



TRI-CITIES ROP NEWS

The official publication of Tri-Cities ROP

Issue No. 02-2026/2027

September 2026

Listening. Responding. Creating Opportunities.

BREAKING NEWS!

Superintendent Announces
Upcoming Retirement
(See page 9)



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and so much more!

TRI-CITIES ROP

10800 Ben Avon Street, Suite E
Whittier, California 90606
562.698.9571
www.tricitiesrop.org



Tri-Cities ROP News

Issue No. 02-2026/2027 - September 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, and Operations

LETICIA COVARRUBIAS
Director of Business Services

KATHI KENT
Director of Educational Services

RUTH SUDICK
Human Resource Coordinator



Governing Board

MR. JAIME LÓPEZ, PRESIDENT
Whittier Union High School District

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

MR. HÉCTOR LAFARGA, CLERK
El Rancho Unified School District

MS. ESTHER MEJIA, MEMBER
El Rancho Unified School District

MS. LILIA BOZIGIAN, MEMBER
Whittier Union High School District



SEPTEMBER 2026

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A large, stylized tree with a dark brown trunk and branches. The canopy is filled with numerous autumn leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and red. Some leaves are falling from the branches, and a large pile of fallen leaves is at the base of the tree. The background is white.

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PUZZLES



9/11

NEVER FORGET



In quiet remembrance, we stand united.

★ SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 ★



Superintendent's Message

By Dr. John Smith, Superintendent



Listening. Learning. Creating Opportunities.

As we settle into the 2026-2027 school year, I am reminded that some of the most meaningful progress in education begins with something very simple: listening.

We listen to our Governing Board, our partner Superintendents, our teachers and staff, our business and industry partners, our students, and our families. We listen to the ideas they bring forward, the opportunities they believe our students need, and the dreams they have for the future of our programs. Most importantly, we are committed to turning that feedback into action.

The recent Back-to-School Nights served as a wonderful reminder of the strength of our school communities. These events bring families and educators together, creating opportunities to build relationships, share information, and begin the school year with a shared commitment to student success. Thank you to the teachers, staff, administrators, and families who made these evenings so meaningful.

Our students have told us they want more opportunities to explore careers and develop real-world skills, and our educators and community partners have helped us identify programs that can make those opportunities possible.

This year, we are excited to offer a new **Veterinary Assistant** program, as well as a **Mental Health Careers** course, giving students the opportunity to explore growing career fields while developing valuable hands-on skills. We are also exploring the addition of a **Fire Science** course at Whittier Union High School District, providing another pathway for students interested in careers in fire service and public safety.

And our vision for CTE doesn't stop at high school. We are working to expand opportunities for students in the **South Whittier School District** to explore the many possibilities CTE offers while they are still in middle school.

Early exposure can help students discover interests and talents they may not yet know they have—and sometimes, a single experience can spark a passion that shapes a student's future.

We are also looking beyond our ROP walls to strengthen partnerships that benefit our students. I recently met with **Dr. Don Moya-Miller, the new Superintendent/President of Rio Hondo College**, to discuss ways we can build upon our partnership, including increasing opportunities for articulation and dual enrollment. Strong partnerships with our local community colleges help create clearer pathways for students as they move from high school into college, career, and beyond.

We are preparing an application for Round 9 of the K12 Strong Workforce Program, with the hope of securing resources that will allow us to further improve and expand our CTE programs. This work is about more than adding courses. It is about giving students meaningful choices and ensuring that every student has an opportunity to discover a pathway that connects their education to their goals and aspirations.

There is also much important work happening behind the scenes. We are reviewing our WASC Action Plan in anticipation of our upcoming mid-term review. This process serves as an opportunity to reflect on where we have been, celebrate our progress, and identify where we can continue to grow. We are also reviewing and updating our Board policies, ensuring that our practices remain aligned with the needs of our students, staff, families, and community.

As I look across our schools, I am encouraged by the possibilities ahead. We are listening. We are learning. We are responding. And, together, we are creating more opportunities for our students to discover their passions, develop their talents, and envision futures they may not have thought possible.

Until next month,





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 5:30 p.m.
on the second Thursday of each
month, unless indicated otherwise. (*)

GOVERNING BOARD

Mr. Jaime Lopez, President
Ms. Irma Rodriguez Moisa, Vice President
Mr. Hector LaFarga, Clerk
Ms. Esther Mejia, Member
Ms. Lilia Bozigian, 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.

