125
1/2-Page (Horizontal)	8" x 5.25"	\$250
Full Page	8" x 10.5"	\$500



Don't have an ad or need help with an ad design?

Contact Ruth Sudick who can help you or design one for you for no additional cost!! Ruth can be reached at (562) 698-9571 ext. 105 or rsudick@tricityrop.org

Our 32nd Annual
An Evening of
Excellence will be
held on
April 23, 2025

Mail your camera-ready artwork
(.jpg, .png formats)
with check payable to:

Tri-Cities ROP Educational Foundation
Attention: Ruth Sudick
10800 Ben Avon Street, Unit E
Whittier, California 90606

*Not able to purchase an ad,
but wish to make a one-time donation ?*

You may also make a one-time donation in support of Tri-Cities ROP students by mailing your check payable to:

Tri-Cities ROP Educational Foundation
10800 Ben Avon Street, Unit E
Whittier, California 90606

See You There!

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 – 5:00 PM

TRI-CITIES ROP AND
TRI CITIES ROP EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION'S

32nd Annual
Evening of Excellence

WHITTIER COMMUNITY THEATRE
7630 WASHINGTON AVENUE
WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA 90602



California

High School



Future Condors learning about the clubs and programs at Cal High

Future Condor Night

2029



ROP teachers showcased their classes – welcoming future Students!



El Rancho High School



Culinary Arts Students visit Mt. San Antonio College!



Rising Don Night



March 2025

La Serna High School



A dissection activity conducted by Medical Core students



March 2025

Pioneer High School

Future Titan Night



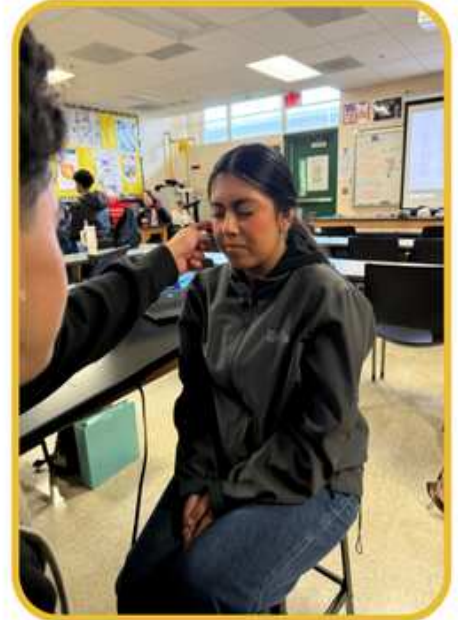
Class of 2029



March 2025

Santa Fe

High School



Mrs. Blake's Emergency Medicine students completing a Cranial Nerves Exam

Future Chieftain Night 2029



March 2025



Whittier High School



WHS Career Fair

March 2025

Mr. Jonathan & Ms. Bianca tabling at the Career Fair hosted at WHS Gym



Financial Literacy



Ms. Jackie presented on Financial Literacy for WHS Career Week at the New Horizon's Center



Future Cardinal Night

2029



ROP teachers showcased their classes – welcoming future Cardinals!



Ruben Salazar High

School



Bianca Aguirre and Mayra Campos host a financial aid workshop for Ruben Salazar Students.

Frontier High

School



Ms. Jackie collaborates with Ms. Amerie Estrada at Frontier HS providing students assistance with college applications, resumes, and major exploration. Hosting a College App Workshop in early March!



Alexander is a current sophomore at Frontier High School in the AJCC program and worked with Ms. Jackie on creating a resume and cover letter to start job searching.



March 2025

WORK-BASED LEARNING



Familias First came to Santa Fe High School to talk to students in Mrs. Vasquez's Careers in Education class. Our guest talked about careers in ABA Therapy and the different pathways their organization offers.



ROP students from Pioneer High School attended Senior Day at LATTC. They got to tour and learn about all of LATTC CTE Pathways. They also got to visit their resource fair.



March 2025



Pass it on... Scholarship Opportunity!

"Pass it On" features various job and scholarship opportunities and is meant, as the name suggests, to pass along the information to our students and others who may be interested. As we receive items we think may be suitable for this column, we'll post them here. All are welcome to submit items that may be considered for publication in our newsletter to Mia Burrola at: mburrola@tricitiepros.org.

SANTA FE SPRINGS CHAMBER/LEAGUE
YOUTH ENRICHMENT FUND



2025 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- **\$20,000** **Destiny Scholarship**
- **\$2,500** **Powell Grant**
- **\$2,000** **Vocational Grant**



Scholarship Eligibility

Destiny Scholarship Eligibility:

- Be a resident of Santa Fe Springs for two years
- Minimum G.P.A. 3.0 (unweighted)
- A current high school senior
- Will be attending a 4 year college

Powell Grant Eligibility:

- Be a resident of Santa Fe Springs for two years
- Studying a field in the ARTS
- A current high school senior, college, or trade school student
- Minimum G.P.A 2.5 (unweighted)
- Will be or is attending a 2 or 4 year college or trade school

Vocational Grant Eligibility:

- Be a resident of Santa Fe Springs or attend school in Santa Fe Springs
- Applicants Must be pursuing education or training in a trade related field
- A current high school senior, college or trade school student
- Minimum GPA 2.0 (unweighted)
- Will be attending a trade school, 2 or 4 year college

Application Deadline
March 28, 2025

Apply Online Starting 2/3/2025:

 www.youthenrichmentfund.org

For questions, please call (562) 944-1616

COMING SOON


Mark Your Calendars!

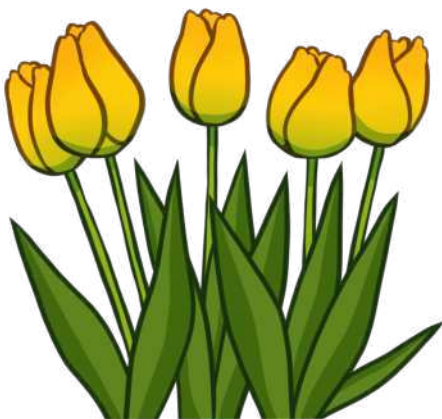
You don't want to miss any of our upcoming activities!



March							May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30	31												

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Tri-Cities ROP Office hours 4/1 thru 4/4 7:30am-4:00pm ERUSD Board Mtg 6:30pm	2	3 WUHSD Grades—Quarter 3 Due	4 PAY DAY	5
6	7	8 WUHSD Board Mtg 7:00pm	9 PLC Meeting #4 All Sectors 3:30-4:30pm Virtual	10 Board Meeting 4:00pm	11 B	12
13 Tri-Cities ROP Office hours 4/14 thru 4/17 7:30am-4:00pm	14	15 ERUSD Board Mtg 6:30pm	16	17 WUHSD CTE Consultant Meeting	18 Good Friday No School WUHSD ROP Center Closed	19
20 Easter 	21 No School WUHSD	22 TIME CARDS DUE For additional time Administrative Professionals' Day II	23 Evening of Excellence 5:00pm Whittier Community Theatre	24 OFFICE STAFF: LAST DAY TO SUBMIT NON-STOCK ORDERS	25 A	26 Birthdays 21 David Belis
27	28	29	30			









Tri-Cities ROP prepares students for college AND careers