STEP-UP
PART OF THE RISING SCHOLARS NETWORK

CELEBRATING OUR 15 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

NEXT-STEP
Part of the Rising Scholars Network

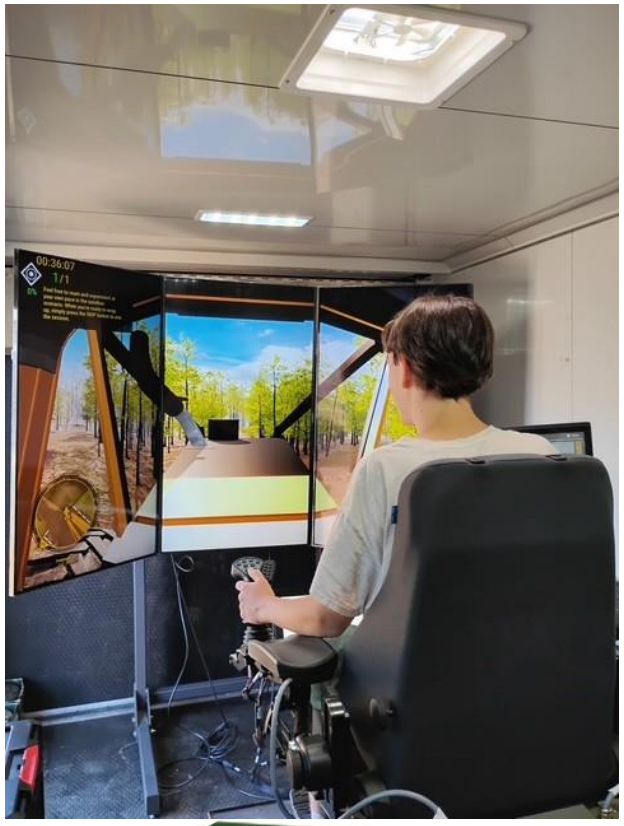
CPOC

CPOC & CPOCF 2026 Statewide Conference

BRIDGING SYSTEMS, BUILDING FUTURES: A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO EDUCATION ACCESS

Robert Bowman – Shasta College STEP-UP Program Director
James Goodwine – Division Director Shasta County Probation
Nick Hitchko – Shasta County Probation
Brian Rapinoe – STEP-UP Alumni & Business Owner

STEP-UP OVERVIEW



- 2011 – AB 109 Passed
- 2012 – STEP-UP founded by Eva Jimenez – AVP of EWD at Shasta College, Shasta Probation Chief Tracie Neal and Shasta County Sheriff's Office Alternative Custody
- 2020 – SB 823 passed closing the DJJ and transferring care and control to local county juvenile probation departments as of July 1, 2021
- 2021 – AB 417 creates the Rising Scholars Network in the CA Community College System
- 2023 – NEXT-STEP was founded in cooperation with Shasta, Tehama, and Trinity Probation to support juvenile college education in juvenile facilities and for students who are in the community.

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THE SHASTA COUNTY STORY



- STEP-UP was originally created to provide an alternative custody option for low-level offenders in custody or on post-release supervision
- Partnership supports a liaison between probation and college
- Partnership designed to facilitate student support with accountability
- Focused on training aimed at securing living-wage jobs in our community based on current industry trends
- Shared Vision of Success Metrics

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STEP-UP STUDENT OVERVIEW



Average Age of Student

39.4

- Oldest Student = 62
- Youngest Student = 18

40% Female/60% Male

2025 -2026 GPA = 3.26

2025-2026 Dean's List = 3.5 GPA

F2025 = 52 Students

S2026 = 61 Students

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OUR PARTNERS

Tehama County Department of Education

California Community Colleges

Trinity County Office of Education

Shasta County Probation Officer

County of Tehama Probation

Trinity County Probation Department

SMART Business Resource Center

America's Job Center of California

Shasta County Tri Mountain Academy

Shasta County Office of Education Early Childhood Services

CHYBA California Heritage YouthBuild Academy

Job Training Center Workforce Solutions
A proud partner of America's Job Center of California™ Network

Good News Rescue Mission

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STEP-UP PARTNER RELATIONSHIP

STEP-UP

- Provides instructional & administrative support
- Assist with financial aid processing
- Textbook, Supplies, Tools, and Safety Gear
- Guide students to service programs (i.e. EOPS, SCI-FI, VETS, PACE. etc.)