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TRI-CITIES ROP

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING DATES

2026 - 2027

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Thursday, October 8, 2026

Thursday, November 12, 2026

Thursday, December 17, 2026*

Thursday, January 14, 2027

Thursday, February 11, 2027

Thursday, March 11, 2027

Thursday, April 8, 2027

Thursday, May 13, 2027

Thursday, June 10, 2027

*THIRD Thursday of the Month
Board Approved: 06/11/2026

Taking a peek Inside the Boardroom



September 10, 2026

The five members of our 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 attend our monthly Board Meetings. The main purpose of the meetings is to consider and possibly take action on items placed on the monthly meeting agenda. The following is a quick peek at what took place during the September 10th Board Meeting:

*The Board approved the attendance of Candice Marsano, WBL and Pathway Coordinator, at the CCCAOE Conference, October 12-17, 2026, in Rancho Mirage.

*The Board approved the attendance of Alexandra Gutierrez, Foundations in Health Science teacher, at the Paxton/Patterson Hands-On Professional Development, October 20-21, 2026, in Port Aransas, Texas.

*The Board approved the attendance of Candice Marsano, WBL and Pathway Coordinator, at the CAROCP CTE Conference, November 17-20, 2026, in Rancho Mirage.

*The Board approved the attendance of Juan Cabral, Administration of Justice/Forensics teacher, at the LAPSEN National Conference, November 29-December 2, 2026, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

*The Board ratified the contract with Jeanette Garcia and Associates for professional auditing services for the 2026-2027, 2027-2028, and 2028-2029 fiscal years.

*The Board ratified/approved a contract with Whittier Union High School District for instructional services for the 2026-2027 school year.

*The Board approved the Whittier Area Schools Insurance Authority invoice for Workers' Compensation Insurance for the 2026-2027 school year.

*The Board approved the annual renewal of Dell Technologies back-up software for the 2026-2027 school year.

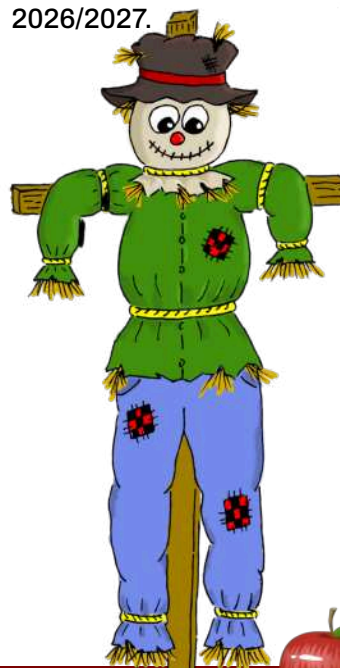
*The Board approved continuing technology and service renewals for the 2026-2027 school year.

*The Board approved the field trip request to Cerritos College's Manufacturing and CTE Day on October 2, 2026, for 38 Santa Fe High School and 38 Pioneer High School Medical Core and Medical Assisting students.

*The Board approved the declaration of ROP property (listed on an attached document) as obsolete/unusual and gave authorization to surplus.

*The Board approved the proposed new Board Policy 1155/Administrative Regulation 2020 - Providing for the addition of two non-voting business and industry advisory members to serve on the Tri-Cities ROP Governing Board.

*The Board approved Personnel Report No. 03-2026/2027.



The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 8 at 5:30 p.m. at Tri-Cities ROP



TRI-CITIES ROP

announces its annual



CalPERS

HEALTH INSURANCE

OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD

SEPTEMBER 14 - OCTOBER 9, 2026

Need coverage or need to make a change?

Now is the time to:

- ✓ Enroll if you currently don't have coverage
- ✓ Change health plans
- ✓ Add or remove dependents
- ✓ Cancel coverage

Do not delay!
**Deadline is
Friday,
October 9**

**CONTACT H.R. FOR MORE INFO OR
TO ACCESS NECESSARY FORMS**

Submit completed forms to:
RUTH SUDICK, HR Coordinator
TRI-CITIES ROP
10800 Ben Avon Street, Unit E
Whittier, California 90606
RSudick@tricitierop.org





A Baby, a Birthday, and Some Breaking News!

While so much of our work happens in classrooms, on campuses, and throughout our school communities, there is also plenty happening behind the scenes inside the E Building at Pioneer High School. September brought celebrations, new beginnings, and some important news from inside our office.

Celebrating a New Baby

The 10800 office recently gathered for a small baby shower to celebrate our **Data Specialist, Rachel Hoffman**, who is expecting her third child—a baby girl—early next month.

Rachel and her family are already the proud parents of Genevieve and Theodore, and everyone in the office is excited to welcome another little girl to the Hoffman family. While the newest addition doesn't have a name just yet, she already has plenty of people eagerly awaiting her arrival! Rachel is currently on leave as she prepares for the birth, and we are sending our very best wishes to Rachel and her family during this exciting time. We look forward to meeting the newest Hoffman when she arrives!



Celebrating a Birthday

We also had an opportunity to celebrate **Lupe Guerra**, who marked her birthday on September 16. Lupe has graciously come out of retirement to lend her expertise to our Business Services Department, helping fill the vacancy following Marlena's departure. Lupe's willingness to step back into the office has been a tremendous help, and we were happy to take a little time to celebrate her special day.



