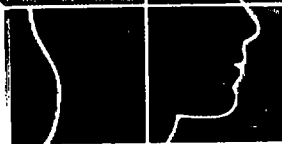


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**CENTER
FOR
ADVANCED
RESEARCH
AND
TECHNOLOGY**



A Joint Powers project of
Clovis Unified School District
Fresno Unified School District

VISION

The Center for Advanced Research and Technology will be a national model for secondary education and provide motivation for students/adults to be better learners by creating education relevant to the workplace. Students will seek further post-secondary education/training and will constitute a highly skilled technology workforce that will create more technology based businesses which will foster economic growth and generate capital for future investments.

MISSION

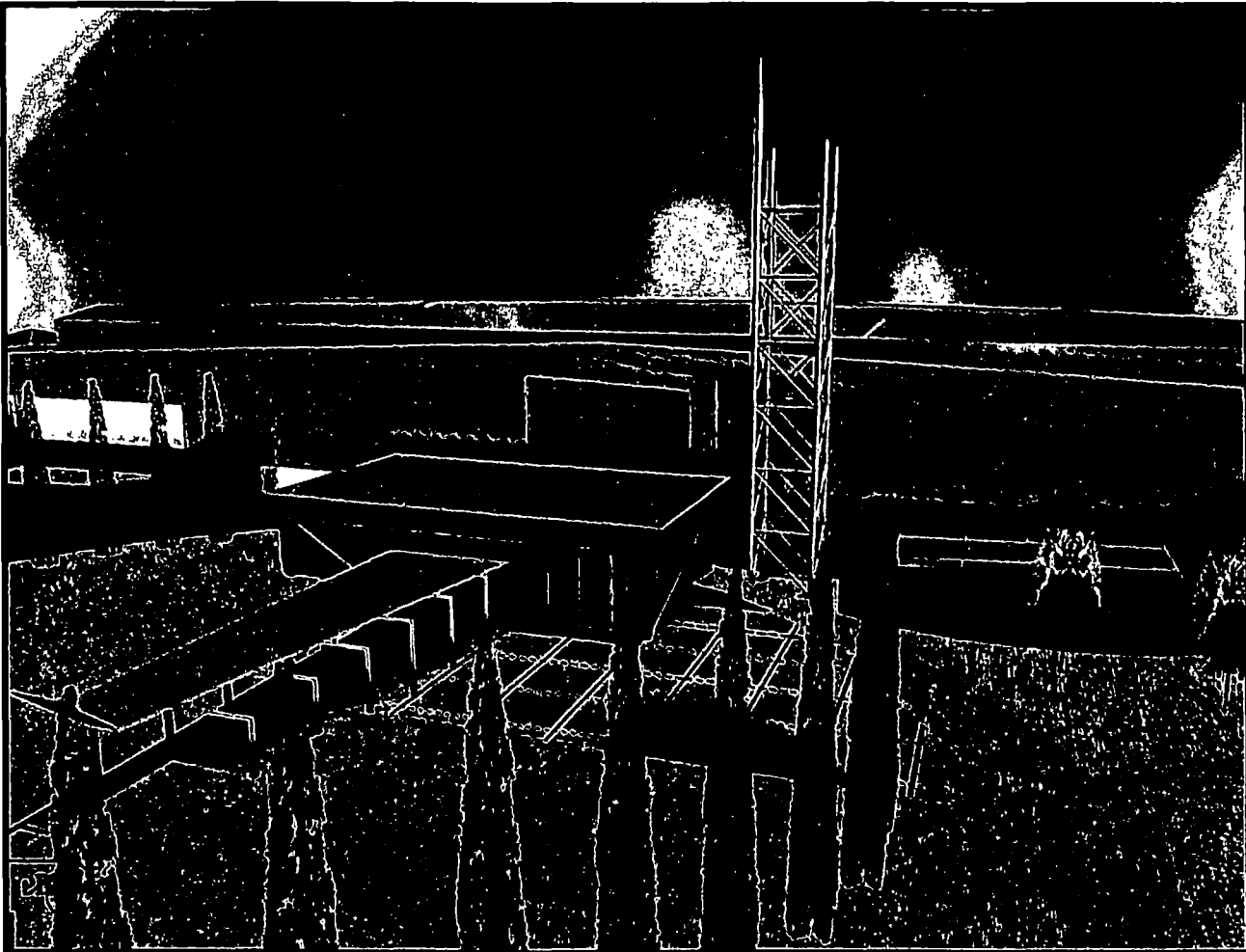
In partnership with education, business and community agencies the Center for Advanced Research and Technology will educate students/adults in a cross curricular, project-based environment that is academically rigorous and facilitated through a business based instructional model.

GOALS

- Provide opportunities for students to acquire entry-level technological positions, industry standard certification, and/or university admission
- Establish collaborative partnerships with local, state, national and global businesses, private and public organizations, and higher education to
 - empower the Center for Advanced Research and Technology to offer coursework that is responsive to challenges in business/industry
 - provide the Center for Advanced Research and Technology with the fiscal capability to provide sophisticated technology environments that are consistent with industry standards
- Establish curriculum that infuses core academic standards into business and industry projects creating a seamless transition between school and the world of work
- Recruit, hire and develop personnel with the vision, skills and knowledge to enable the Center for Advanced Research and Technology to achieve it's mission
- Provide educational experiences in emerging technology areas which offer premiere employment and business opportunities for graduates

