



Fly To Success



Lompoc Youth Connections:
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School of Social Work
California State University, Long Beach
May 2025





Project Description

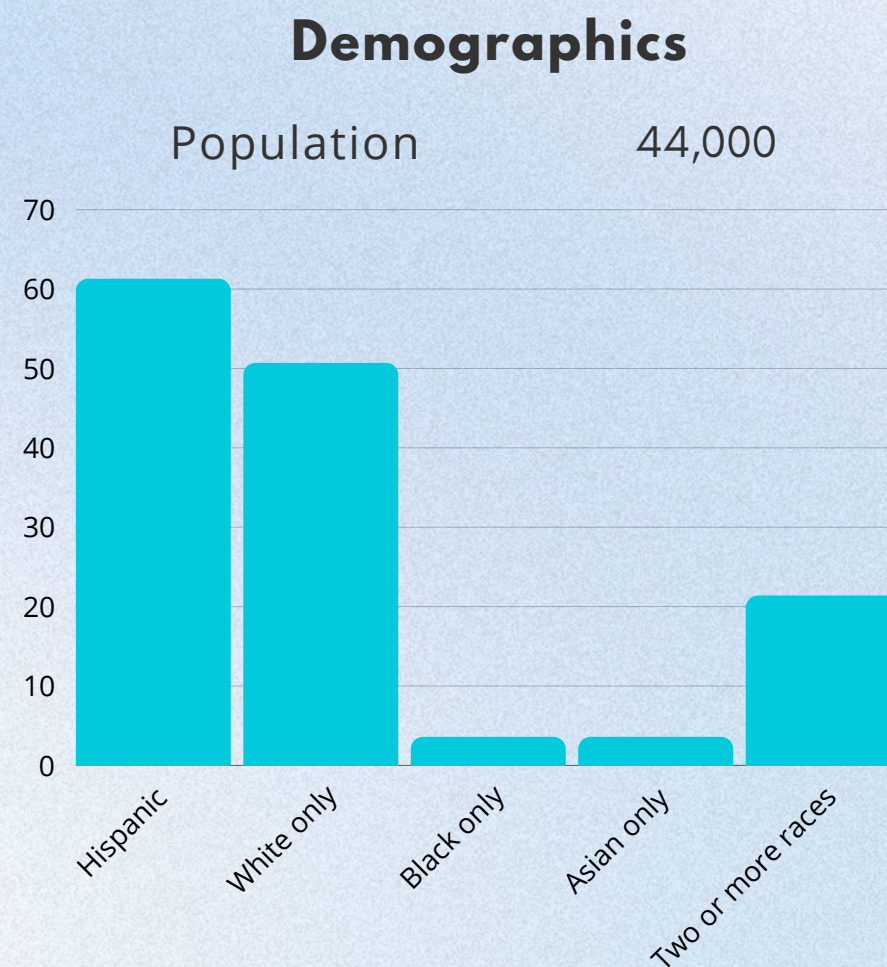


On April 5, 2025, the FLY to Success community event was held at Lompoc High School in Lompoc, California as a collaborative effort between two local graduate students and the nonprofit, Future for Lompoc Youth (FLY). Designed to empower youth ages 14-19, the event combined a career, college, and trade fair with a family-friendly kite festival. Local businesses, educational institutions, and vocational organizations hosted booths to offer hands-on learning experiences and introduce the youth to various career and educational pathways. Youth participants engaged with 28 different educational booths, explored future opportunities, and earned entries for opportunity drawings. To create an inclusive and engaging atmosphere for families, free kites were provided, making the event both informative and fun for all ages.

The fair was designed to increase youth knowledge and skills on accessing career and educational opportunities. The comprehensive report on the results was disseminated to community partners in order to continue similar outreach in the future.



Description of Community Assessment



Lompoc has a diverse demographic profile, with over fifty percent of the population identifying as Hispanic.



Lompoc is a small city located in Northern Santa Barbara County 45 miles from Santa Barbara and 25 miles south of Santa Maria



- 74.3% of residents aged 25 and older graduated high school, 12.8% of residents hold a bachelor's degree or higher
- medium household income of residents is \$66,947
- city's poverty rate at 17.2%.

