Fontana Unified School District
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NEWS RELEASE

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Kaiser High Automotive Students Shift into High Gear with Volkswagen, Audi Micro-Internship

FONTANA, CA - Eighteen Kaiser High School automotive students connected their classroom skills with potential careers during a micro-internship at the VW (Volkswagen) Audi Training Center in Eastvale, where they explored advanced vehicle technology and learned from industry professionals.

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS) coordinated the opportunity for students in Kaiser's registered pre-apprenticeship automotive program, extending the school's career technical education (CTE) instruction into a professional training environment.

At Kaiser High School, automotive CTE pathway students learn vehicle maintenance and repair, working with industry-standard equipment to develop skills in areas such as vehicle repair and diagnostics. The Volkswagen/Audi micro-internship gave students a chance to see how those skills are used in the industry as they toured the facility, explored new vehicle technology, and observed demonstrations of engine work, collision repair, and electrical systems.

For senior Anthony Mondragon, a second-year automotive CTE student interested in coding and electrical engineering, the visit offered a chance to connect those interests with work in the automotive industry. Mondragon hopes to attend Cal Poly Pomona and said conversations with experienced technicians helped him consider new career possibilities.

"It gives you insight into the field itself and whether it's something you actually want to get into," Mondragon said. "It allows someone who might not have thought about it as an opportunity to really open their mind to the fact that this is an actual job and this is how it works. For me, it showed me how maybe this could be a career in the future."

Kaiser automotive teacher George Mendoza said students recognized equipment similar to the industry-standard tools they use in his class. Seeing familiar machinery in a professional setting helped students better understand how their classroom training prepares them for careers beyond high school.

"There are so many career opportunities within any industry, but students are not always aware of what is available," Mendoza said. "Through CTE, students have more opportunities to explore different career paths. We can help them discover careers they may have never considered."

At Kaiser, students develop foundational automotive skills, completing tasks and observing demonstrations covering skills such as brake replacement and fluid service, with Mendoza coaching students through the process. The visit to the Volkswagen/Audi Training Center built on that classroom

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learning, giving students the opportunity to complete pre-apprenticeship assignments focused on maintenance and light repair in a real-world setting.

“Our goal is for every student to leave high school with a clear sense of direction and the preparation to take that next step,” Fontana Unified Superintendent Miki R. Inbody said. “We are grateful to SBCSS and the Volkswagen/Audi team for helping our Kaiser students see the opportunities ahead of them and how their education can help them get there.”

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

FUSD_AUTOMOTIVE1: Kaiser High School automotive students gained firsthand exposure to careers in the automotive industry during a micro-internship at the Volkswagen/Audi Training Center in Eastvale, where they observed industry professionals in action and learned about career opportunities in the automotive industry.

FUSD_AUTOMOTIVE2: The Volkswagen/Audi micro-internship built on students’ classroom learning, giving them a chance to see industry professionals at work and explore advanced automotive technology.

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