

Sonoma Corps Pilot

Piner High School



What is the Sonoma Corps pilot?

An education-to-career bridge program designed to:

- Increase awareness of careers
- Provide mentorship
- Create opportunities to earn money
- Increase relevance of high school academics



What is the Sonoma Corps pilot?

An initiative led by the CTE Foundation and developed in collaboration with:

- Employers: E&J Gallo, Keysight Technologies, Labcon, SMART & Straus Family Creamery
- Education: SRCS/Piner High School, Santa Rosa Junior College, Sonoma County Office of Education, Sonoma State University

What is the Sonoma Corps pilot?

Key Components: Senior Year Course

- Work-readiness skill-building
- Career exploration
- Focus on advanced manufacturing
- Focus on mechanical careers.



Key Components: Gap-Year Internship

- Full-time paid position with local employer
- Designed to give broad exposure to high-need, high-opportunity careers

How did it begin?

- Sonoma County employers in key industries are having a hard time attracting and retaining skilled workers
- CTEF convened key employers and education leaders to develop and test a “grow our own” approach to career exploration and training aimed at incentivizing youth to pursue local high-need careers
- Piner High School was selected as pilot site due to combination of high-need student population and impact on that population by the firestorm



What is currently happening?

- An orientation was held on October 3, 2019 to discuss program expectations and introduce 13 participants to employers.
- Work-readiness classes and industry site visits have begun and will continue through the 2019-2020 school year.
- Monthly Steering Committee meetings for stakeholders continue to monitor and evaluate progress, share best practices, and formulate final internship plans.

What comes next?

- Paid full time gap-year internships begin July of 2020.
- Participating students will meet regularly with a mentor and advisor during the gap-year internship to address challenges and learning.
- Thorough pilot program evaluation and assessment will commence in Spring/Summer 2021.



A County Collaborative