PARTNERS

- Screen & Refer Students
- Assist in support of students
- Provide access to resources (housing, mental health services, food insecurity, etc.)
- Work with STEP-UP to mentor and support students throughout their time at Shasta College

HOW WE STARTED

WELDING

Certificate:
Welding Technology

AS Degree: Welding

Testing Facility for
AWS certification

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Certificate:
Health Information Management

AS Degree: Administrative Office
Professional

BUSINESS

Certificate:
Entrepreneurship

AS Degree: Business
Administration

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATIONS

Certificate: Equipment Operations
and Maintenance

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Certificate:
General Automotive Technology

AS Degree:
Automotive Technology

Support for National
Automotive Service Excellence
credential testing

FIREFIGHTING

Certificate:
Firefighter 1 Academy

AS Degree: Fire Technology

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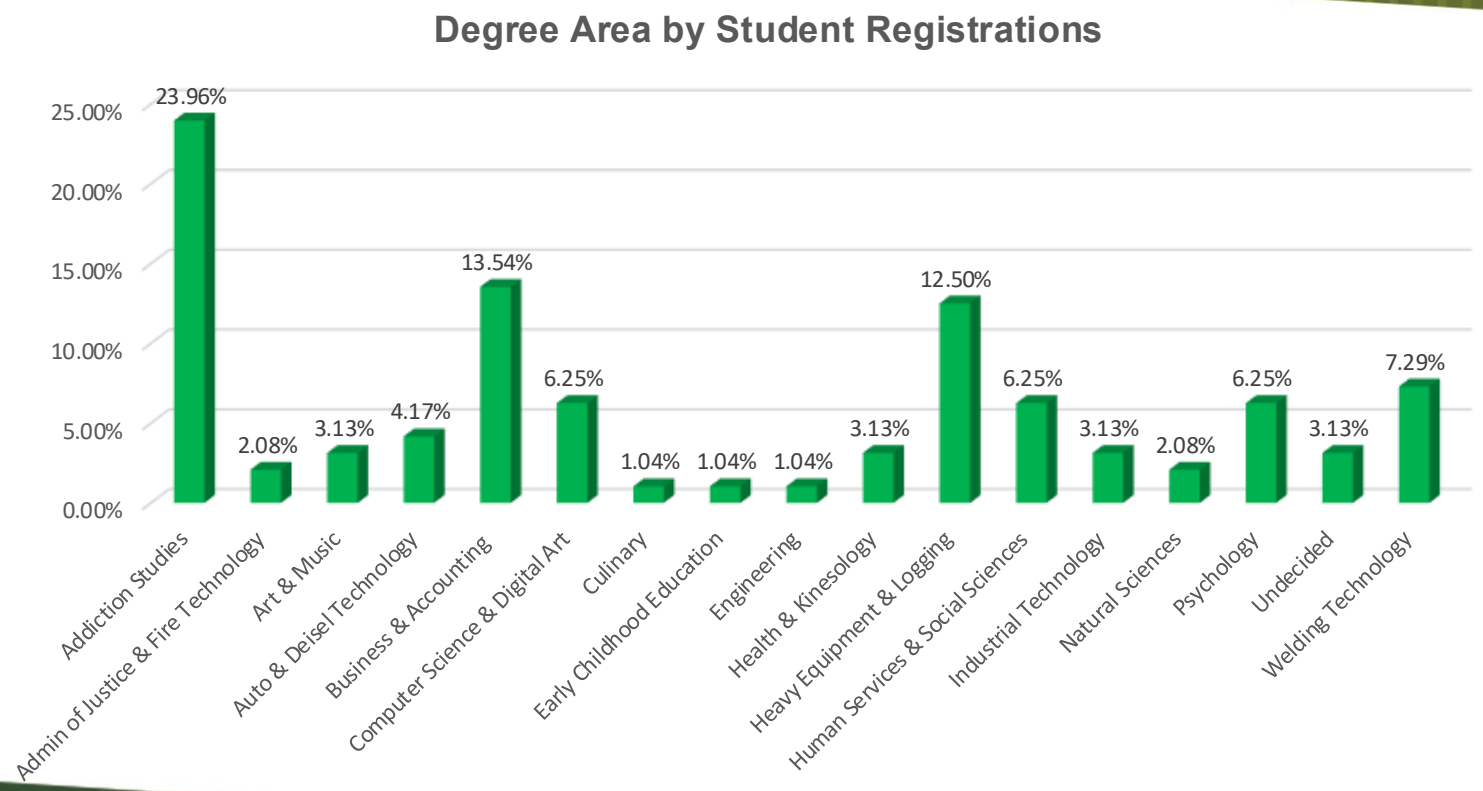
WHERE WE ARE NOW