Lompoc's economy is marked by a disconnect between high paying industries and local residents, due to low educational attainment and a lack of specialized skills.

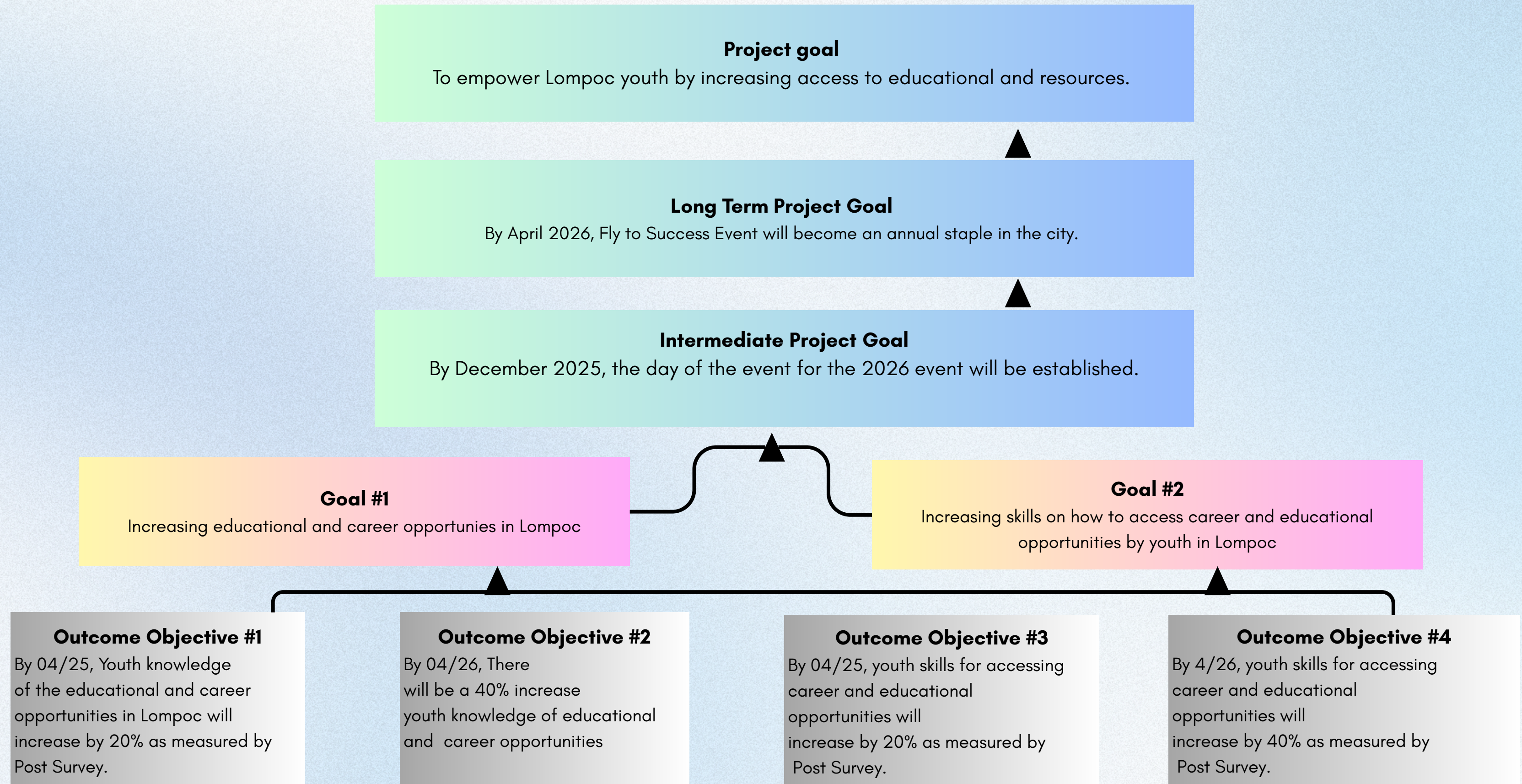
Community Partners

Future for Lompoc Youth

Chuck Madson, Executive Director
**DeVika Stalling, Programming
Manager**



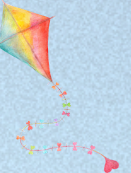

Project Development/Implementation





Methods of Evaluation



- The youth checked in at the beginning of the fair and were provided a stamp card to collect stamps at each booth. At the end, youth submitted completed stamped cards.
- Youth were encouraged to complete a confidential survey via paper or online survey
- The survey had 5 questions related to knowledge and skills on career and educational pathways
- Data were tabulated to analyze answers to survey questions

