Teaching Robotics in California

Bakersfield High School
Bakersfield, California

Don Wilmot, Physics Teacher, Bakersfield High School

What the students are really doing is they’re learning about these alternative sources of energy and they’re seeing what they’re future job can look like.

Joshua, sophomore

Basically, learn how to make a better car and power it to be able to be more efficient and useful, too, because of course that’s what this class is for.

Brande Hubbard, Chevron employee

So you guys all want to be engineers?

[affirmations]

Is this something you guys see yourselves doing in the future, building robots?

[more affirmations]

We’ve seen there’s a decrease in the number of people who are graduating with engineering degrees, and so I think to get kids started early, to get them excited and engaged in engineering, is a great thing for the country in general.

Chevron partners with Project Lead The Way to provide engineering programs to schools in our communities.

Phoebe, sophomore

When I found out that they were going to do this for my first year, my freshman year, I was so excited, and it’s even opened my mind a lot because I was, like, one path – I want to be an architect, I want to be an architect. But now I’m considering other things like maybe mechanical or safety engineer.

David Reese, Principal, Bakersfield High School

Public high school/private enterprise partnership is not new. I think what Chevron has done is taken it to a new level. What I see is engagement, and I think that engagement combined with rigor combined with academic content makes the Project Lead The Way classroom an environment that students need in today’s world.

Adam Alvidrez, Chevron employee

When I go in the classroom, I see the students engaged, they’re smiling, they want to learn more, they’re eager to learn more, and they’re also competitive.
**Scott, sophomore**

I just love all the hands-on work. I mean, who in a high school gets to work with gears and motors like that? I was just ecstatic when I got to see stuff we were going to be doing.

**Don Wilmot**

This is a program that I have always dreamed of having. I love teaching it. The kids are excited about it. We're changing the future.