

A supplement from the . . .



Palm Springs

Unified School District

Desert Springs MS Students Exploring Energy and Emerging Technologies Path **PSUSD Students Pioneering Career Program**

Two hundred eighth grade students at Desert Springs Middle School in Desert Hot Springs are pioneering the first-ever Energy and Emerging Technologies Career Explorations program in the Coachella Valley.

This innovative program is linking students, their teachers and counselors with energy and technology businesses across the region to help them discover the wide variety of careers waiting for them right here in the Coachella Valley.

"The goal of this program is to help students see first-hand what's happening with energy and emerging technology-related careers and to inspire them to consider pursuing careers in this field," said Marek Prarnuka, Advanced Technology Industry Council Coordinator for the Coachella Valley

Economic Partnership (CVEP). "These students will have local career opportunities related to wind energy, geo-thermal, solar, alternative vehicle technologies and other renewable and sustainable industries. By partnering with their teachers, we motivate students to study math and science which will be key to their success as they move forward. This industry and classroom experience also helps to inspire a

next generation of environmentally conscious citizens and consumers. They see the connection between their science classrooms, the chemist that they met at the water district and their everyday life and all of sudden it clicks."

PSUSD has partnered with CVEP to develop and implement this program, which is linked to the new Energy Technology Utilities academic pathway that launches for ninth graders at Desert Hot Springs High School next fall. These eighth graders will be able to continue their study next year at high school with new Earth Science and Electronics/Alternative Energy courses. DHSHS Assistant Principal, Kaie Mason is leading a team of high school academic teachers, career technical teachers, counselors and business partners to develop this new pathway.

The Career Explorations program was funded by a grant from California Department of Education. Southern California Edison, Mission Springs Water District, Coachella Valley Water District, Sunline Transit Agency, Cal Energy and Desert Water Agency are partnering to provide half-day interactive tours of their facilities for these students.

For more information on the program, call Dr. Diana Vernev at 416-6073.



Marek Prarnuka, standing, left, meets with Desert Springs Middle School students about energy and emerging technologies. Listening is DSMS counselor George Brady.