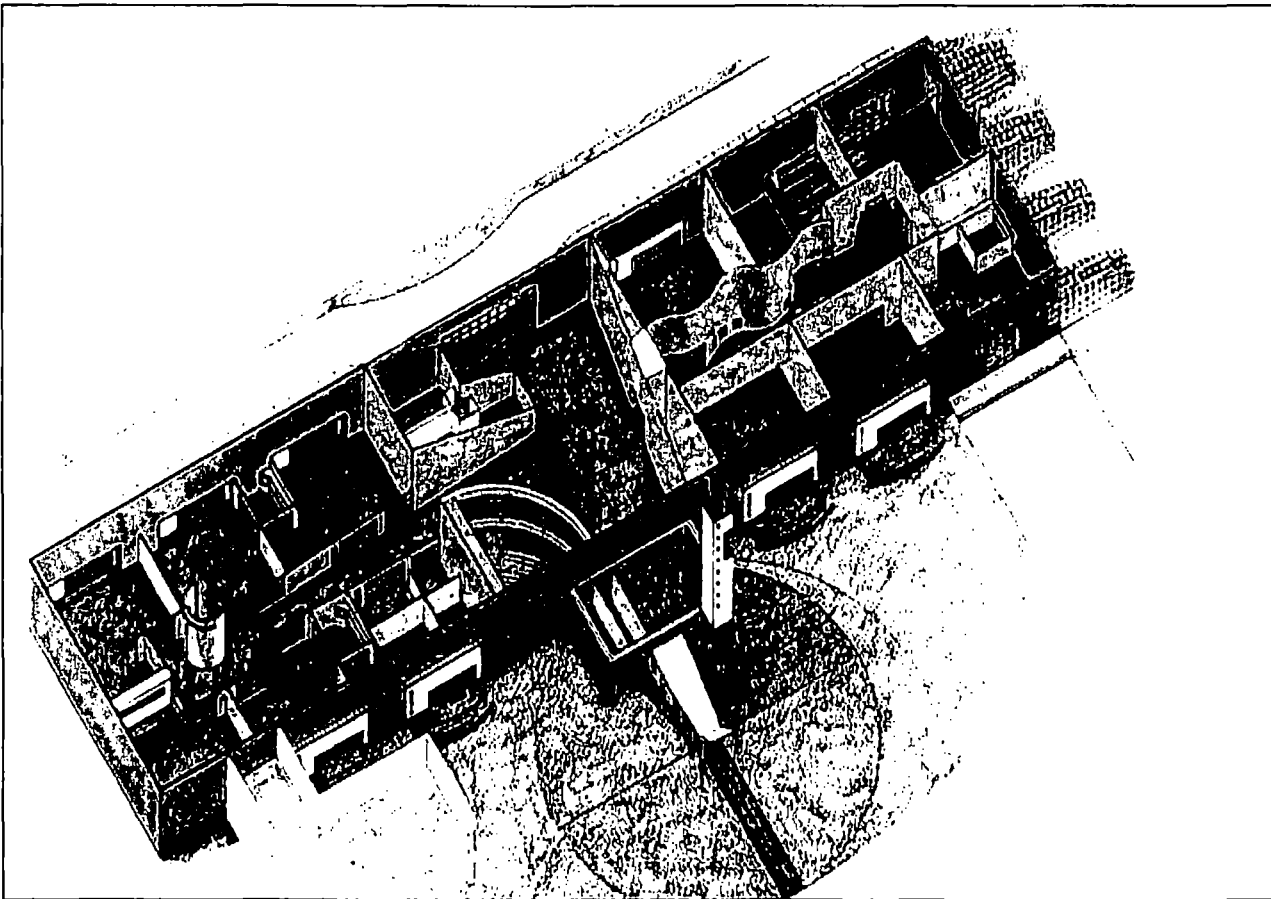


A Joint Powers project of
Clovis Unified School District
Fresno Unified School District



The Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) is a regional center that provides a project based, interdisciplinary learning experience in an environment that emphasizes new and emerging technologies.

Scheduled to open in September 2000



Features

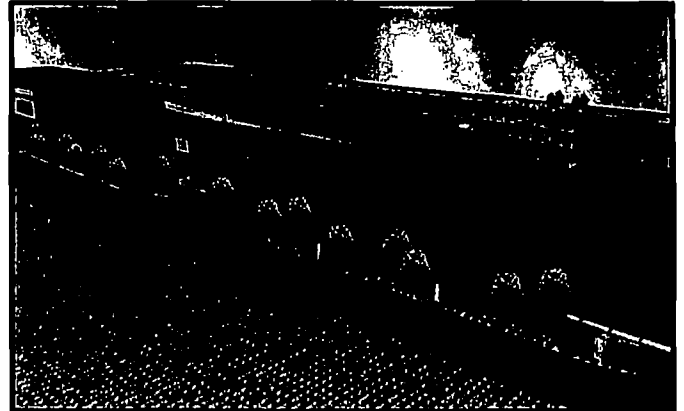
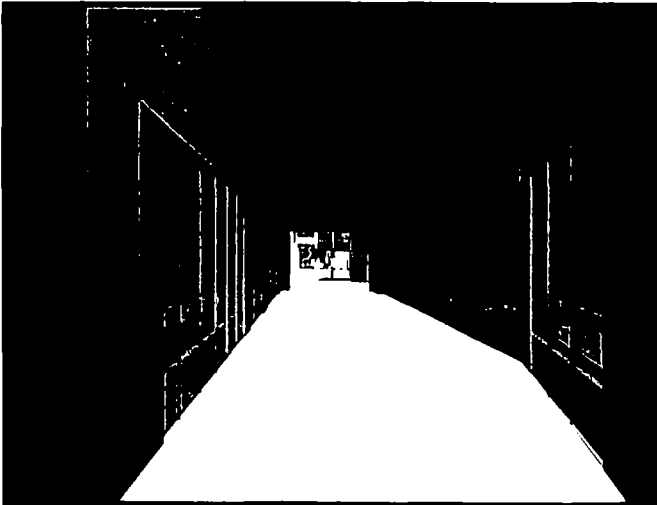
- 18.83 acres
- 53,000 sq. ft. Instructional Space
- 30,000 sq. ft. Office Space
- 11 Laboratory Suites
- Amphitheater Seats 150
- Gallery Area
- Common Use Reference Labs

Agency Partnerships

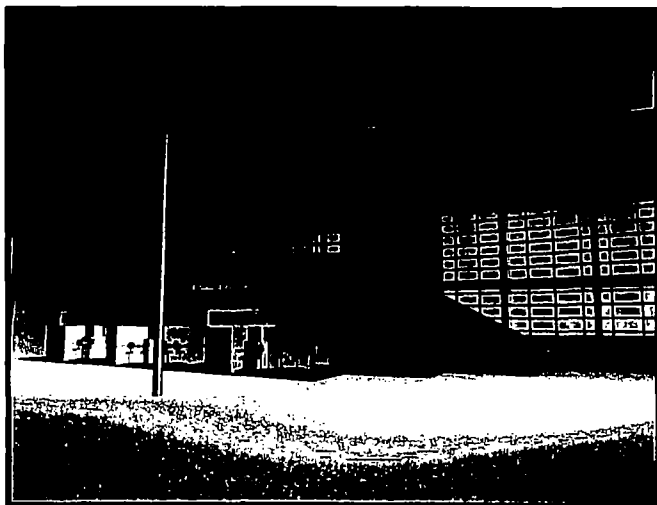
- Central Valley Business Incubator
- Entrepreneurial Training Program
- State Center Community College District
- California State University, Fresno
- Fresno County Office of Education
- University of California, Merced



A Joint Powers project of
Clovis Unified School District
Fresno Unified School District



- **Agricultural Technology**
- **Biomedical Technology**
- **Chemical Technology**
- **Design / Engineering Technology**
- **Environmental Technology**
- **Financial Technology**
- **Information Technology**
- **Logistics & Spatial Technology**
- **Manufacturing Technology**
- **Multimedia Technology**
- **Telecommunications Technology**



Eleven Laboratory Suites that provide an environment responsive to industry needs and changes will offer specialized experiences to high school students and adults. Business Advisory Committees for each lab area will collaborate with educators to provide curriculum that is relevant to the workplace and accepted for college entrance.

