

Good evening Mayor & Council, tonight I'm here as Executive Director of

FUTURE for Lompoc Youth. I'd like to quickly update you on all we've been up to and end with a request.

FUTURE started providing our first support to Lompoc High School Students in September of 2021, coming out of Covid, with masks on, outside of the classroom to meet social distancing requirements. We started the first Career Readiness Academy with 18 students.

The Career Readiness Academy (CRA) is a 12-week, intensive hands-on training program focused on 21st-century employability skills. The CRA is co-facilitated with help from Allan Hancock College, and area business and industry leaders.

We followed the CRA with the 16-week Customer Service Academy (CSA)

The Customer Service Academy (CSA) provides techniques for creating positive customer and social relationships.

The CSA includes topics such as Listening, People Skills, Conflict Resolution, Ethics and Integrity, Service Quality, and Verbal Communication.

The CRA and CSA Academies are supported by educational field trips that advance academy experiences. Trips include Allan Hancock Colleges, UCLA, Museum of Tolerance, SBCC, UCSB, a Lompoc Career Tour, and last week we had our first Vandenberg Space Force Base Tour, these trips strengthen the awareness of our youth to the career opportunities available in Lompoc and the educational pathways to fill those careers.

In the Summer of 2022, we partnered with UCLA, and Allan Hancock College to bring California Freedom Summer to Lompoc, an 8-week course aimed to inspire Lompoc Unified High School Students to engage in Civic Leadership, by promoting their strengths within their community. This 8-week course ended with a Youth Led Leadership Conference. Each student received college credits and a 2500 dollar stipend for their participation.

In 2023 we started providing the Academies for students at Maple High School and started the FUTURE FLY Mentoring Project & FLY Job Shadowing.

FLY Mentoring matches Lompoc Unified Juniors and Seniors with caring local adult volunteers who encourage personal growth, self-esteem, academic performance, and healthy social connections. Mentors commit to a weekly "connection" for a year.

- FLY Job Shadowing matches an individual based on their interests to the positions available to experience a "Day in the Life" Learn the skills they need, education, and training to obtain the position.

All of these services and projects start with us listening to our youth.

Each year FUTURE holds Youth Focus Groups with youth representing different high schools and different areas of our community, right here in council chambers. They have felt for a very long time that they needed to leave Lompoc if they wanted to succeed. We want to change that.

This will be our 4th year providing the academies to Lompoc Unified Students, we have held 6 graduations, and have supported around 250 students through our various programs. We have graduated students that are now attending local community colleges and universities throughout the state, and even across the country.

Now my request...

I am requesting 50 thousand dollars of the city's unrestricted funds to support FUTURE in purchasing a van from George Bedford at Sunset Auto.

This van will allow us to connect and support our youth in all of these programs to be even more successful.