



## Maximizing the Power of Dual Enrollment through Three-Way Partnership



# Session Breakdown

- **Wonderful Career Pathways Overview**
  - **The Wonderful Company and Wonderful Education:** Value of meaningful, early, and ongoing industry engagement.
  - **Wonderful Career Pathways Network:** Timeline, partners, and commitments.
- **Spotlight on Early College High School Partner**
  - **Wonderful College Prep Academy:** A model for equitable access and support in an expanding and evolving dual enrollment model.
- **Best Practices in Work-Based Learning**

# Wonderful Career Pathways Overview



# theWonderful company™

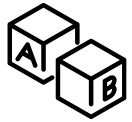
## who we are

- A privately-held, \$5B+ global company
- +10,000 employees worldwide
- Grow, harvest, bottle, package, and market a diverse range of healthy products
- The company has a long-standing commitment to corporate social responsibility, including more than \$2.5 billion invested in education, health and wellness, community development, and sustainability initiatives across California's Central Valley, Fiji, and the world.



**Wonderful Education supports over 5,000 students annually**

by ensuring children in the Central Valley with a chance to attend great schools, learn valuable skills, earn college degrees, and launch rewarding careers.



Wonderful  
Preschool

70



Wonderful  
College Prep  
Academy

2,500



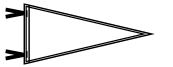
Early  
College  
Pathways

1,300



Support for  
Employees'  
Children

500



College  
Scholars

900

## How Wonderful Career Pathways started...

In 2013, we were unable to identify any formalized dual enrollment Pathways in the Central Valley.

We proposed the idea of Wonderful Agriculture Career Prep (Ag Prep), an Associate Degree Pathway, to three Community College Partners.

**Ag Prep's results surpass those of other dual enrollment programs** with over 1,000 Associate Degrees awarded to high school students since 2018.







### Wonderful Agriculture Career Prep (Ag Prep) launches

WCPA Delano, Sanger  
HS, Avenal HS



### Ag Prep expands

Mendota HS



### Wonderful career **PATHWAYS**

### Wonder launches Wonderful Career Pathways

Expansion of pathways at  
WCPA Delano, and new  
partner sites at WCPA  
Lost Hills and Shafter High  
School

### Awards...

WCPA Delano and  
WCPA Lost Hills awarded  
Dual Enrollment  
Exemplary Award



### Ag Prep expands

Reedley Middle College  
HS and Wasco HS



### First Ag Prep graduating class.

90 associate degrees from  
Bakersfield College, West Hills  
College-Coalinga, and  
Reedley College

### State of Wonderful Career Pathways

- Over 1,000 graduates
- 18 Ag Prep Fellows
- Over 1,300 currently enrolled
- WCPA recipient of Strong Workforce Program funds to launch Culinary Arts pathway
- Avenal HS: Dual Enrollment Exemplary Award



# What sets us apart?

## Associate Degrees are our North Star.

Few programs support earning an AD in high school. At Ag Prep, our program is set up for students to obtain an AD by the end of high school.

## Work-Based Learning & Professional Development.

Students receive 100 hours of WBL & PD, including:

- Job shadow with a Wonderful business units or partner company
- Professional development conferences
- Two-week paid internships

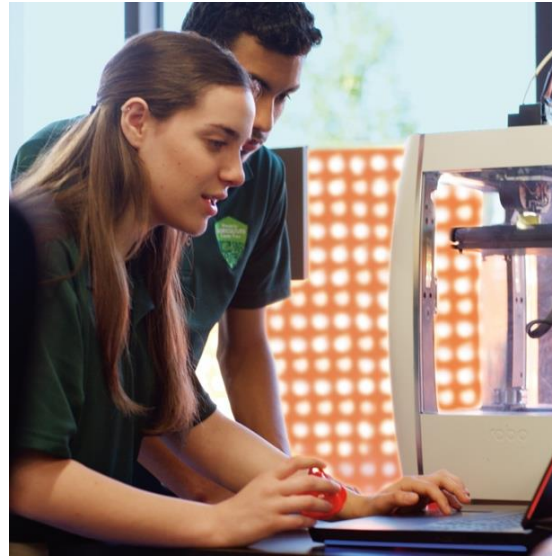
## Industry Input and Participation.

Ag Prep utilizes The Wonderful Company's expertise to understand industry trends and inform curriculum, ensuring that students receive relevant training and specialize in the areas with good jobs.





All students  
receive  
hands-on  
experiences  
at several  
sites across  
the valley.



# Where Ag Prep is today...

**7** high schools

**3** community colleges

**1,000+** Associate Degrees (AD) awarded at high school graduations

**74%** of students earn at least one year of free college

**94%** of AD graduates enroll in 4-year college (*from 2021-2023*)

**41%** of students who study agriculture in college graduate within 3 years \*

\* Out of Ag Prep students who went to college with a Wonderful Education Scholarship (not necessarily those who received Associate Degrees, although overlap between these groups is likely high).