Picture above: Rachel opens gifts for her new baby while Irene looks on; Pictured Left: Lupe Guerra dons what is now the traditional TCROP birthday bonnet!

BREAKING NEWS

September also brought important news for our ROP community. **Superintendent John Smith** has announced his plans to retire at the end of the 2026 calendar year.

Dr. Smith took the helm as Superintendent of Tri-Cities ROP in December 2019, at a time of tremendous change. Just three months into his tenure, our schools and communities were confronted with the unprecedented challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The years since have brought significant changes and challenges in education, and Dr. Smith has guided the ROP through them while continuing to focus on the needs of our students, staff, and community.

Although his retirement is still several months away, his announcement marks the beginning of a transition and an opportunity to reflect on his years of service to Tri-Cities ROP. We will have more opportunities in the coming months to recognize Dr. Smith and celebrate his contributions as we approach the end of the calendar year.

For now, we simply want to acknowledge this important announcement and express our appreciation for his service to our schools and community.

There is still plenty of work—and plenty of life—happening inside 10800, and we look forward to sharing more with you in the months ahead.



Picture above left: Dr. Smith with Senator Bob Archuleta; Pictured above right: Dr. Smith with Congresswoman Linda T. Sanchez.



Tri-Cities ROP

proudly celebrates

HISPANIC & LATINO HERITAGE MONTH

Sept 15 - Oct 15



Tri-Cities ROP prepares students for
college AND careers

WUHSD

September 2026



College Fair

District College Fair located at United Sierra Education Center



Thursday, September 9, 2026





BACK TO SCHOOL

Back to School Night at Cal High



Foundation & Health Science/ Sports Med -Ms. Gutierrez



College & Career Pathway Advisor - Mr. Belis



Carpentry - Mr. Lee

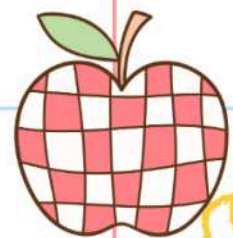


Administration of Justice -Mr. Forse



Culinary -Mr. Ruiz

Thursday, September 3, 2026



El Rancho High School September 2026

BACK TO SCHOOL

Back to School Night at El Rancho HS

Welcome Back Dons!

Thursday, September 3, 2026



COLLEGE FAIR 2026



9TH/10TH PARENT INFO NIGHT 2026

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Monday, September 14, 2026



BACK TO SCHOOL

Back to School Night at La Serna HS



Mr. Lewis & Mrs. Abernathy ready to speak to parents and showcase their ROP pathways



La Serna CCPA Jonathan Olmedo, tabling for Back-To-School Night



ROP students participating in a KTLA 5 morning news spotlight at La Serna High School for its exceptional school spirit



Wednesday, August 26, 2026



Pioneer High School

September 2026



BACK TO SCHOOL

Back to School Night at Pioneer HS



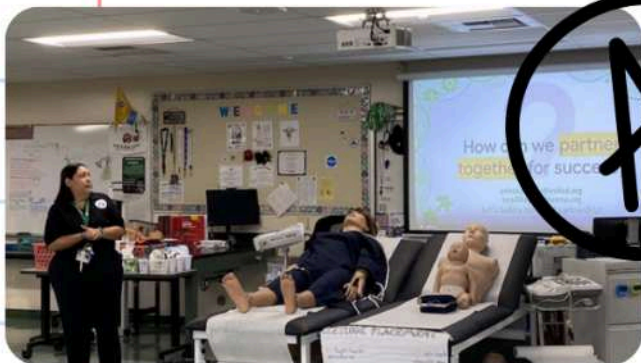
College & Career Pathway Advisor -
Ms. Jackie & Mrs. Elsa Cabral



Construction Technology - Mr. Ortiz



Digital Design - Mr. Hernandez



Medical Core/Medical Assistant -
Mrs. Padilla



Business Management - Ms. Mojica

Welcome back Titans!

