



News Release

Jurupa Community Services District Celebrates Successful Inaugural High School Summer Internship Program

Jurupa Valley, CA (August 3, 2026) – Jurupa Community Services District (JCSD) launched its inaugural High School Summer Internship Program, providing students with valuable hands-on experience and opportunities to explore careers in the water industry and public service. Developed in partnership with four local high schools, the program included students from Jurupa Valley High School and Patriot High School in Jurupa Valley, Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Eastvale, and Ayala High School in Chino Hills.

During the four-week program, interns worked alongside professionals in Engineering, Fleet Services, Information and Operational Technology, Utility Construction, and Water Distribution, gaining firsthand experience supporting essential public services. More than 30 students applied for the inaugural program, with just eight selected following a competitive application and interview process.



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Water



Wastewater



Streetlights



Parks & Recreation



Graffiti Abatement

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The internship program reflects JCSD's commitment to developing the next generation of public service professionals while helping address the growing need for skilled workers in California's water industry. Through mentorship and real-world experience, students gain practical knowledge while exploring meaningful career opportunities that support their local communities.

"Today's students are tomorrow's public servants and industry leaders," said JCSD General Manager Chris Berch. "This internship program reflects JCSD's commitment to investing in young people while helping build the future workforce our communities will depend on."

Working alongside school administrators and community partners, JCSD collaborated with Tomorrow's Talent and the Inland Empire Chapter of the ACE Mentor Program to develop the internship. Both organizations help connect students with meaningful career exploration, mentorship, and work-based learning opportunities that prepare them for future success.

"Programs like this do more than introduce students to careers, they inspire future water leaders," said Heather Collins, Past President of the American Water Works Association. "By investing in hands-on learning and meaningful mentorship today, we're building the skilled, passionate workforce that will protect public health, strengthen our communities, and ensure safe, reliable water for generations to come."

"This partnership gives our students a unique opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world careers," said Jenna Saugstad, Career Technical Education (CTE) Coordinator at Jurupa Unified School District. "Experiences like this help students build confidence while exploring meaningful career pathways."

"Providing students with authentic workplace experiences is one of the best ways to prepare them for life after graduation," said Kelly Howell, Eastvale STEM Academy Director at ERHS. "JCSD's internship program gives students valuable exposure to careers they may not have otherwise considered."

“Strong partnerships between education and industry create opportunities that benefit everyone,” said Michael Collins, Engineering Academy Instructor at Ayala High School. “We're excited to see our students gain practical experience while learning directly from professionals in the field.”

The four-week internship concluded on July 31, marking the successful completion of JCSD's inaugural High School Summer Internship Program. By bringing together educators, workforce organizations, and industry professionals, the program demonstrates a collaborative model for preparing the next generation of water and public service professionals while helping address California's growing workforce needs.

Founded in 1956, the Jurupa Community Services District is a public agency providing services and programs to Jurupa Valley and Eastvale. It is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of five elected representatives from both cities. Serving over 135,000 people in a 40-square-mile area, JCSD provides a variety of community services and programs, including water, sewer, streetlights, frontage landscape maintenance, graffiti abatement, and parks and recreation services.

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