

## Yosemite High School students reminded future is bright

By **Irene Thirlwall**

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On Thursday a group of students at Yosemite High School received the opportunity to listen to several representatives from a variety of colleges, who informed the students what they have to offer and what the students need to do to prepare themselves to reach their goals.

Shirley Ann Lane, coordinator for both the Child Care Development Fund and adult education at the Picayune Rancheria Tribal Office, helped coordinate the event titled, "Very Early Outreach."

"Yesterday (Thursday) was the eighth school we took the program to," Lane said.

"It is to get kids on target with what their grades mean, what is important to make decisions for the future."

Lane said students need to get in touch with how many options they have, listing the numerous selection of colleges.

"There are 10 University of California colleges, 23 state universities, 109 community colleges in the state, 79 private universities and just in Fresno alone, there are more than 79 vocational education schools.

"I want the kids to realize how rich their options are. We are the only state that has two particle accelerators for advanced particle research, we have NASA Ames here in California and we have the Lawrence Livermore labs at Berkeley."

The students who attended the program were each sent a special invitation. Lane said they were all students of the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) classes provided by YHS.

This program is partially funded by the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi tribe to get kids in touch with careers in the future. Lane added that all Native American students were also sent invitations to attend.

"This is the first year," Lane said of the program.

"This is a program I started. Hopefully we will have this for the kids every year, so they have knowledge."

Lane said she took the program to several elementary and intermediate schools as she feels it is too late for students to learn in their later high school years.

"It is important for students to know they are working for their future right now," she said.

"You just have to get there as a student. School is a job, if they (the students) ask me what their grades are worth (compared to a regular job) every year, I tell them there worth \$25,000 a year, if their grades are B's or better, in grants and scholarships. So the kids need to know they are



Jennifer Hernandez, representative from UC Berkeley, speaks to students at Yosemite High School about options they have for college. Hernandez used some of her own college-day experiences as examples of bad planning and lack of enthusiasm.  
*Irene Thirlwall*

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working for something very solid in the future."

Lane said students need to know that there is money out there for them to go to school if they meet the qualifications.

"Harvard University," she said, "recently publicized that if any student applies to Harvard and they are accepted and their parents make less than \$40,000 a year they will waive tuition. It's a carrot out there and other colleges are following suit."

Greg Hill, counselor at YHS, said he thought the program went well on Thursday and hopes for a greater turn out next year.

"I thought it went great," he said.

"The whole purpose for it was to get the most information as possible to the students. We're looking forward to seeing more students next year, so they can understand what opportunities are out there and to for them to develop a strategy to reach their goals."

Representatives that visited YHS are listed as follows:

UC Berkeley - Jennifer Hernandez

UC Merced - Dustin Noji

Cal State Fresno - Hernan Maldonado

Fresno City College - Gary Nichols

National University - Brian Finley

Business Productivity Group in Fresno - Bob McLaughlin, vocational education

Community liaison for the UC system and Native American recruiter - Sheree Rose

Doctor Karen Wynn, running for new tribal council and active in education

For more information Lane can be reached at (559) 683-6633 ex. 215.



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