Thursday, August 27, 2026



Santa Fe High School

September 2026

BACK TO SCHOOL

Back-To-School Night at Santa Fe HS



Medical Core & Medical Assisting - Mrs. Blake



Forensic Science & Administration of Justice - Mr. Cabral

Mrs. Blake, Mr. Cabral & Mrs. Andrade

ready to speak to parents and showcase their ROP pathways



Careers In Education 1 & 2 - Mrs. Andrade



Santa Fe High School Principal - Mr. Campbell

Vice President of the Board of Trustees - Ms. Josefina E. Canchola

WUHS Superintendent - Dr. Oviedo



Thursday, September 17, 2026



W BACK TO SCHOOL



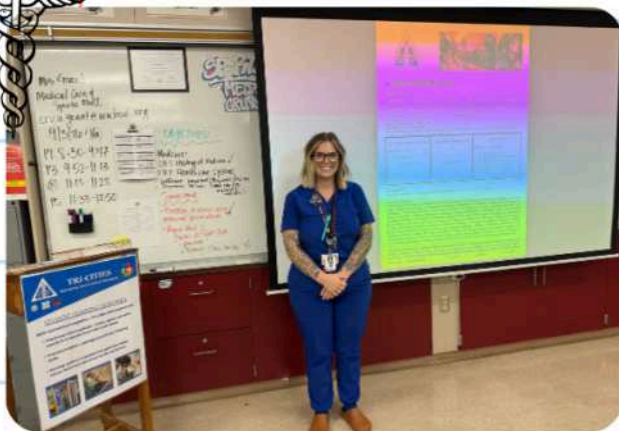
Back to School Night at WHS



Automotive Technology - Mr. Miranda



CAT 2 & 3 - Mr. Swanson



Medical Core & Sports Medicine - Mrs. Grant



Video Production - Mr. Khamis



College & Career Pathway Advisor - Ms. Jackie



Chef Martinez - Culinary Arts

Coming Soon...



September

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			

October 2026

November

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
Mission Tri-Cities ROP Prepares Students for College AND Careers by Offering Excellent Career Technical Education Leading to Employment, Industry Certification, or Post-Secondary Education				1	2	3 CNA CEU 8-12n
4	5 PAY DAY	6	7 Safety Committee Meeting 3:30-4:30pm	8 Board Meeting 4:00pm	9 *ERUSD Quarter 1 Ends *WUHSD Quarter 1 Ends	10
11	12 No School WUHSD	13 WUHSD Board Mtg 7:00p	14	15 *WUHSD Grades—Quarter 1 Due WUHSD CTE Con- sultant Meeting CDE 20 and CDE 101 E1 Due	16 BOSSSES DAY	17
18	19	20 ERUSD Board Mtg 6:30pm	21 Technology Committee Meeting	22 TIME CARDS DUE For additional time	23	Birthdays 5 Pat McCaw 7 Jonathan Khamis 15 Ruth Sudick
25	26	27	28 Advisory Meeting Construction 3:30-4:30pm Virtual	29	30 *ERUSD 1st Sem Progress—Due 1st Interim Closing Date	
						31 Halloween

And all at once, summer
collapsed into fall.

- Oscar Wilde
Irish writer, poet, playwright



Getting Social

A snapshot of a few FB, IG posts, and Tweets from TCROP. Let us help promote your class! Share your pictures and stories at mburrola@tricitierop.org.

Follow Us!
Like Us!

FACEBOOK
[tricitierop](https://www.facebook.com/tricitierop)
X & INSTAGRAM
[@tricitierop](https://www.instagram.com/tricitierop)



Cal High's Hospitality House/Culinary Arts Academy stirred up some fun and excitement at this year's Back-to-School Night. (Photos courtesy of CHS Culinary Arts Academy)



Click on link to watch IG post



Tri-Cities ROP is offering its next Saturday session for **CNAs** who are looking to earn Continuing Education Units this Saturday, September 5th. Cost is \$50 for 4 CEU units. You must pre-register online at www.tricitierop.org (under "Adult" tab). Class will be held in the Dental Classroom/Lab in Building E on the Pioneer High School campus. See you then! #cte #cnaife #tricitierop



TRI-CITIES ROP
Will be closed on
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2026
in observance of
LABOR DAY



SUICIDE PREVENTION
AWARENESS MONTH

World Suicide Prevention Day | September 10

At Tri-Cities ROP, we believe in preparing students for college, careers, and life—and that includes reminding them that they never have to navigate life's challenges alone.

Today, let's make time to connect, listen, and look out for one another. A kind word, a genuine check-in, or simply being there for someone can make a difference.

Every student. Every staff member. Every life. Every one matters.

If you or someone you know is struggling, help is available. Call or text 988 to connect with the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

Let's build a community where asking for help is a sign of strength.

#WorldSuicidePreventionDay #EveryOneMatters

NEW PROGRAM ALERT!

We're excited to announce the launch of our **NEW Veterinary Assistant Program at El Rancho High School!**

Students will have the opportunity to explore the world of veterinary medicine while developing hands-on skills, industry knowledge, and career-ready experience working with animals.

From learning about animal care and safety to exploring careers in veterinary medicine, this exciting new program is designed to help students turn their passion for animals into a pathway toward their future.

Explore. Learn. Prepare.

Your future in animal care starts here!

#TriCitiesROP #ElRanchoHighSchool #VeterinaryAssistant #CTE #CareerReady #FutureReadyStudents









Tri-Cities ROP prepares students for college AND careers