



TRI-CITIES ROP NEWS

The official publication of Tri-Cities ROP

Issue No. 09-2025/2026

April 2026

FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE



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and so much more!

Tri-Cities ROP News

Issue No. 09-2025/2026 - April 2026

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

DANIEL BARAJAS
Director of Programs, Technology & Operations

LETICIA COVARRUBIAS
Director of Business Services

KATHI KENT
Director of Educational Services

RUTH SUDICK
Human Resource Coordinator



Governing Board

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Whittier Union High School District

MS. IRMA RODRIGUEZ MOISA, VICE PRESIDENT
Whittier Union High School District

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

MS. ESTHER MEJIA, MEMBER
Whittier Union High School District

MS. LILIA BOZIGIAN, MEMBER
Whittier Union High School District

**It is an illusion that photos are
made with the camera...they
are made with the eye, heart,
and head.**

- Henri Cartier-Bresson

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Arts, Media, and Entertainment



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Preparing students for college AND careers since 1974



SUBSCRIBE TO THE Tri-Cities ROP E-NEWSLETTER



Know someone interested in Tri-Cities ROP and the programs we offer?

Feel free to forward your copy of our newsletter! Interested individuals may subscribe to our e-newsletter by simply scanning the QR Code (at right) or send us a quick email with the subject line "SUBSCRIBE" to:



mburrola@tricityrop.org

The subscription is FREE and may be canceled at any time upon request.

- ✓ Get the latest Tri-Cities ROP news and information
- ✓ Learn about course offerings and enrollment dates for high school and adult programs
- ✓ Follow our students and teachers throughout the school year
- ✓ Discover how we prepare students for college AND careers

WWW.TRICITIESROP.ORG

TRI-CITIES ROP
10800 Ben Avon Street #E
Whittier, 90606

Superintendent's Message



Capturing Creativity. Designing Futures.

by Dr. John Smith

Dear Tri-Cities ROP Family, Friends, and Supporters,

The future belongs to those who are prepared to adapt, create, and innovate. In today's rapidly changing workforce, employers are seeking individuals who can think creatively, communicate effectively, and utilize technology in meaningful ways.

This month's newsletter highlights three exciting programs that help students develop those essential skills: Digital Design, Digital Photography, and Video Production. These pathways provide students with hands-on experiences that allow them to explore their creativity while learning technical skills that are highly valued in today's digital economy.

From designing marketing materials and capturing professional photography to producing engaging video content, students are gaining real-world experience that can lead to careers in media, marketing, communications, entertainment, and entrepreneurship. These courses help students build portfolios, strengthen problem-solving skills, and discover new possibilities for their future.

As we continue looking ahead, we are also excited to explore new opportunities for students through the development of two emerging pathways: Fire Science and Veterinary Science. We are currently seeking instructors for both programs and look forward to expanding career opportunities that align with workforce needs and student interests.

Next month, we look forward to celebrating student achievement in our special Evening of Excellence issue, highlighting the accomplishments of students recognized at our annual event on April 28.

As Walt Disney once said, "If you can dream it, you can do it." Our students continue to dream big, develop meaningful skills, and prepare for bright futures. Thank you for your continued support of programs that help students discover their talents and achieve their goals.

Until next month,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Smith".

DR. JOHN SMITH
Superintendent



All are welcome to attend!

TRI-CITIES ROP GOVERNING BOARD MEETING



DATE
14 MAY 2026



TIME
AT 5:30 PM



LOCATION:
10800 BEN AVON
UNIT E
WHITTIER, 90606



TO JOIN MEETING VIA ZOOM

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/82091510822?
PWD=MO57GVDEAXWMBJMW49V8SSUS2OHNPD.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82091510822?pwd=MO57GVDEAXWMBJMW49V8SSUS2OHNPD.1)

MEETING ID: 820 9151 0822
PASSCODE: 107782

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+16699009128,,82091510822#,,,,*107782# US (SAN JOSE)





Taking a peek Inside the Boardroom



April 9, 2026

The second Thursday of the month is "Power Thursday" at Tri-Cities ROP because this is when the five members of our Governing Board join together to consider and take action on items placed on the monthly meeting agenda. The following is a snapshot of what took place at the April meeting:

*The Board approved the attendance of Chef David Luna, Culinary Arts Instructor (ERHS), at the American Culinary Federation National Convention, June 28-July 2, 2026, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

*The Board approved the appointment of Board Member Esther Mejia to the Water Education for Latino Leaders Fellowship Program.

