

"I want to be a teacher"



ROP student Megan Kemp leads a class at Mission Elementary on Junior Achievement Day

"Thanks for the great program!" Cindy Bonagura, ROP instructor at California High, says she hears that every time she visits a school where an ROP intern is teaching. The ROP interns get a chance to work with elementary school teachers and students. "The energy the mentor teachers have given to support their interns is fabulous," she says.

On Junior Achievement Day, ROP students visit elementary schools and teach lessons based on ideas of community and business.



ROP student Derrick Helms helps teach second grade on Junior Achievement Day

This year, the ROP Careers with Children class at Deer Valley High went to Mission Elementary.

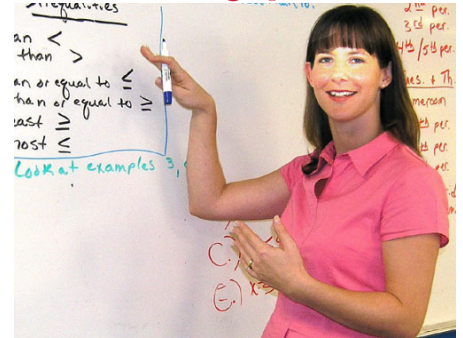
"I want to be a teacher," says Derrick Helms, "I think this class is helping a lot. We get hands-on experience and Mrs. Hunt does a good job of helping us prepare to go into the teaching field."

Timothy Bongco, who recently completed Connie Hunt's ROP class, would agree with him. He is now

working at the Los Medanos Child Study Center while going to college.

"I really enjoy working with children," he says, and gives a big thanks to his favorite teacher "because her guidance in the ROP class I took in high school is what motivated me to continue to grow as a teacher."

"Math is my passion"



Tina Piper was an ROP student who now teaches math at Park Middle School

Another graduate of the ROP Careers with Children class is Tina Piper, who now teaches math at Park Middle School.

"Math is my passion," she says. Tina graduated from Deer Valley High ten years ago, then went on to major in math at Sonoma State.

"What the ROP class did for me is that it planted a seed," she says, and she was able to put her love of math into the service of being a teacher.

"ROP serves a valuable purpose," she says. "Kids in high school have limited experience in the world. If it weren't for my ROP experience, I might not have thought about teaching."

"What the ROP class did for me is that it planted a seed."



ROP Teacher Cadets in Janet Headington's Careers in Teaching class at Hercules High

Fire Science is popular ROP class



Demonstrating the "Jaws of Life" in ROP Fire Science class at Campolindo High

"This is fun. I love it," says senior Allison Brewer, commenting on the new ROP Fire Science class at Campolindo High. Six instructors from several fire districts team-teach the course.

Michael Dunham



"I just deposited my first paycheck!" says Michael Dunham, a 2004 graduate of Steve Ohmstede's ROP Fire Science class at Freedom High who now works for the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District. "I'm excited. I'm enjoying it very much." Michael volunteered for the River Delta Fire District this summer and recently completed hazardous materials training in preparation for his new job.