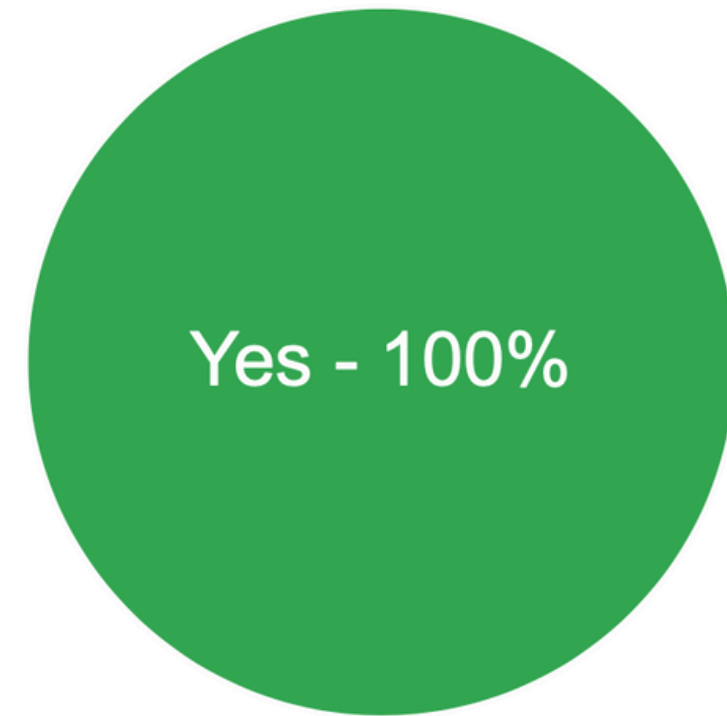


Summary of Findings

- 37 survey results were received
 - **Introduction:** 100% of survey respondents were introduced to a new program they did not know about prior to the fair.
 - **Knowledge of options:** 94.5% of survey respondents (48.6% strongly agreed and 45.9% agreed) indicated they gained more knowledge about their career and educational options. 5.4% of respondents were neutral.