*The Board approved Resolution No. 15-2025/2026 recognizing May 13, 2026, as California's Day of the Teacher.

*The Board approved a field trip to the Santa Ana Police Department's CSI/Crime Lab in Santa Ana for 58 California High School Forensic Science students, April 16, 2026.

*The Board approved a field trip to Park Vista Health Center in Fullerton, April 21, 2026, for 40 Whittier High School Sports Medicine and Medical Core students.

*The Board approved a field trip to Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, April 29, 2026, for 75 Santa Fe High School CAT students, and for 30 El Rancho High School Culinary Arts students.

*The Board approved the annual subscription renewal of a Troubleshooting Engine Management systems for the Auto Technology program at Whittier High School.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026
at 4:00 p.m.

*The Board approved the purchase of Anatomage tables with cadavers for the Patient Care Pathways programs at El Rancho and Santa Fe High Schools.

*The Board approved the purchase of a Juno Simulator for the Patient Care Pathway programs at Pioneer High School.

*The Board approved the purchase of TPMS Certification kits for the Auto Technology programs at California and Whittier High Schools.

*The Board approved the purchase of an upgrade to Triton Certification kits for the Auto Technology programs at California and Whittier High Schools.

*The Board approved the purchase of Electro-mechanical Certification kits for the Auto Technology programs at California and Whittier High Schools.

*The Board approved the acceptance of a donation of a 2014 Mazda 3i automobile from Dr. John Sudick for the Auto Technology program at Whittier High School.

*The Board held follow-up discussions on the status of WUHSD Board Resolution No. 2526-22 - Intent to Withdraw from the Tri-Cities ROP JPA; and on the Parallel Fiscal Study regarding same.

*The Board held a brief discussion on the structure of the Tri-Cities ROP Governing Board.



Photographs are love letters to the past.

- Shutterfly

PLEASE JOIN US!

**TRI-CITIES ROP'S ANNUAL
END-OF-THE-YEAR BBQ**



JUNE 3

11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**TRI-CITIES ROP
10800 BEN AVON, BUILDING E
WHITTIER**

Driving Student Success: Generous Donation Supports Auto Technology Program

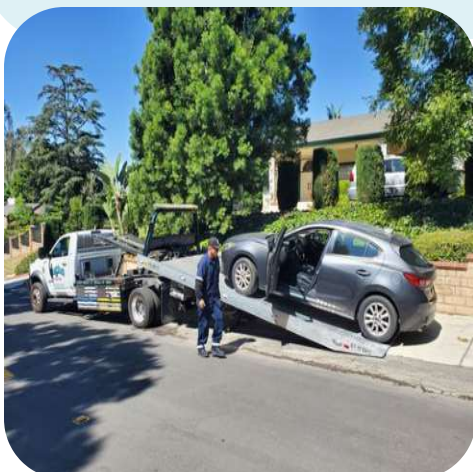
Tri-Cities ROP recently received a generous donation that will help drive hands-on learning opportunities for students in our **Auto Technology program at Whittier High School**.

Dr. John Sudick, a longtime supporter of Tri-Cities ROP and retired dentist who previously served as the supervising dentist for our Dental Assisting program, donated a 2014 Mazda 3 to the program. The vehicle will now serve as a valuable training tool for students enrolled in Auto Technology, providing them with real-world, hands-on experience as they develop critical automotive repair and maintenance skills.

