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930 Westacre Road ♦ West Sacramento, CA 95691 ♦ (916) 375-7600 ♦ Fax (916) 375-7619 ♦ www.wusd.k12.ca.us

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CONTACT: Giorgos Kazanis
PHONE: 916-375-7604 ext. 1235
E-MAIL: gkazanis@wusd.k12.ca.us

Washington Unified School District Launches New Culinary Arts and Farm to Fork Education Program

WEST SACRAMENTO—The Washington Unified School District (WUSD) today announced the opening of a new state-of-the-art Culinary Arts and Farm to Fork Education (CAFFE) program to help prepare students for jobs in the food service and hospitality industries.

“We’re thrilled with the progress our team has made on making this dream a reality for our kids,” said the WUSD Board of Trustees and Superintendent Linda C. Luna. “The CAFFE program is a great example of the working world skills our students will be exposed to—keeping them excited, motivated and moving toward future success.”

The CAFFE program incorporates curriculum developed by the National Restaurant Association. Students will receive training in kitchen safety and sanitation, equipment and facility use, knife skills and food preparation while participating in the planning, costing, preparation, serving and storage of meals. Career seeking and transferable skills are also integrated into the curriculum allowing students to participate in work-based learning experiences. Upon completion of CAFFE, students will have the opportunity to earn an industry-recognized certificate.

Located on the site of the former Bryte Elementary School, the facility has undergone a four-month, \$11.3 million remodel and construction facelift bringing the campus up-to-date and incorporating 21st century learning tools in the classrooms. CAFFE is the first step in a multi-phase effort designed to implement additional career pathway programs on campus, making this the city’s only Career Technical Education Center. Future programs will include STEM-related fields, construction, carpentry, design, biosciences and health.

Financing for the project was made available under voter-approved [Measure V](#) in November 2014 which authorized up to \$49.8 million in bond sales to help finance local school facility improvement and construction projects. The program will receive continued support

through the California Career Pathways Trust [Grants](#) announced by the California Department of Education in May 2015. Washington Unified is a partner of the Northern California STREAM (Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Arts and Math) Pathways Consortium, one of the 39 statewide grant recipients. The Consortium's mission is to develop sustainable, model career pathway programs that reflect the needs of industry and simultaneously prepare students for college and careers in high demand, high wage jobs.

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