 - **Skills in accessing:** 100% of survey respondents (51.4% strongly agreed and 48.6% agreed) indicated they gained more skills in how to access career and educational options.
 - 28 community organizations participated
 - Approximately 150 community residents attended the event
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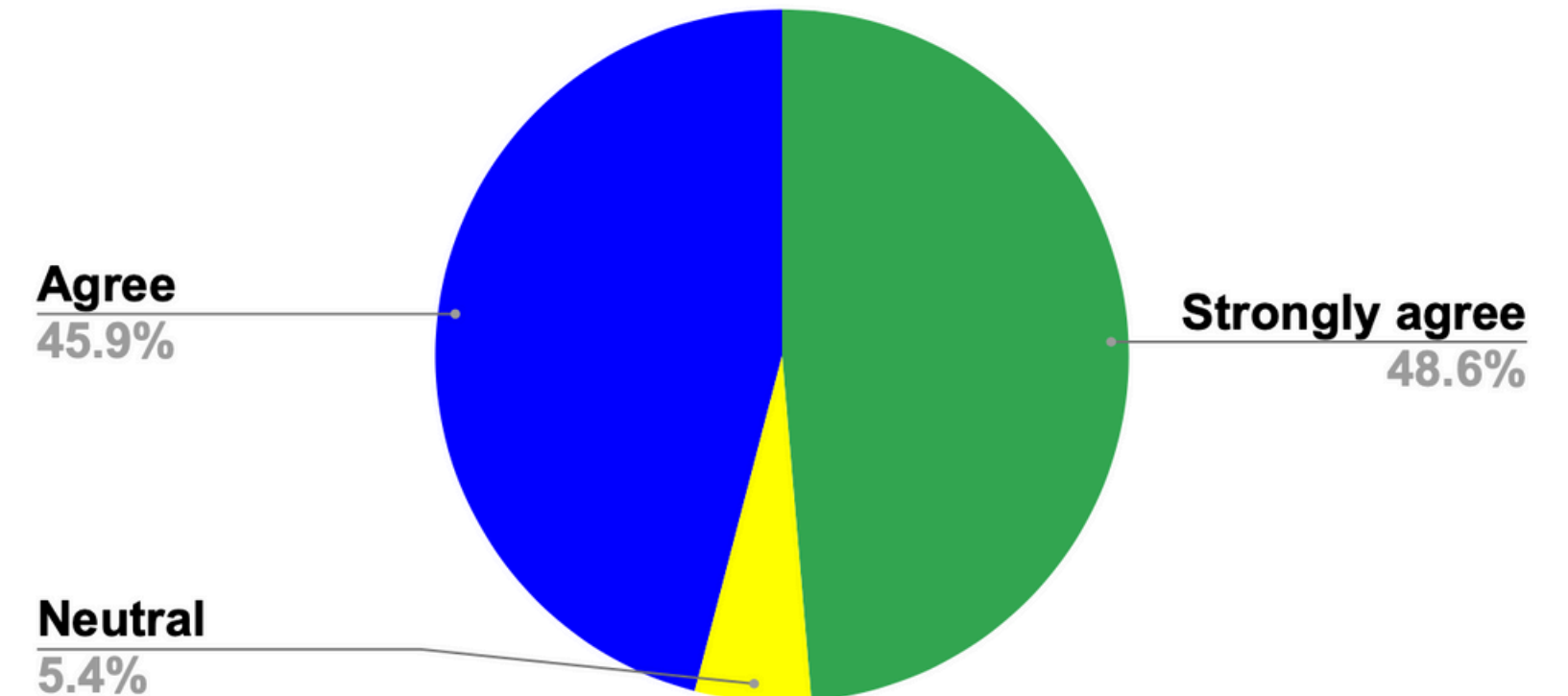
Tables of Results

Did the event introduce you to resources or programs in Lompoc that you didn't know about before?