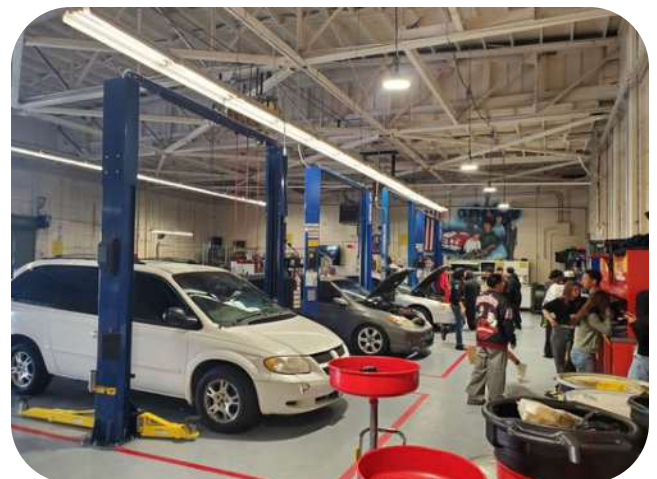
This generous contribution reflects Dr. Sudick's continued commitment to career technical education and his belief in helping students gain the practical experience they need to succeed in future careers.

"We are incredibly grateful to Dr. Sudick for his continued support of our programs," said Dr. John Smith. "Donations like this help ensure our students have access to meaningful, hands-on training that prepares them for success in the workforce."

Tri-Cities ROP extends its sincere appreciation to Dr. Sudick for investing in our students and helping keep their futures moving forward.



When community supporters give back, they help create opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom and into our students' future careers.



www.tricitiesrop.org



BUILDING DREAMS

TRI-CITIES ROP CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY

STATE APPROVED PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM!
APPROVED BY THE CA DIVISION OF APPRENTICESHIP STANDARDS (DAS)



California High School



El Rancho High School



Pioneer High School

Contact Your CCPA or School Counselor For More Info

Out and About



Building Skills, Confidence, and Character at Design Build

Tri-Cities ROP students in **Mr. Jesse Ortiz's Construction Technology II class at Pioneer High School** recently put their skills to the test at Golden West College's Annual Design Build Competition, a two-day event that challenges students to think critically, work collaboratively, and apply their technical knowledge in a real-world setting.

Student teams were tasked with designing and constructing a fully functional storage shed within just two days — a demanding project that required careful planning, precision, teamwork, and perseverance under tight deadlines.

Before they got to work, our students collaborated with an architect to draft blueprints for the project. The students also earned OSHA Outreach for the Construction Industry certification. During the competition, the students' work was carefully judged by professional inspectors.

Representing Pioneer High School, Tri-Cities ROP Construction Technology students embraced the challenge from start to finish. From reviewing project specifications and developing a design plan, to measuring, cutting, assembling, and troubleshooting along the way, students gained valuable hands-on experience that mirrors the fast-paced demands of the construction industry.

"Our students showed tremendous effort and professionalism throughout the competition," said Dr. John Smith, Tri-Cities ROP Superintendent. "Events like this give students an opportunity to apply what they've learned in the classroom while building confidence in their abilities."

Beyond the competition itself, students walked away with valuable lessons in teamwork, problem-solving, time management, and adaptability — skills that will serve them well in future careers in construction and the skilled trades.

Tri-Cities ROP is proud of these students for representing Pioneer High School with hard work, dedication, and Titan pride. Sometimes the greatest achievement is simply showing up, taking on a challenge, and building something remarkable together.

On behalf of our Construction Technology teacher, students, and all of us at Tri-Cities ROP, we extend our most sincere thanks to **Pinner Construction** for their generous sponsorship of our student team. Their investment in our students' success and future careers is truly meaningful and greatly appreciated.



The students were also encouraged by the support of **Tri-Cities ROP Superintendent Dr. John Smith, Director of Educational Services Kathi Kent, and Pioneer High School Principal Mary Chapman**, who were on hand during the competition to cheer on participants and witness their hard work firsthand.



The expert in anything was once a beginner.

- Helen Hayes



A Closer Look at Careers in

Video Production and Digital Photography



Types of Careers

Careers in Video Production

- Videographer, Video Editor
- Camera Operator
- Content Creator
- Multimedia Specialist
- Production Assistant
- Film Editor
- Broadcast Technician
- Social Media Video Producer



Average Videographer Salary about \$74,000 per year

Film and Video Editors earn about \$70,980 median salary

Entry-level photo/video specialists average about \$59,000 annually

Careers in Photography

- Portrait Photographer
- Commercial/Product Photographer
- Photo Journalist
- Real Estate Photographer
- Fashion Photographer
- Photo Editor
- Broadcast Technician
- Social Media Video Producer
- E-Commerce Photographer



Experienced photographers can earn \$70,000+, especially in commercial or freelance

Outlook

Today's businesses rely heavily on visual communication. From social media campaigns to online shopping, skilled photographers and video producers play a key role in shaping how organizations connect with businesses.