CART: COMBINING THE BEST RESOURCES FOR THE BRIGHTEST FUTURE.

THE CART CONCEPT

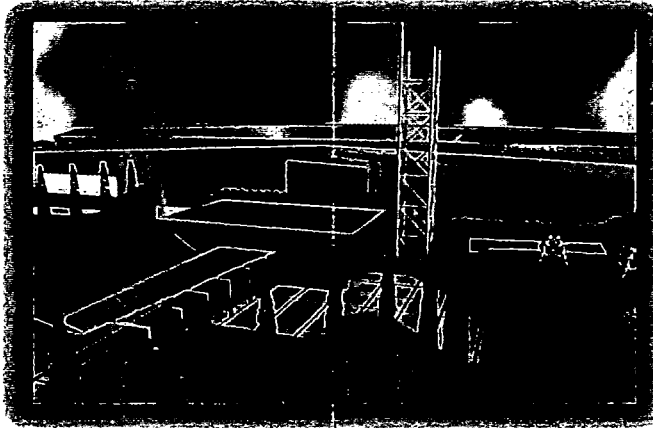
The Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) is an innovative idea in education and career preparation.

The idea behind CART is to provide a state-of-the-art research and technology center in which students work on projects designed by the local, national and international business community. The projects not only give students a taste of the workplace of tomorrow, but the challenge of applying the academic disciplines of English, math and science. The result? Students who leave CART qualified for entry-level technological positions, industry-standard certification, or university admission.

The students – 11th and 12th graders from both the Clovis and Fresno Unified School Districts – are bused to the facility, where they attend half-day classes taught by instructors from both education and business. Community college students and adults also have access to the facility.

CART Laboratory Subjects

- Agriculture
- Biomedical
- Chemical
- Engineering & Design
- Information
- Environmental
- Financial
- Logistics
- Manufacturing
- Multimedia & Marketing
- Telecommunications



THE CART FACILITY

Designed to simulate a high-tech business atmosphere, the 58,000 square foot CART facility is divided into eleven laboratory environments, each unique to a specific type of instruction. The labs are bordered by glass walls, enabling visitor groups to view classes and instruction.

At the center of the facility is a sunken amphitheater, as well as large exhibit and gallery areas.

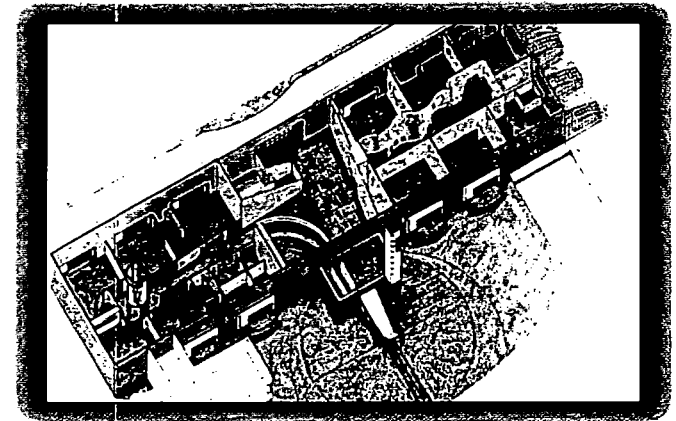
Retractable walls make it possible to combine the amphitheater and exhibit area for large group events. In fact, the entire CART facility is designed to offer maximum flexibility for varying educational demands.

Consistent with CART's high-tech design are two information commons, each offering students individual computer stations with access to a vast electronic research library. A high-speed data/voice/video network with Internet access links all labs, commons, amphitheater and administrative areas.

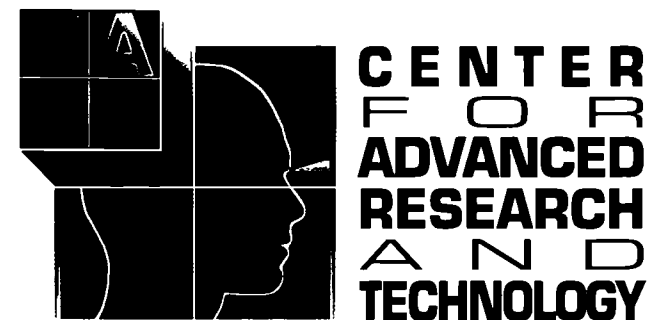
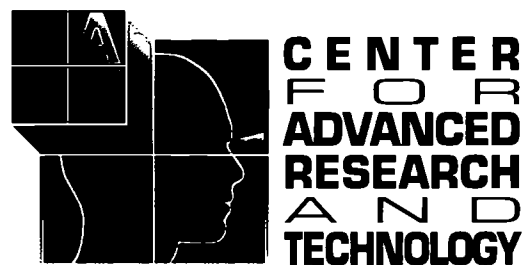
CART ADMINISTRATION

CART is governed by a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) agreement between Clovis Unified School District and Fresno Unified School District. Not only does CART benefit from the combined resources of both districts, but from the shared leadership of district representatives and business leaders.

The CART curriculum is developed by selected groups of teachers who are responsible for the content as well as the teaching of each project-based course. In addition to the curriculum, business and industry participation is provided by an advisory committee for each of the eleven laboratory areas.



**BORN OF THE UNIQUE
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN
EDUCATION, BUSINESS,
AND THE COMMUNITY.**



CART is more than an educational facility, and more than a simulated business environment. It represents a bold new approach to training today's students for tomorrow's technology-based careers.

CART Is...

- An academically-challenging environment in which students learn from educators and business leaders.
- A facility with labs, electronic libraries, amphitheater and exhibit area in multiple configurations.
- Where students qualify for technological positions, industry certification and university admission.
- The first facility of its kind in the Western U.S.
- The result of a joint partnership between Clovis and Fresno Unified School Districts.



**CART – Connecting the classroom
to the real world.**



**WHERE TODAY'S
STUDENTS PREPARE
FOR TOMORROW'S
BUSINESS WORLD.**

For More Information Call:

559-291-0120

Fax: 559-291-0160

2555 Clovis Avenue, Clovis CA 93612

e-mail: pwright@cart.org

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Pamphlet, "CART [Center for Advanced Research and Technology] Vision News," 2 pages



C.A.R.T. VISION NEWS

CAREER LAUNCHING for LIFETIME SUCCESS

TO: Parents, Students, Teachers and Administrators
of the Clovis and Fresno Unified School Districts

Information To Help You Unlock A Students' Full Potential... Using Innovative Concepts In Education and Career Preparation

Something Big is Happening!