# Spotlight on Early College High School:

## Wonderful College Prep Academy



# About WCPA

## Lost Hills

 STUDENTS  
TK-12 GRADE


509


 ENGLISH LEARNERS\*

 76%

 LATINX

 97%

 FREE/REDUCED LUNCH

 75%

 SPECIAL  
EDUCATION

 7%

## Delano

 STUDENTS  
TK-12 GRADE

1,933


 ENGLISH LEARNERS\*

 60%

 LATINX

 95%

 FREE/REDUCED LUNCH

 83%

 SPECIAL  
EDUCATION

 9%

*\*Note: Data is as of CA designated "Census" date reported to CDE for 2022-23 school year; EL data includes reclassified.*

# Pathways Snapshot

- **90%** of our graduates earn their A-G diploma, **25%** of our graduates earn their Associate Degree
- Between 2018 and 2024 **over 200** associate degrees have been awarded
- Started in 2013 with Wonderful Agriculture Career Prep, an Ag Business AA pathway
- Today we have expanded to offer Associate Degrees in Early Childhood Education, Psychology, and more
- Received **Dual Enrollment Exemplary Award 2024** in Lost Hills and Delano
- Have leveraged support from the Wonderful Company and multiple grants including:
  - Strong Workforce Program
  - California Partnership Academies
  - Early College and Middle College Grant

# Pathways Snapshot

We use standardized testing results, middle school academic progress, and team recommendations for identifying students for Pathways prior to high school.

	AA/AS	CSU Breadth	30+	>29 Credits
Course Sequence	A-G Courses + <b>Associate Pathway Program</b>	A-G Courses + CSU/UC-Breadth Certificate	A-G Courses + 30 or more College Credits	Special Programming
Start College Courses	After 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	After 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	After 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	After formal IEP/504/SST meetings
Qualifications	Meeting grade level standards in ELA and Math + received As and Bs in 8 <sup>th</sup> grade core subjects	Nearing grade standards in ELA and/or Math or receiving mostly Cs in core subjects	Below grade standards in ELA and Math	Determined by IEP



## WCPA and Wonderful Education provide a variety of supports:

- **Embedded Supports**
  - Each DE course has an in-class Dual Enrollment Support Specialist (DESS) or a credential teacher, along with their College Professor
  - Tutors
- **Case Management**
  - Pathways team tracks student grades weekly
  - Offers lunch & learn opportunities (lunch tutoring & workshops)
  - Monitors and tracks Pathway course sequencing for students
  - Meets with students regularly
  - Parent Contacts



# Best Practices in Work-based Learning

# Work-Based Learning Model: Building Partnerships

- **Approaching prospective partners**
  - Is there a business that would offer value to your pathway?
  - What is your ask?
  - To whom and when are you making the ask?





# Promising Practice:

## Approaching Prospective Business Partners

- **Identify partner:** Wonderful Career Pathways job shadows and internships are pathway aligned.
  - To do this, we approached business partners (including internally) who could provide exposure to pathway aligned jobs.
  
- **The ask:** Our asks generally start small. For new business partners we have asked for a site tour for groups as small as five students. But some asks get as big as 30+ Summer internships.
  - Departments to contact: Human resources, corporate social responsibility, community relations, marketing, etc.
  - For more thorough job shadow experiences our ask comes with a structured proposal for the visit, with flexibility based on partner preferences.
  - For job shadows, we try to give at least one semester heads up. For internships we start reaching out 6 months-1 year in advanced.



# Work-Based Learning Model: Building Partnerships

- **What is the school's responsibility?**
  - What information do you provide the business?
  - What logistical matters do you take care of?
  - How do you prepare students for the experience?
  - How do you help students make connections between academics and career through experience?





# Promising Practice: School readiness for WBL

- **Information to provide:**
  - Student profile: i.e. pathway, first gen status, age/grade, etc.
  - Desired objective of experience.
    - i.e. We want student to learn about the technical skills necessary for various jobs at the company, as well as the "soft" skills that the company looks for in all employees.
- **Logistical matters:**
  - Transportation
  - Meals
  - Dates (Conflicts w/ school calendar)
  - Troubleshooting student concerns/issues:
    - i.e. Undocumented students needing to complete internship hours for degrees; accommodations for students with disabilities.
- **Preparing students for experience:**
  - Contextualize experience by bridging pathway and related careers.
  - Guide behavior and professionalism
  - Prepare students to engage and ask questions.
- **Help students make connections post-experience:**
  - We have implemented a "Reflect and Connect" process in which students reflect on the experience and are guided in making connections not just to curriculum, but also to future career plans.





# Discussion and Questions

**Yvonne Armendariz**

Career Pathways Manager

Wonderful College Prep Academy

[Yvonne.Armendariz@wonderfulcollegeprep.org](mailto:Yvonne.Armendariz@wonderfulcollegeprep.org)

**Abel Guzman**

Executive Director- High School Success

Wonderful Education

[Abel.guzman@wonderful.com](mailto:Abel.guzman@wonderful.com)