Media and communication occupations offer over 100,000 projected job openings each year largely due to ongoing demand for digital content creation and replacement of retiring workers and career changes.

Employers increasingly seek professionals who can:

- ★ Create engaging visual content
- ★ Communicate messages through images and video
- ★ Support branding and marketing efforts
- ★ Produce digital media for websites and social platforms

Why These Skills Matter

Students in our Digital Photography, Commercial Photography and Video Production courses develop technical and creative skills that are highly valued in today's digital economy. From social media marketing to film production, visual storytelling plays an essential role in how organizations communicate, promote products, and connect with audiences.



Since 1974, Tri-Cities ROP has been preparing student for college AND careers

**Tri-Cities
ROP**

VIDEO PRODUCTION

LIGHTS. CAMERA. ACTION.
YOUR FUTURE!

Click here!



Create. Capture. Inspire.

"I'm very fortunate to have a class like this at my school to give me a clear lens into my future."

- Zoe C. WHS Student

OFFERED AT:

- LA SERNA HIGH SCHOOL
- WHITIER HIGH SCHOOL

Video Production provides students with technical instruction and practical experiences for aspiring video and film makers in the production of film, video, and new media projects for business and entertainment.

For more information, visit:

WWW.TRICITIESROP.ORG

Digital photo- graphy



*Your Vision,
Your Vibes*



Mr. Khamis' Digital Photography Class - Whittier High School





Teachers' Proud

Bravo, ERHS HOSA!

Students from **El Rancho High School's HOSA-Future Health Professionals** recently showcased their dedication, professionalism, and academic excellence at the Cal-HOSA State Leadership Conference, held from March 26th to 28th, 2026, in Ontario, CA. They proudly represented their school and joined thousands of future healthcare professionals from across California to compete in challenging academic and clinical events.

This year's conference brought together some of the state's most motivated students interested in careers in healthcare, offering opportunities to compete in medical knowledge events, leadership activities, and hands-on skill demonstrations aligned with real-world healthcare pathways.

El Rancho High School's HOSA chapter celebrated a major accomplishment as five students placed in the Top 10 in California in their respective competitive events. This achievement reflects not only their strong academic preparation but also their commitment to pursuing careers that positively impact people's lives. Placing in the Top 10 at the state level is a significant honor, considering the large number of students representing schools throughout California.

Congratulations to our Top 10 finalists in California:

- Lesley Gutierrez - Nursing Assisting- Top 10**
- Nallely Hernandez - Dental Science Top 10**
- Renae Ruiz- Sports Medicine - Top 10**
- Emilie Alvarado- Sports Medicine - Top 10**
- Lauren Haro- Veterinary Science -Top 10**

The success of these five Top 10 finalists the strength of El Rancho High School's Career Technical Education and Health Science pathways. Their achievement represents hours of preparation, mentorship from dedicated teachers and advisors, and a shared commitment to excellence.



A Sweet Collaboration in the Kitchen

This past Friday, **students from Dexter Middle School** had the opportunity to visit the Culinary Arts program at Whittier High School for a fun and flavorful hands-on learning experience.

Led by **Chef Joe Martinez and his culinary students**, the visiting middle school students learned how to prepare delicious Dutch Baby Pancakes while getting a firsthand look at the skills and creativity involved in the Culinary Arts program. From mixing ingredients to watching the pancakes rise in the oven, students enjoyed every step of the process.

The visit provided Dexter students with an exciting introduction to career technical education and gave them a glimpse into future opportunities available through Tri-Cities ROP's Culinary Arts pathway. It was a wonderful collaboration that inspired young learners and showcased the power of hands-on learning—one pancake at a time.

Moments Pages



Celebrating a Remarkable Career: Honoring Mrs. Cristina Vasquez on the Occasion of Her Retirement

During this week's Evening of Excellence celebration, Tri-Cities ROP proudly recognized **Mrs. Cristina Vasquez, Santa Fe High School Careers in Education and Career Planning and Management instructor**, as she announced her retirement following an extraordinary 44-year career in education.