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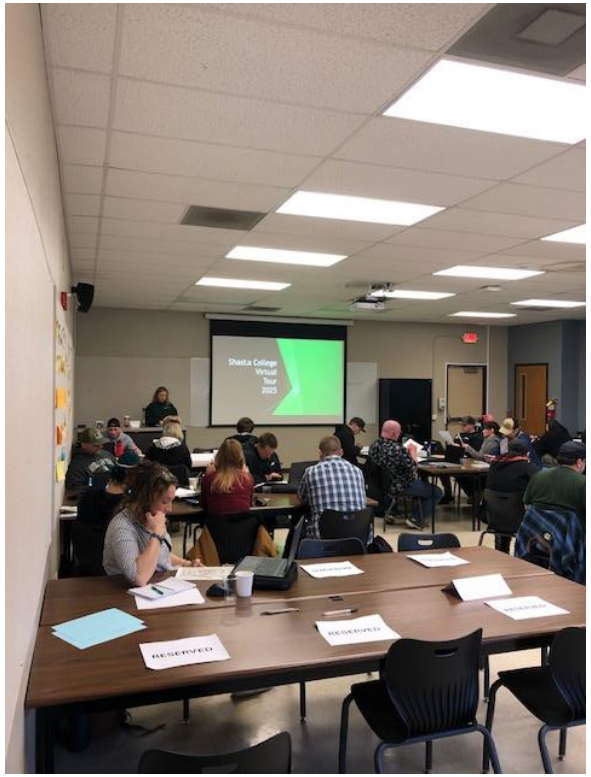
PROGRAM BARRIERS



- Basic Needs Barriers (i.e., Housing, Food Insecurity, etc.)
- Issues with Wi-Fi access in rural areas of our community
- Transportation Challenges
- Community Political Persuasion
- Challenges with English & Math Skill Level

HOW DO WE OVERCOME CHALLENGES



Identify & Leverage Existing Partners

Collaborate with Industry Partners

Think Outside of the Box (Community & Adult Education)

Develop Plan for Student Transition into Community

Create Programs that Engage Students

Design Courses that Prepare Juveniles to Achieve Career and Life Success

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HOW ARE WE DOING?