There's a revolution taking place in the education arena. The old stigma and stereotypes that have surrounded education for decades are being challenged in a constructive and persuasive manner!

Students, teachers, businessmen/women, as well as parents recognize that a new direction for schools is an important step if educational change is to take place. Changes are what today's students must have to survive and be successful in a technology-laden world that is looking for sound, quick thinkers, experienced in a myriad of technology, business and subject areas of interest.

The C.A.R.T. (Center for Advanced Research and Technology) Program approaches learning as it has never been approached before...to take education and career preparation to new heights and into the next century!

The success of CART is based on the diversity of the regional communities of Fresno and Clovis, where the 80,000 square foot CART facility is located! As a member of this community you can bring new opportunities to your child and school about innovative and technological approaches that you only read about in other schools and other cities.

You can be an integral part of the diversity of experience, opinions, expertise, and perspectives that students, business partners, teachers, and parents are able to offer each other as they learn together in this innovative approach to education and career preparation.

To receive more information and a FREE Report on:
"How To Prepare Teens in High School for A Successful Future And Even Choose A Job They Love!"
check the mail-in form below!

Preparing Students for Future Opportunities

The Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) is designed to emulate a high-tech business atmosphere where qualified 11th and 12th graders from both the Clovis and Fresno Unified School Districts will attend challenging and stimulating coursework in four career clusters: Professional Sciences, Engineering, Advanced Communication and Global Economics.

This unique partnership between school districts paves the road for a major change in education and offers the opportunity to positively influence the future of all students in the San Joaquin Valley; an economic area that is rapidly expanding into high-tech business and new agricultural firms.

Contact us by email today for CART Opportunities!

E-mail: achute@CART.org or visit our website at:

www.CART.org

Why is CART Needed Now, more than ever?

Communities across the United States are reassessing future educational approaches and strategies. A recent March 1999 -Wall Street Journal article posed the Question: Why Has The Senior Year Of High School Lost Its Purpose for Many Kids?

... Forget the idea that the senior year is a time to plan for the future. The emphasis in most states is on passing enough courses to graduate, rather than on taking the right courses to succeed, so enrollment in tough math and science classes drops and so do the minimum requirements that seniors graduate with, in many cases.

37% of seniors graduate with less than the minimums required by the National Commission on Excellence in Education and 23% graduate with just the minimums. Nearly 60% of Graduating Seniors are Affected...

The senior year has gradually become a holding tank for thousands of students!

Here in the Central Valley Business Community... there's concern about the regional supply of future competent workers required for a highly skilled workforce.

Dateline...Wall Street Journal

22% of the students in public four-year colleges take at least one remedial-education course in their first year.

An independent polling organization, Public Agenda, asked if recent high-school graduates had the skills they needed to succeed in college or at work, 68% of employers and 52% of professors said NO. (con't next page)



Mail To:
2555 Clovis Ave.
Clovis, CA
93612

Send Me More Information On the Cart Program

Print your name and address: _____

- ____ Contact me about CART-Walk Through Tour (when scheduled)
____ Would Like to attend informational Meeting @ School Site about CART
____ (name of school and district)
____ Send any information about CART programs
____ Send information about my business getting involved
____ Send my Free Report on "How To Prepare Teens in High School for A Successful Future And Even Choose A Job They Love!"

Upcoming Issue:

REMODEL UPDATE
TEACHER NEEDS
FOR CART
REAL WORLD LABS
BUSINESS PARTNERS

Yes, most adults and educators agree that statistics like these need to be turned around. A highly skilled workforce is indeed a must to provide a more competitive business environment in the future for the Central Valley to remain globally competitive.

This in turn will foster the growth of existing and new companies, which in turn provides investment in other businesses, local education, and the surrounding communities.

Can the schools of today meet the challenges of tomorrow's students?

The CART program located in Clovis, California is addressing many business concerns, through a new, state-of-the-art research and technology facility. The CART facility is designed as a high performance business atmosphere which is organized around four career clusters divided into 12 laboratory classes. This new CART program offers a demanding evaluation process for students, including these important business approaches: **team performance, timely completion of work, high-quality work, and success of the work.**

You can check out a more detailed explanation of the educational offerings at our web site: www.cart.org today!

This 'first-of-its-kind' program will be a national model for secondary education and allows qualified students to combine rigorous academics with various skills, including; technical, design, processing, entrepreneurial, and critical thinking skills. **The CART program is seen as a *Career Launching Pad* where:**

- Students can explore interests in real world settings
- Explore several paths that may lead to multiple or secondary careers
- High academic and industry-standard benchmarks are expected for top performance

Can the CART Program help this student?

A student in a local high school tells his story....

"I didn't have a specific career in mind when I entered the CART program, but after a few projects and conversations with teachers, business mentors, and parents I've discovered an interest in healthcare. I'm a pretty good student. How do I combine my computer interest with healthcare? **How do you encourage students with this fortitude?..** MORE about the advantages for students like this in the next CART newsletter!

Get your students off to a great start, contact CART Today for More Information!!

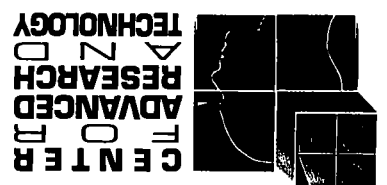
How Does CART Operate?

Eleventh and twelfth grade students from the Clovis and Fresno Unified School districts are transported by bus to CART, where they attend half-day classes in one or more of the laboratories taught by teams of instructors from both education and business. Opportunities abound for parents to become involved in this new approach to education.

Check out these CART Benefits:

- 1- Help** high school students get the Advanced Training they need for Tomorrows' Technology-based Careers.
- 2- Empower** Students to take Control of their Future Career Opportunities through challenging, realistic approaches to learning what they love doing.
- 3- Receive** the Most up-to-date Knowledge and training in technology careers to understand New Approaches and Opportunities in the regional and national business environment.
- 4- Gain information** and a perspective about how technology can and will impact your students and children from professionals in the area of study that You Choose Together.
- 5- Learn what subjects** interest your students in the eleventh and twelfth grade so they are aligned early with the Knowledge and Skills toward a particular Career Path.

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FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATION CENTER
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FRESNO, CA 93721

Congressional Record

RECOGNIZING CART
HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) for their efforts in developing anew model for high school education. CART is a joint project of the Fresno and Clovis Unified School Districts in California.

CART is a collaborative effort between these diverse school districts to develop a new model for high school education. Fresno Unified shares the challenges of urban districts, poverty, gang violence and diversity. Clovis Unified is an affluent district, serving a student population that is college bound. By creating the Center for Advanced Research and Technology the Fresno and Clovis school districts are committed to changing the way high school curriculum is designed and delivered.