Mrs. Vasquez's journey in career technical education began when she enrolled in an ROP/CTE Child Development course during her senior year at Woodrow Wilson High School. Inspired by that experience, she continued her studies at East Los Angeles College as a Child Development major before earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Development, with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education, from Pacific Oaks College.

For more than two decades at Tri-Cities Regional Occupational Program, Mrs. Vasquez has helped students explore their passions and prepare for meaningful careers in education and child development. Her dedication, mentorship, and passion for teaching have left a lasting impact on countless students throughout the years.

Reflecting on her career, Mrs. Vasquez shared, "I would like to thank the ROP administrators, classified staff, and teachers, past and present, who crossed my professional path and have enriched this most meaningful journey. ROP/CTE is like no other experience for students to discover a career path. I wish TCROP much success in the coming years."

Tri-Cities ROP extends its heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Vasquez for her years of service and the lives she has touched. We wish her a joyful and well-deserved retirement.

Congratulations!

After years of shaping minds and inspiring futures, your greatest achievement will always be the countless lives you've changed.

Enjoy this well-earned new chapter.
from all of us at Tri-Cities ROP





CHS CULINARY

Cal High Culinary hosts its annual fundraiser to share with their families their new skills and flavor fusions they create!



Cookie Decorating



CAL HIGH CULINARY PACKED THE LARGE GYM! OVER 200 IN ATTENDANCE!





CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY PATHWAY



Field Trip to Western Carpenters Union



TINY HOMES IN THE MAKING





LSHS FORENSICS

Mr. Lewis' Administration of Justice and Forensic Science students participate in a shoeprint identification activity with the use of plaster



Fingerprint Mold Activity

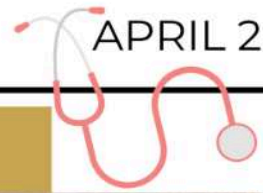


STUDENTS PUTTING THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO THE TEST

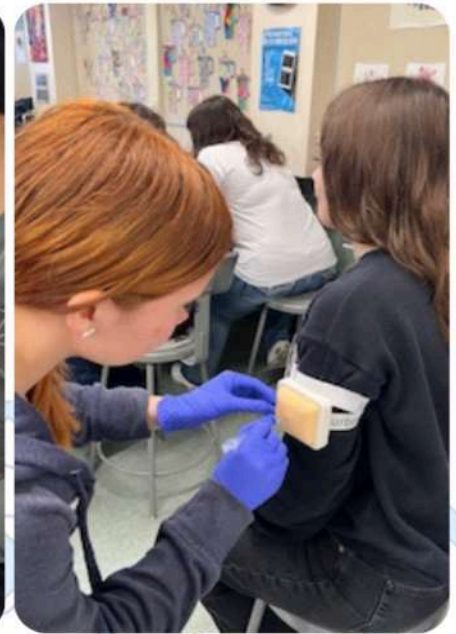




MEDICAL ASSISTANT CLASS



PATIENT CARE PATHWAY



INJECTION ADMINISTRATION SKILLS

PHLEBOTOMY SKILLS



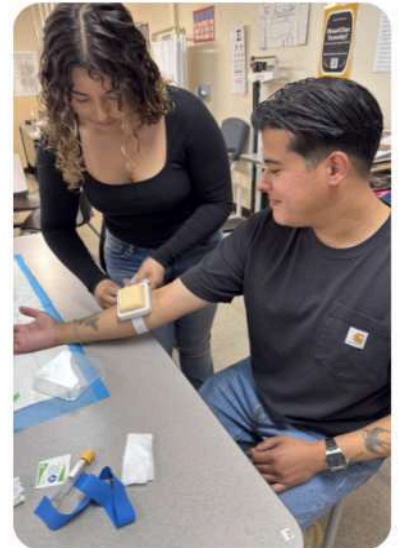
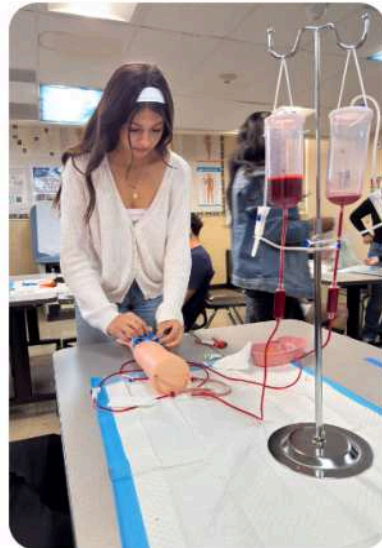