Unduplicated Student Count			
Term	CCP	Non-CCP	Regular
Fall 2025	27	96	10,201
Spring 2026	33	105	4,632

Average GPA Per Semester			
Term	CCP	Non-CCP	Regular
Fall 2025	3.26	3.20	3.21
Spring 2026	3.33	3.22	3.21

Dean's List By Semester			
Term	CCP	Non-CCP	Regular
Fall 2025	14	38	1378
Spring 2026	17	44	947

STEP-UP (CCP Students Only)	FY 2025/26
CCP Students	68
Average GPA	3.33
Dean's List	47
Graduates	11

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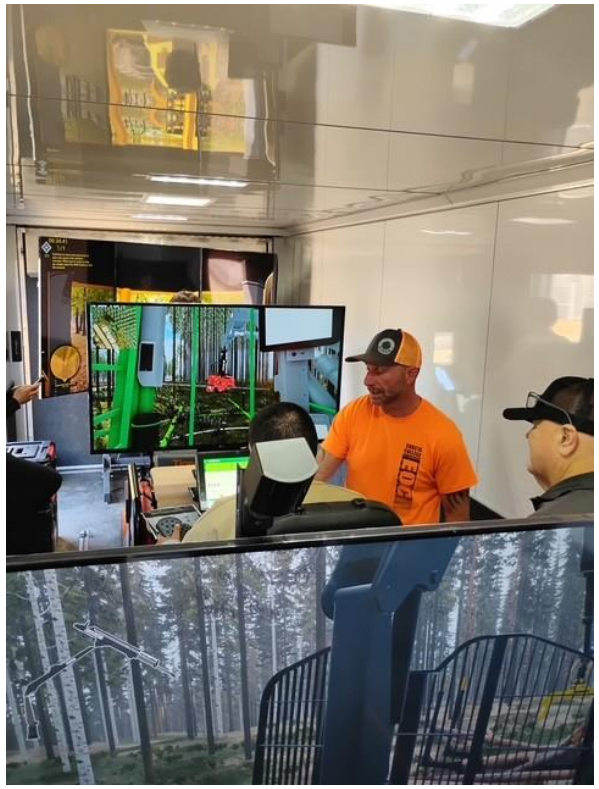
RESULTS

Students Receiving Degrees or Certificates									
Term		CCP			Non-CCP			Regular	
	Cert	AA	Both	Cert	AA	Both	Cert	AA	Both
Fall 2025	7	9	2	13	16	3	140	323	73
Spring 2026	5	11	1	15	20	5	248	385	144

RISING SCHOLARS' JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAM



- Developed in response to the passage of AB 417
- STEP-UP, SCOE, & Juvenile Probation collaborated to create academic and vocational opportunities for students
- Offered Concurrent & Dual Enrollment Courses
- Provide Reentry and Academic Support for students (Education Plan, Financial Aid Applications, etc.)

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RISING SCHOLARS' JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAM



- Developed courses using dual and concurrent enrollment models
- Divided 3-unit courses into 1-unit courses
- Offered baking and organic gardening options
- Conducted Road Flagger Certification Training for Students
- Worked with facility staff to allow students access to Heavy Equipment Simulator

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KEEPING STUDENTS ENGAGED



Designing classes that engage students' minds and creativity is vital to fostering a passion for learning. Among the courses we have offered in both of our juvenile facilities are:

- Baking
- Organic Gardening Practices (Summer Course)
- Horticulture Work Experience Course
- Art (Mural Project)

COURSE SCHEDULING WITH A PURPOSE

Life Success Certificate

Course	Units
CALS 155 - Human Awareness & Relational Skills	3
CALS 160 - Money Matters	3
CALS 162 - Modes of Expression	3
CALS 163 - Health Matters	3
Total Units for Certificate	12

Flexible Scheduling Model

Course	**Semester**
CALS 155	FALL 2024
CALS 160A	FALL 2025
CALS 160B	FALL 2025
CALS 160C	FALL 2025
CALS 162	SPRING 2023
CALS 163	SPRING 2025

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WHAT'S NEXT



Classes we are planning in the future.

- OSHA Safety Certification
- Fireline Safety Certification Training
- Basic Construction Training
- Vocational Training Courses

BRIAN RAPINIOE



2023 Ambassador – National Higher Education in Prison Conference – Atlanta, GA

AS Degree CIS Systems Management 3.42 GPA

2025-26 STEP-UP Student of the Year

Worked as student mentor for Gateway to College

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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