In the wake of tragedies at Columbine High School in Denver, and Heritage High School in Conyers, GA, our entire nation has focused their energy on determining why these tragedies occurred. We must look at our nation's high schools. High school graduates must be better prepared to compete for jobs, ready to move on to higher education and able to function in an increasingly technological society. High school education must be restructured to meet the present and future needs of students. Students need and require more and different instruction in science, mathematics and English, coupled with the emerging tools of technology.

The Fresno and Clovis school districts are addressing the need to revamp our nation's high schools. These districts have resolved to commit the resources, share the decision-making, and leverage the assets of both communities to fundamentally change the way the high school curriculum is designed and delivered. The goal is to restructure the high school experience in a way that will contribute to the academic success and ultimately the success in the life of all students.

CART is moving forward as they celebrate a groundbreaking ceremony for this project in Fresno. The Center for Advanced Research and Technology represents the nation's largest, most comprehensive high school reform effort to date. CART is focused specifically on the high school program for eleventh and twelfth grade students. The Fresno and Clovis school districts are partnering with business and industry to create a real-world, real work environment.

CART's long-term, community-based projects will engage students in complex, real world issues that have meaning to the students and to the participating community partners. Through these projects, students achieve simultaneous outcomes by acquiring essential academic knowledge, practicing essential skills, and developing essential values.

A major component of the CART vision is active partnerships with business and industry, and higher education. Leaders from business and industry are involved with CART at all levels providing leadership and fiscal support, consulting on instructional design, and collaborating as instructors and mentors.

Mr. Speaker, the Center for Advanced Research and Technology represents a commitment from the Fresno and Clovis School Districts, the business and education community, parents and students to restructure a high school to provide real world academic and business centered programs designed to contribute to the academic success and ultimately the success in the lives of all students. I urge my colleagues to wish CART continued success in their effort toward better education.

FROM PRINCIPLES TO PRACTICE: MAKING THE LEARNING HAPPEN AT CART



The Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) is the most comprehensive, state-of-the-art education reform effort at the secondary level to date. The CART combines rigorous academics with technical, design, process, entrepreneurial, and critical thinking skills. The 80,000 square foot CART facility, designed to emulate a high performance business environment, is organized around four career clusters – professional sciences, engineering, advanced communication and global economics. Within each cluster are several career-specific laboratories in which students complete industry-based projects and receive academic credit for advanced science, math, English and technology.

Career Cluster	Laboratories
Professional Sciences:	• Biotechnology • Environmental Technology • Agriculture Technology
Engineering:	• Chemical Technology • Engineering/Design Technology
Advanced Communications:	• Multimedia & Graphic Design Technology • Telecommunication Technology • Information Technology
Global Economics:	• Financial Technology • Product Development • Retail & Marketing Technology

Eleventh and twelfth grade students from the Clovis and Fresno Unified School Districts are bused to CART where they attend half-day classes in one or more of the laboratories taught by teams of instructors from both education and business. The partnership between the school districts is a unique opportunity to make systemic change in education and positively influence the future of all students in the San Joaquin Valley, a rapidly expanding economic area for high-tech business and agricultural firms.

The CART Concept: A Career Launching Pad

The CART provides a state-of-the-art research and technology facility where students design and complete projects in collaboration with partners from the local, national, and international business community. Through learning plans, individualized attention, and a coordinated sequence of projects, CART students explore the variety of ways they can achieve their career goals. Working with business partners, teachers, and parents, students design a program of study that qualifies them to pursue the post-secondary path of their choice – from entry-level positions to industry certification to university admission. With the knowledge, skills, and support they receive, students leave CART ready to launch their careers.

CART DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Intellectual Mission:

- Individual learning plans
- Mastery of rigorous content
- Mastery of essential skills – (such as research, analysis, and experimentation)

Personalization:

- School is a collaboration between adults, students, and the community
- Students have a sense of ownership in the school and share responsibility for its successful functioning

Adult World Immersion:

- Workforce and economic development demands are the underpinning of coursework
- Business partners, students, and teachers serve as experts, consultants, and instructors

Career Launching Pad:

- Students explore interests in real world settings
- Multiple entry-points to post-secondary career paths
- High academic and industry-standard benchmarks for performance

Community-wide Stakeholders:

- Parents
- Local, national, and international businesses
- Regional post-secondary institutions and universities
- Chambers of Commerce and Business Councils
- Local and state governments
- Workforce and economic development agencies

FROM PRINCIPLES TO PRACTICE: MAKING THE LEARNING HAPPEN AT CART

Julian's Projects

When Julian entered CART he didn't have an interest in a specific career. However, through his first projects and conversations with his teachers, business mentors, and parents, he discovered a strong interest in healthcare. At the end of his junior year, Julian chose an internship at a private hospital working in the hematology lab where he applied chemistry, biology, and math concepts to assist technicians in the sorting and analysis of blood samples.

In his senior year, Julian refocused his work on an issue that adversely affects his community – unequal access to quality healthcare. After his experience in a private hospital, Julian recognized that many technological amenities are not available to public clinics. His senior year he worked with community healthcare providers and biomedical engineering firms to identify and analyze the most critical technological gaps. Heart disease surfaced as the leading health crisis in the community and local clinics complained of not having access to state-of-the-art heart monitors. As his senior capstone project Julian worked with a biomedical firm to help design an inexpensive, portable EKG machine that would meet the demand for higher quality care in the community.

During his senior year, Julian began working toward certification as a licensed vocational nurse. His long-term goal is to become a biomedical engineer but he believes that a few years working in the direct service of people will help him become a better designer of medical products.

Project-based Learning: Standards, Rigor and Relevance at CART

CART uses long-term, community-based projects to engage students in complex, real-world issues that have meaning to both them and the business community. Through projects, students achieve simultaneous outcomes by acquiring essential academic knowledge (*science, math, English, technology, and finance*), practicing essential skills (*research, analysis, critical and creative thinking, communication, customer services, and project management*), and developing essential values (*mutual respect of ideas, understanding the strength of diversity, mastering workplace competencies, and taking responsibility for one's own learning*). All students are expected to achieve results through a combination of high expectations, perseverance, and personalized support from adults – business partners, teachers and parents – who serve as mentors, collaborators, advocates, experts and assessors. The CART team, students and adults alike, comprise a community of scholars.