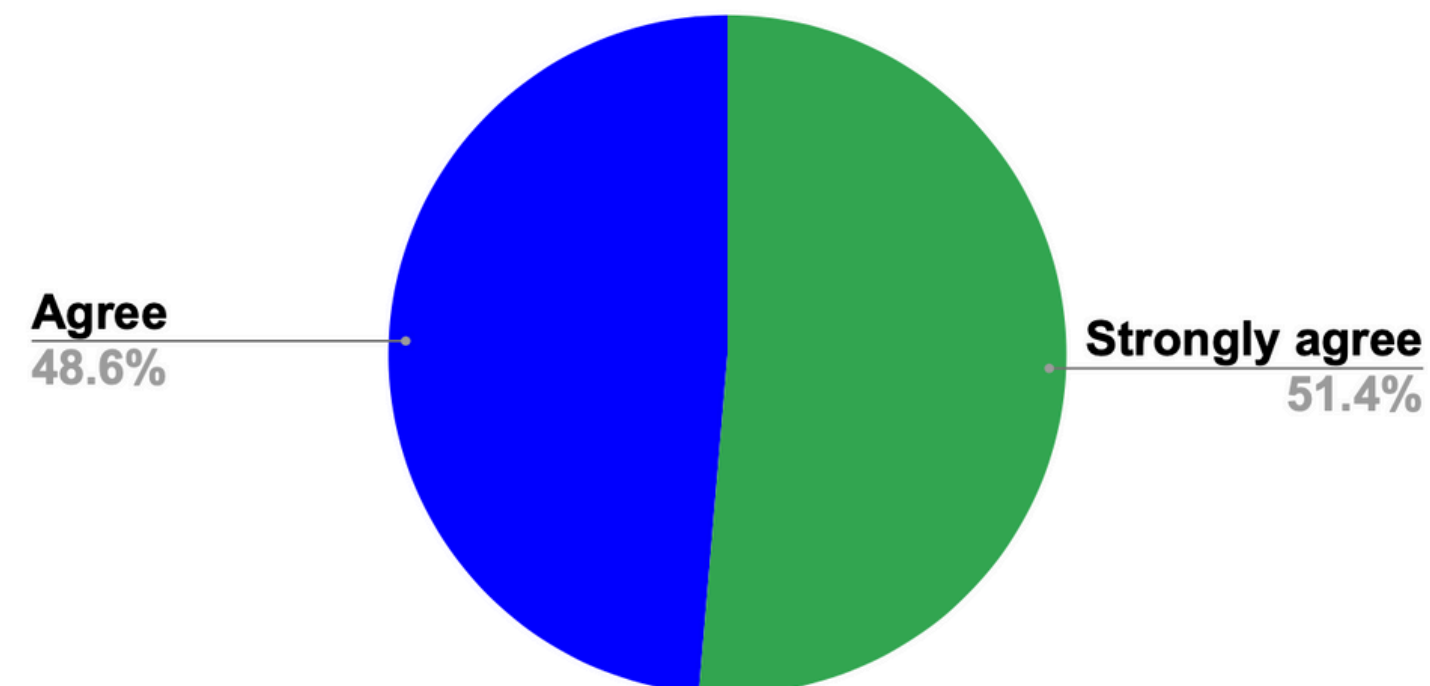


n= 37

As a result of attending the fair, I am more knowledgeable about my future career and educational options





As a result of attending the fair, I gained more skills in how to access career and educational options





Future Recommendations & Implications



- Initiate promotional efforts early in the planning process to maximize outreach and engagement.
 - Conduct outreach to individual schools directly, rather than relying solely on district-level communication.
 - Provide volunteers with clear, detailed information about the event well in advance to ensure they are informed and prepared.
 - Improve day-of organization by clearly designating material storage areas and ensuring all supplies are easily accessible.
 - Coordinate with school custodial staff ahead of time to discuss and finalize logistical needs.
 - Engage with local teen organizations (e.g., youth groups, teen centers, Boys & Girls Club) to increase awareness and participation.
 - Involve youth participants early in the planning process to gather input on preferred vendors and activities.
 - Test power sources thoroughly prior to the event to ensure functionality and prevent technical issues.
 - Arrange to secure all necessary tables and chairs from the vendor to streamline setup and teardown.
 - Review the school district calendar in advance to ensure there are no conflicting events scheduled on the proposed date (e.g., prom, testing, or other major school functions).
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Acknowledgements



- 360 Behavioral Health
- Allan Hancock College
- Big Jaykes
- Bubba's Chicken and Waffles
- CADA
- Cajun Kitchen
- CalPoly San Luis Obispo
- Center for Employment Training
- Coast Hills Credit Union
- Communify
- Cosmoton Academy
- Costco Wholesale
- Federal Correctional Institution Lompoc
- Glo Face Painting
- Goodwill Industries
- Good Shephard
- Grow with Me – Crescendo Juntos!
- DJ Johnny Blaze

- Lompoc Public Library
 - Lompoc Queer Alliance
 - Lompoc Teen Center
 - Lompoc Valley Medical Center
 - OsePhotos
 - Our County Our Kids
 - Santa Barbara County Public Health
 - SEIU 721
 - SonaTech
 - StarBase
 - The Selfie Spot
 - Transitions Mental Health Association
 - US Army Recruiter
 - US Navy Recruiter
 - US Marine Corp
 - UA Local 114
 - YMCA
 - all our family and friends who volunteered their time
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Project Team Members



Jose Ramirez and Jasmin Mera





References



Census Bureau. (2022). Lompoc, California. Census Bureau.

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/lompoccitycalifornia/PST045222>



THANK
YOU