SANTA FE IN ACTION



AJ and Forensic Science students dust for fingerprints and learn Forensic Pathology

MEDICAL ASSISTING SFHS



VENIPUNCTURE SKILLS





PATIENT CARE PATHWAY



Mrs. Grant and Jose, senior *Sports Medicine* & CNA Graduate at the CTE Fair

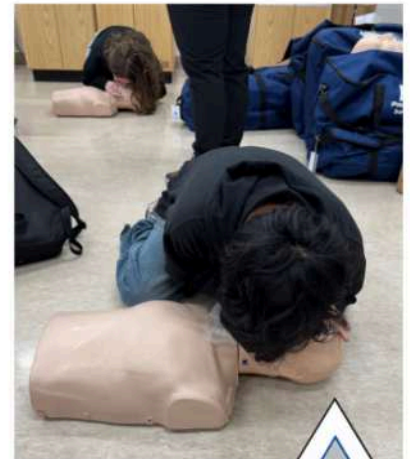
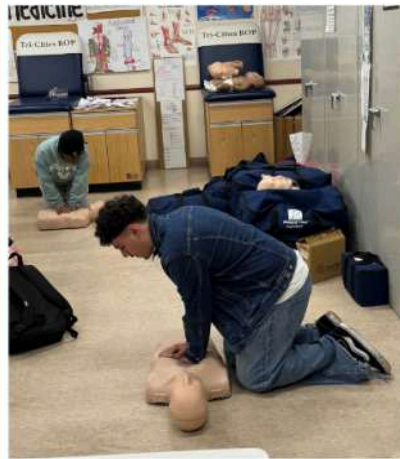


CPR TRAINING

CPR



Brianna Miller, guest speaker, presented on her healthcare journey!



Sports Medicine students training to get CPR certified!



STUDENT HIGHLIGHT



Nicholas Murua, 12th Grade

“Nick is someone you wouldn't mind getting stuck with in an elevator, as he has so much life experience already and has done an amazing job at processing and growing through it all. Nick has not only been exceptional as a student academically, but is very well respected by his peers and staff here at Salazar for how he carries himself. Nick is someone who strives for success, is honest and diligent through the process, and is always encouraging towards others. As far as life after high school, Nick is looking to pursue trade school in either welding, electrical, pipe fitting, or carpentry, as he is a jack-of-all-trades type of person and is looking forward to doing further research and gaining experience in order to choose what is best for him and his future.”

Matthew Rojas, Health Science
Instructor

COMING SOON

TCROP Activities - May 2026



April

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

June

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 13 Administration of Justice class ends and Graduation held After Sch Dental Assistant ends					1	2
3	4	5 PAY DAY	6 National Nurses Day WUHS Progress—Mid Qtr 4 Due	7 Advisory Meeting Business 3:30-5:00pm Virtual	8 Last day to submit Certificate of Completion Request forms	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12 WUHS Board Meeting 7pm	13 Thank you !! Day of the Teacher	14 Board Meeting 4:00pm	15	16
17	18	19 ERUSD Board Meeting 6:30pm	20	21 TIME CARDS DUE For additional time Auto AF ends	22	23
Classified Employees Week				27 Advisory Meeting Dental 3:30-5:00pm Virtual DATE TBD	28 Adult Dental Assistant Graduation	29
24 Tri-Cities ROP Office hours 5/26 thru 5/29 7:30am-4:00pm	25 Memorial Day OBSERVED No WBL Training ROP Center Closed	26			30/31	Birthdays 14 Leticia Guevara 18 Marlena Quintana 19 Candice Marsano 26 Elsa Cabral





Tri-Cities ROP prepares students for college AND careers