This summer CTE partnered with Prospective Students on the annual Pa’Alante Retreat to give regional Latino students an opportunity to see what was available to them in CTE.

Agustin Diaz, UVU recruiter who led the retreat, said they worked with high school counselors and instructors to target students who were currently struggling in high school.

“We organized and carried out this event because we saw a tremendous need to work with local Latino students in our community who were not, by a systemic definition, considered as high achieving,” Diaz said. “We need to act on this sector of the population, otherwise they’ll continue on a downward trend.”

The event took aim at creating an opportunity for the students to see how fun and engaging the college experience could be to them. Participants were able to establish a peer-to-peer connection along with a strong exposure to role models and available resources.

“They need to see themselves in us, and in many ways we need to be reminded of us in them,” said Diaz, who also leveraged the help of Latino student-ambassadors to help run the event.

“Reaching out to special populations and providing students with an understanding of high demand technology-related industries is a key CTE department effort,” said Kim Chiu, CTE assistant director. “We are always looking for opportunities like these to expose students to the opportunities CTE has to offer.”

CTE News

The AAS Theatre for Children and Youth degree, created by the Theatre Department, is CTE’s newest program. The degree provides students an overview of the field, while allowing them to explore specific areas like lighting, design, acting and sound. Students who go through the program will be prepared to work in community theater, after school settings, professional theater and theater entrepreneurship.

Susan Thackeray said there is a strong connection between technology and theater arts programs, including costuming, robotic lighting and sound design.

“The industry is constantly looking for creative individuals willing to step outside the box and help create affordable technical options and creative artistry to bring more complex stage scenarios to life,” said John Newman director of the Noorda Theatre.
It may still just be an idea but a mayoral candidate in New York proposed opening at least five new all-girls' science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) middle schools.

Only 15 percent of female high school seniors expressed interest in entering the technology field in a recent nationwide survey.

STEM education has come to the forefront in recent years as the nation's technology sector continues to create jobs. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, STEM jobs are projected to grow twice as quickly as those in other fields.

Proponents say the focus should be on middle schools because according to studies, girls perform equally with boys in their younger years, but begin to perform worse than boys during middle school.

The schools will provide special programming to prepare girls for continued education in STEM fields, including additional instruction during the school day for girls who plan to apply to specialized high schools.

According to Christine Quinn, the candidate that proposed the measure, boys far outnumber girls in the city's specialized high schools. There are two male students for each female student, for example, at the City College High School for Math Science and Engineering. Moreover only one in four students in the city's public school tech programs are female.

“We can’t let these smart, talented, brilliant girls slip through the cracks - instead we need to do all we can to foster the limitless potential.” Quinn said.

Please contact us with any news or events you would like to see in the CTE newsletter. Email: jacelle.erickson@uvu.edu

CTE Information
The CTE department supports and provides opportunities for students to acquire and use high-quality technical and career skills through focused, engaged learning to prepare them for meaningful employment in a competitive global workforce.