The Design Process: Critical Thinking Through Problem Solving

CART students use a multi-step design process to solve real-world problems and demonstrate mastery of skills by producing projects and products. The design process emphasizes rigorous, relevant, scientific-based research that requires students to:

- Identify and define a problem in industry or the community
- Research and analyze necessary information
- Determine industry-based criteria for successful solutions
- Design and choose likely solutions
- Implement their plans
- Evaluate outcomes based on industry standards
- Share results with business mentors, teachers, and parents

The design process is non-linear; students continuously raise questions, challenge assumptions, and consider new perspectives in order to reflect on, reevaluate, and refine their ideas. As they proceed through the design process students ask themselves and others questions, such as: Does my project meet rigorous scientific standards? How does my project benefit others? How can the best solutions be tested and compared? What alternatives have not been considered? As project designers and implementers, CART students learn and practice research, critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation skills. They become self-directed learners capable of fine tuning their entrepreneurial, communication, and project management talents.

FROM PRINCIPLES TO PRACTICE: MAKING THE LEARNING HAPPEN AT CART

From Generalist to Specialist: Using Projects to Focus Interests

Through a sequence of increasingly complex projects – four during their junior year and three during their senior year – CART students explore several of the 11 laboratories and gradually hone their interests.

Over the course of two years, students establish a common understanding of CART, build a general knowledge of a career cluster, and develop industry-recognized skills and expertise.

Projects and individualized learning plans combine mastery of academic skills with industry-specific knowledge, providing students both a broad knowledge base and a specialized skill set that reflect their interests and goals for the future.

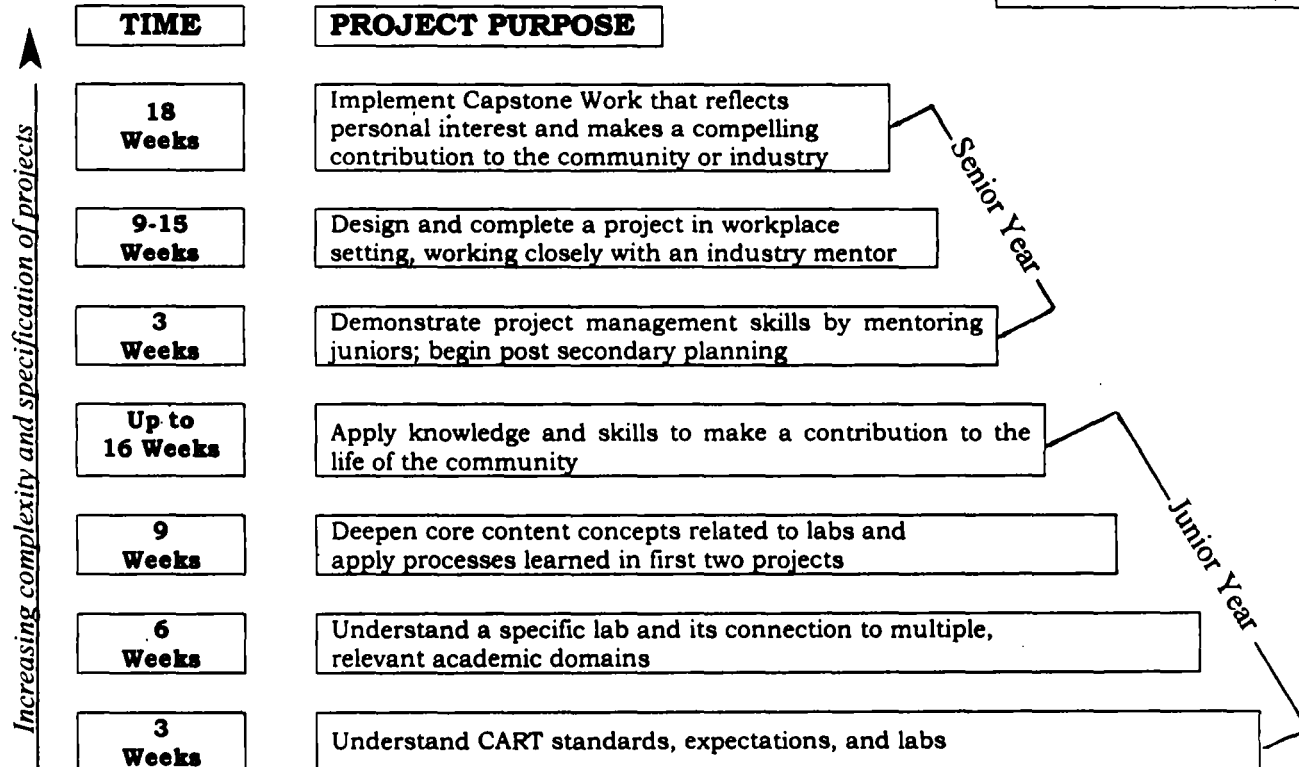
BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Some Key Partners Include

- Lawrence Livermore Labs, Microsoft, Pacific Bell, A T & T Wireless, P. G. & E., and dozens of other national and local businesses that support the activities of CART's eleven laboratories
- Fresno County Office of Education, State Center Community College District, California State University, Fresno, the University of California, and other local, regional, and national agencies

National Affiliations:

- Chosen as a national model for the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
- Member of Jobs for the Future's Connected Learning Communities Network



FROM PRINCIPLES TO PRACTICE: MAKING THE LEARNING HAPPEN AT CART

REVISITING TEACHING & LEARNING

New Roles for Teachers:

Teachers collaborate with business partners on the design, delivery, and assessment of instruction. They expand their traditional classroom role to become modelers, designers, collaborators, managers, researchers, facilitators, assessors – and above all, learners.

New Roles for Students:

Students use personal interests, real world demands, and academic curricula to become designers, project managers, entrepreneurs, researchers, advisors, teachers, and independent, self-directed learners.

New Roles for Families:

Families are active participants in CART – collaborating with their students and teachers and business partners to design individualized learning plans. Through classes and projects geared to adults, parents can engage in their own ongoing learning at CART.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

CENTER FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY
(CART)
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Clovis, CA 93612
Call: (559) 291-0120
FAX: (559) 291-0160
e-mail: achute@cart.org

All Together Now: Partnerships with Business and Higher Education

A major component of the CART vision is active partnerships with business and industry and higher education. Leaders from business and industry are involved with CART at all levels – providing leadership and fiscal support, consulting on instructional design, and collaborating as instructors and mentors. Through the laboratories and the Central Valley Business Incubator and the resources of the Entrepreneurial Training program (*which are housed at CART*) students and businesses realize mutual benefits by participating in research and development that enhances learning and directly contributes to community interests. CART partnerships with post-secondary institutions provide articulation between secondary and higher education curricula. Through these partnerships, CART students can conduct projects that combine lab classes with courses at the community college or university level, on-line courses, and other certification programs and options.

The Bigger Picture: The CART Community

CART assumes a shift in expectations for staff, students, and families. All members of the CART community – students, faculty, administrators, and parents – teach *and* learn. Effort, talent, and enthusiasm are expected from everyone. This fundamental principle is reflected in performance policies for students and teachers. Three grades are given at CART: “A,” “B” and “Not Yet.”

