

https://www.dailyrepublic.com/news/education/vacaville-students-get-taste-of-future-after-high-school/article_51851372-6d4b-11ee-819c-5f811380fd74.html

Vacaville students get taste of future after high school

Susan Hiland

Oct 18, 2023



Tyler Little, 17, and Braydin Burns, 17, both of Vacaville, get information on the trade industry at the second annual Vacaville Unified School District College and Career Fair, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023. (Susan Hiland/Daily Republic)

VACAVILLE — Students got a close-up look at the options available in the job market at the second annual Vacaville Unified School District College and Career Fair.

Tyler Little, 17, Vacaville, is looking to get into the trades after graduation.

"I'm not sure what I want to do exactly," he said. "But the trades offer a good future, with good money."

His friend, Braydin Burns, 17, of Vacaville, is also looking into the trades for his



"I want to be a lineman, because I've done the research and I think it suits my attention," Braydin said.

Along with trades were colleges, universities, first responders and more for the Tuesday evening event.

Julee Speck, operation manager from Ron DuPratt Ford, talked to students about their internship program, which is only offered at Will C. Wood High School at this time.

"This program lets them interact with and learn about jobs that are in the community," Speck said. "They learn that they don't have to leave here to get a good-paying job."



Hundreds of students and their parents came out for the Vacaville Unified School District College and Career Fair, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023. (Susan Hiland/Daily Republic)

They learn how to work on vehicles through a modular program and can apply for the internship just like a job.

"At the internship they do job shadowing," said Kelley Birch, director of Colleges and Career Readiness for Vacaville Unified School District. "This helps get kids ready for life."

College isn't for every student and offering them the opportunity to engage with the trades or an internship gives students a chance to see where they shine the best.

"Not everybody wants to continue on in school with college, not everyone can afford college and maybe they get there and find out that the classes and degree are not what they want," Birch said.

The district wants to ask the students what they are good at or what they like to do.

"Maybe getting a certificate is the right way for them to go. We want to give every student a chance to choose for themselves," Birch said.

The career fair also offered students a chance to learn about the path to college, financial aid and college athletes through a few breakout workshops, in addition to the booths inside the gym.

This is the second career fair the district has put on in the past two years, according to Ana Farina, College Readiness coordinator said.

"This year it has gotten bigger and better," Farina said.

They had more than 30 colleges and universities in attendance.

"This event is about students discovering their future with us," she said. "It gives them an idea of what they might be interested in. It is a night of opportunities."

Susan Hiland

Editorial Assistant/Reporter