

**Ventura County Office of Education/VC Innovates  
All County Advisory Meeting**

**April 17, 2017, 6:00-8:00PM**

INDUSTRY SECTOR: **Agriculture & Natural Resources/Energy, Environment & Utilities**

FACILITATOR: Darrell Gooden

RECORDER: Irene Ornelas

PARTICIPANTS:

| <b>Educator</b>   | <b>School District</b> |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Michael Yorke     | Ventura                |
| Jennifer Boyd     | Conejo Valley          |
| Debbie Alvarez    | VCOE                   |
| Amy Lewandoski    | Ventura                |
| Kate Collins      | Pleasant Valley        |
| Steve Pietrolongo | Simi Valley            |
| Brandon Titus     | Ojai                   |

| <b>Industry Partner</b> | <b>Company</b>                             |
|-------------------------|--|
| Karen Williams          | Monsanto                                   |
| Annika Forester         | Coach & Organizational Learning Consultant |
| Megan Gately            | Museum of Ventura County                   |
| Carlos Flores           | Self Employed                              |
| Brandon Titus           | Arx Energy                                 |

**Agenda & Minutes**

**Introduction**

**6:00-6:20 Salon A, B, C- Welcome and Overview/Dinner;** everyone given a card to fill out and bring with them to the breakout session "Tell us about the impact the industry/education partnership has had on you."

**6:20-6:30- Transition to Breakout Rooms**

**Breakout Sessions**

**6:30- 6:45- Introductions and Industry overview**

-Karen, Carlos, Ana, Brandon – are our official industry partners (some folks teach as well).

-There are 7 educators in the room.

**6:45-7:35- Reciprocity Ring**

### ***Industry – trends/challenges***

- Policy changes and regulations
  - **Solutions**
    - ✓ Encourage social activist and critical thinking skills. Be informed voters
    - ✓ Student awareness to work with business partners to be more pro-ag voters and employees.
    - ✓ Promote - Awareness and Activism so students could determine where they stand.
    - ✓ Expose youth to real life context
    - ✓ Teaching students the pros and cons of local issues. Industry problems that the students can tackle.
    - ✓ Teaching industry appropriate soft skills
- Agriculture – issues with soft skills
  - **Solutions**
    - ✓ Provide emotional intelligence training
    - ✓ Hire FFA students
    - ✓ Assigning collaborative learning projects
    - ✓ Provide opportunities to lead more
    - ✓ Student to student evaluations
    - ✓ Marketing component
    - ✓ Mentor youth
    - ✓ Develop mentor opportunities
- Use of big data to monitor and control the quality and the yield. Ie: Drone flying/technology which can document and anticipate the needs of the growers
  - **Solutions**
    - ✓ Give more lessons from industry
    - ✓ Real world problems
    - ✓ More exposure to the STEM careers within this industry
    - ✓ Teach students flexibility within industry (not just picking crops and planting seeds)
- Anti-immigration sentiment is making hiring more difficult
  - **Solutions**
    - ✓ Graduating students who are bilingual who can assist with tackling some of the policies
- In fracture dollars
  - **Solutions**
    - ✓ Review RFPs with the students

### ***Educators – trends/challenges***

- Real world relevant projects
  - **Solutions**

- ✓ **Monsanto** has recently provided mentorships for industry experts.
- ✓ Discovering more opportunities for partnerships (**Monsanto**)
- ✓ Leverage internships to help meet employer needs
- ✓ Designing a community (**Jen Boyd CVUSD** has this curriculum in Canvas and can share with other teachers. Ask Rebecca)
- Resources: solar
- Help designing and planning outdoor classroom with FMO (district facilities).  
**Kate Collins - PVSD**
- Real data sets that can be used in the classroom. Access to data.
- Simulations of data (computer software programs)
- Support Agricultural(**Annika Forester**) & Environmental field studies advisory boards and business connections
- Need to know top 10 issues
- Education and PD for teachers about trends in industry. Teacher externships.
  - **Solutions**
    - ✓ Teacher focused field trips.
    - ✓ Strawberry Industry tour (**Annika Forester** can put together)
    - ✓ Win, win themes – industry partnership with students.
    - ✓ List of opportunities for CTE credential hours
- Policy changes for admin and school board
- More internships
- Employer expert volunteers to go into the school

### 7:35-7:55- Discussion Prompts:

**Educators:** What is one area of growth you have had in your program that you would like to share with the group?

**Industry:** What are your thoughts about the future of your profession or industry?

**-Michael Yorke (educator):** Industry, energy, presented real-world industry problems in which the students had to come up with solutions. The students were able to work collaboratively to come up with a solution.

**-Industry:** Future of agriculture in Ventura County is “grim”. The tone with growers is “doom and gloom” due to competition with Santa Maria and Mexico. The only way that Ag in Ventura County will survive is technology and people. Language skills are necessary within the industry.

**-Industry/teacher:** Pick your passion and know it well for your specialty. Exposing the students to much as possible.

**-Teacher:** Ability to travel more has been huge. Being treated like real people and not the “step-child”. The program is bringing “esteem” to the industry. The buses have been a big deal, it has changed the mentality.

**-Industry (Carlos Flores):** The ability to capture data and select data has changed tremendously. Critical thinking skills is very important. *Logic* is not taught to

students.

**-Teacher (Debbie Alvarez):** Entrée to Employment had a big impact on students. Courses were approved A-G and articulated. Purchase of green house and hydroponic system. Debbie will take a Bee Keeping course as they will add bee keeping.

**-Concerned Resources Environmental Workers - hires at risk youth**

**-Industry (Karen Williams):** They have multiple programs for students and teachers. Please connect for more info.

**-Teacher:** this instructor made an effort to have more balanced mentors and models. She was able to complete four new projects in her classroom. Solar technology class is coming in the fall from Moorpark College

**-Teacher (middle school):** Reviewing real world problems and exposure to a variety of careers. She had the opportunity to receive her CTE credential.

**7:55- 8:00 Wrap Up**

**8:00 Meeting adjourned - next meeting TBD**