Students are held to the highest academic and industry standards – either their work meets those standards or it doesn't. Teachers' success at CART is determined by the ability of their students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. Student work is regularly critiqued by members of the business community, CART staff and parents. Through this on-going public accountability, teachers receive continuous feedback on ways they can improve and expand their work as facilitators, managers, assessors, and modelers.

Finally, the success of CART is based on the diversity of its community – the diversity of experience, opinions, expertise, and perspectives of students, business partners, teachers, and parents. All members of the community are called on to share and comment on ideas, work, and practices. The strength of CART is the way in which it asks each person to learn from and teach one another.

Editorial

A graduate with a guarantee

CART school innovations set an example for collaboration the entire world can learn from.

About 2,000 Valley students will hit the equivalent of the educational lottery next year at this time when the student body is selected for the Center for Advanced Research and Technology, a high school unlike anything this country has ever seen.

This is not high-tech high. Those gadget-heavy institutions are popping up all over America and despite millions poured into technology, they are failing dismally at moving the needle of accomplishment in the traditional areas we use to measure learning: test scores, dropout rates, attendance.

This institution is different. The center is a collaboration among the Fresno and Clovis unified school districts, the Central Valley Business Incubator, the Entrepreneurial Training Program, the State Center Community College District, California State University, Fresno, the Fresno County Office of Education and the University of California at Merced. It is also getting help from the Fresno Business Council.

David "Pat" Wright not the principal but the chief executive officer had a blunt reaction when he was considering the job here and saw all the groups that were going to be required to cooperate. "Yea, right."

We understand. That is pretty much the reaction from most of us when education gurus go off on their next fad diet, always promising education with "more flavor, less filling."

But Wright, Clovis Superintendent Walter Buster and Fresno Unified Superintendent Carlos Garcia are sophisticated educators who don't really have a lot of interest in spending precious money testing out some graduate student's doctoral dissertation. All three men have seen behind the educational curtain and they realize that big learning gains will be made here only with radical new thinking about how students absorb and apply that information to the real world. The rest of the team is equally committed to real change.

Even the language and culture of CART is different. There are not classrooms, but technology laboratories including environmental, agricultural, chemical and financial and telecommunications.

Students will work on real-world projects with businesses. The finance students, for instance, will run their own bank branch. Grades will be A, B, "not yet" and "maybe never." Forget those dreaded nine-week report cards. The CEO will be apprised of each person's performance on a daily basis.

There will be no bake sales for CART. Microsoft has already taken notice to the tune of \$1.2 million; PacBell is investing \$125,000 cash and \$125,000 in in-kind services. There is ample opportunity for the Valley's corporate community to take on this challenge.

And CART graduates will come with guarantees. Teens who graduate from CART are guaranteed success in their next step jobs or college, or they can return for more training free.



There will be no bake sales for CART. Microsoft has already taken notice to the tune of \$1.2 million; PacBell is investing \$125,000 cash and \$125,000 in in-kind services. There is ample opportunity for the Valley's corporate community to take on this challenge.

And CART graduates will come with guarantees. Teens who graduate from CART are guaranteed success in their next step jobs or college, or they can return for more training free. This school, designed to supplement classes in the last two years of high school, is a welcome development for average students, who have so long been undeserved in education. Millions are poured into research for the "gifted," "talented," "at-risk" and "special needs" students, leaving a big swath in the middle ignored by comparison. For most of the highest-level students, there probably won't be time for CART because their schedules are already packed full of Advanced Placement courses.

CART will be most appealing to the student for whom a textbook is not enough, for that student who really needs to understand why algebra is worth her time, for that restless guy who learns best by doing. That's superb.

The best contribution for CART, if it is as successful as we expect, will be the example it will set for all public policy in the Valley. This demonstrates that there are visionaries among us who can help us accomplish good here that the global community can learn from.

A lot of very impressive and promising things are going on here. We have the brain-power to meet our own challenges.

Already Wright has spoken about CART to an international meeting of the National Association of Secondary School Principals in Helsinki, Finland. Even though the school is still a year away from opening, the NASSP has given the project a rare endorsement.

Any time you are feeling a little insecure about the potential for greatness in the Valley, drive out to Clovis and Santa Ana avenues where the laboratories are being built or better yet,

sign onto their Web site at www.cart.org and get a virtual tour. Watch the future under construction.

Pacific Bell \$125,000 gift brings CART nearer to goal

By Jenny McGill
Independent Staff Writer

Pat Wright's nights of tossing and turning could soon be over.

More than half the money and supplies needed for startup of the Center for Advanced Research and Technology has been pledged, allowing the innovative new school to outfit 11 state-of-the-art technology laboratories.

Wright, CART's chief executive officer, told board members earlier this year that he had lost sleep worrying about how to raise the approximately \$1 million needed for each laboratory. The school is continuing to receive money and in-kind donations and Wright said the school is "a little ahead of

schedule" in raising the needed funds. The Pacific Bell Foundation recently awarded CART \$125,000 and an equal amount of in-kind donations for school operations.

Wright said the donation will be used to design the school's telecommunications laboratory and for equipment.

Pacific Bell employees will help design the curriculum in the telecommunications area and lecture and mentor students. Pacific Bell's donation is similar to donations of equipment and expertise CART has received from other businesses.

"Access to technology is a must for any community to

succeed in today's global economy," Wright said. "Pacific Bell's grant will help ensure that our children have the technological expertise to lead California into the new millennium."

In each of the 11 laboratories, academic expectations will be combined with business-industry standards, Wright said.

CART, a joint project of the Clovis and Fresno unified school districts, is administered by a joint-powers board with representatives from each school district, the business sector and the community. The school, located in the former Grundfos Pump buildings on Clovis Avenue, will open in



Pat Wright

focused on areas including biotechnology, environmental technology, agriculture, multimedia and graphic design, telecommunication and information technology. The students will

September 2000 with 11th- and 12th-grade students from Clovis and Fresno.

The school will have 11 technology laboratories

have the opportunity to train in the laboratories using a curriculum designed by educators and the business community. The school has been named a National Model for Secondary Education by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

CART students will work on projects designed by local, national and international businesses. The laboratories will allow students to become acquainted with the business sector and learn to apply other subject areas to their work in the laboratories. CART students will be qualified for entry-level technological jobs, industry-standard certified and eligible for

university or college admission upon graduation.

Other companies donating to CART are the Foundation for Clovis Schools, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, AT&T Wireless and Microsoft. Other major national companies have pledged money and in-kind donations, but these have not been officially announced. They include \$600,000 from a financial institution for a financial technology lab and \$400,000 pledged by a local shopping center for a retail merchandising laboratory.

Recruitment for students is scheduled to begin in December, and orientation for students will be held in April and May 2000.

