



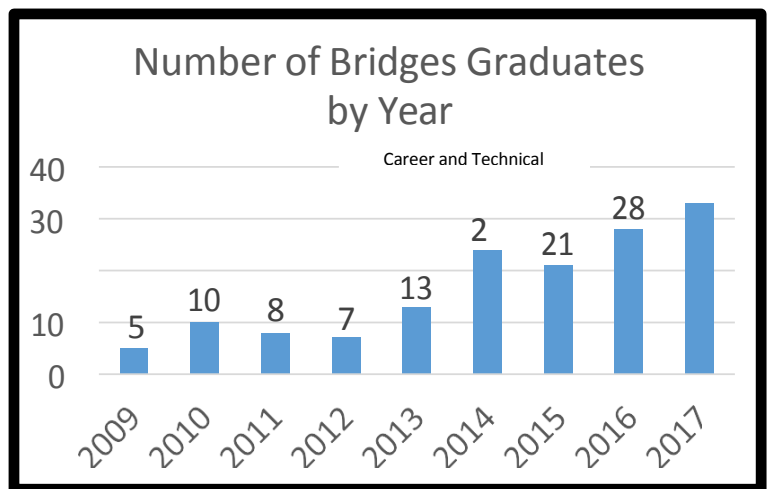
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS OF CALIFORNIA

Conference Spotlight: Kern County Probation

Bridges Career Development Academy is a structured and supervised school-based collaborative that is a partnership between the Kern County Probation Department, Dr. Rowe & Associates Mental Health, Kern County Superintendent of Schools, and various other agencies. Youth, ages 16-18+, transitioning from one of our county's residential juvenile justice facilities may enter Bridges Academy and receive vocational education, enrichment, career readiness skills, and post-secondary and career assistance while working to finish high school.

Bridges Academy was established with the hope of becoming a one-stop resource for at-risk youth. Although most students are on probation, once the student reaches the age of majority, the choice to attend the school is voluntary. The student agrees to be searched daily and drug-tested randomly as part of the enrollment agreement. In return, students are offered the opportunity to finish their high school requirements with a blended-learning model, career and technical courses, a running team, The 911 Raceway Program, career-readiness training and support, work-based learning opportunities, on-site mental health services, college and career-focused field trips, and both girls and boys life skills support groups. Every student enrolled at Bridges Academy is assigned a Resource Officer. This officer assists each student with referrals for treatment to meet their court orders, assists in obtaining documents for employment, provides and/or schedules transportation to school, DMV, interviews, and employment. Additionally, these officers provide daily contact, guidance, and mentoring while the students are attending Bridges Academy.

In 2014 the Bridges Career Development Academy transitioned to a larger school site. The new campus provided for the expansion of services to students. This additional space has allowed Bridges to host and expand an annual Back-to-School night event. This event usually takes place in late October and averages over 200 guests, including dignitaries from the Kern community.



The Bridges Career Development Academy has been operating with the current educational model for the past two years and the word has spread to our clients. The school maintains a target of 40 students and generally runs at capacity. The youth served here recognize the benefits they are receiving and it has become a safe and supportive environment to come to each day. There is also an Alumni Club for students that have exited Bridges. These young adults know the door is always open long past

graduation. Almost daily, former students return to update resumes, conduct job searches in the computer lab, receive support for upcoming job interviews, get help with federal financial aid through FAFSA completion and college registration, and the list goes on. Kern Youth @ Work is the umbrella identity for all of the C.T.E. programs in the court and community schools in Kern County.