CART receives \$250,000 gift from Pacific Bell

By Jenny McGill

Independent Staff Writer

A \$250,000 donation will be used to design a telecommunications laboratory and install state-of-the-art equipment at the Center for Advanced Research and Technology.

The Pacific Bell Foundation awarded CART \$125,000 and an equal amount in in-kind donations for the new school's operations. Pacific Bell employees will not only design the laboratory and develop the curriculum for the laboratory, but also lecture and mentor students.

"We will be combining academic standards with business-industry standards," said Pat Wright, CART chief executive officer.

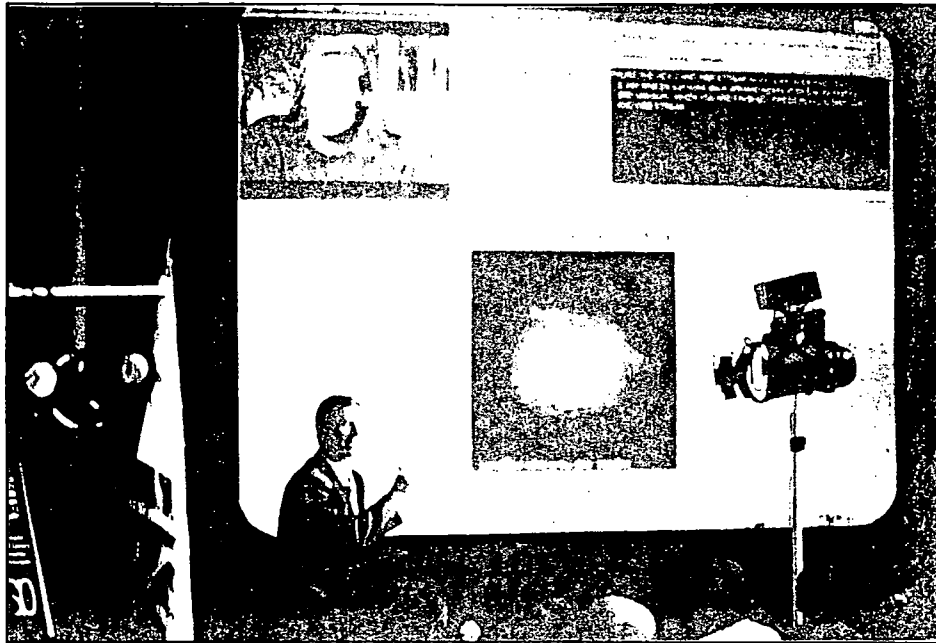
CART, a joint project of the Clovis and Fresno unified school districts, is administered by a joint power board with representatives of each school district, the business sector and the community.

The school, located in the former Grundfos Pump buildings on Clovis Avenue, will open in September 2000 with 11th- and 12th-grade students from Clovis and Fresno.

The school will have 11 technology laboratories focused on different technology areas. The students will have the opportunity to train in the laboratories using a real work force curriculum designed by educators and the business community.

The school has been named a national model for secondary education by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

"Pacific Bell has pledged to serve and support the people and communities in which it operates, and they've made good on that pledge," Wright said. "This donation embodies the spirit of Pacific Bell and its employees, and the funding will go a long way to-



During a recent renovation groundbreaking ceremony, Pat Wright, chief executive office of the Center for Advanced Research and Technology, demonstrates how students will be able to get current information from the Internet rather than looking at old photos in a textbook.

ward making CART a success."

Pacific Bell representatives said the company has a history of supporting community organizations.

"This donation will help make it possible to teach students about the latest advancements in telecommunications technology, so they are better equipped to enter the work force or attend college—whatever their preference," said Eric Johnson, Pacific Bell external affairs executive director. "Pacific Bell is committed to local

communities like Fresno and Clovis where our own employees live and work, and where our children go to school."

While the telecommunications laboratory will offer communications training, other labs will focus on agriculture, biomedical, chemical, engineering and design, information, environment, finances, logistics, manufacturing and multimedia and marketing.

CART students will work on projects designed by local, national

and international businesses. The laboratories will not only allow students to become acquainted with the business sector but also how to apply other subject areas to their work in the laboratories. CART students will be qualified for entry-level technological jobs, and they will be industry-standard certified for university or college admission when they have graduated.

Pacific Bell has joined the Foundation for Clovis Schools, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, AT&T Wireless and Microsoft in donating to CART. Other major national companies have pledged money and in-kind donations, but their offers have not been officially announced, Wright said.

"It is an exciting and challenging time," Wright said, in explaining the ongoing work to secure money and materials for the new school. He said that businesses "seem to like the approach we have taken" in the design of the school.

7-8-98

Microsoft grants \$1.2 million to new high-technology school

BY GIGI HANNA

THE FRESNO BEE

Microsoft has donated \$1.2 million to a high-technology program for high school students, Fresno and Clovis school officials announced Tuesday at a joint news conference.

The Center for Advanced Research and Technology, scheduled to open in 2000, will use the money to train students for the job market, said David "Pat" Wright, the director of CART.

In his first public appearance as chief executive officer of the high-tech school, Wright told a group of about 50 business people and educators that the money will help keep the school's programs up to date.

"If it works now, it's already obsolete," Wright said.

Microsoft and CART will work together to ensure that students are equipped with advanced technological skills and practical experiences that will help them in the business world. The grant includes software, training and support services.

CART will serve up to 1,400 Clovis and Fresno 11th- and 12th-grade students. The students will work on projects designed by the business community to challenge them with rigorous academic concepts.

The center will consist of 11 "working laboratories," where students will focus

on disciplines including biotechnology, manufacturing technology, agriculture, transportation and environmental technology. It will feature computers and digital communication equipment.

"Microsoft is stepping forward today to say, 'We believe in this project, we believe in the Central Valley,'" said Chuck Dietrick, general manager of the company's Northern California district.

Clovis Unified officials began meeting with Microsoft officials two years ago about participating in a different district program when they piqued the interest of a Microsoft employee, now based in Seattle, who had been raised in the Central Valley.

"They need a trained work force, one with a strong work ethic and strong basic skills," said Walter Buster, superintendent for Clovis Unified.

"This gives them the kind of workers they need. It is also good for us because it ensures that Fresno and Clovis students get the very best. 'I've rarely seen people in private enterprise so dedicated to education,'" Buster said.

"I think it's long overdue," agreed Carlos Garcia, Fresno Unified superintendent. "We need to be more customer oriented. The customer is the student, and it's also the business community."

Officials also announced that PacBell donated \$10,000 to CART.

AT&T donates \$10k to CART

By Scott A. Mayes

Independent Staff Writer

AT&T Wireless Inc. has donated \$10,000 to the Center for Advanced Research and Technology. The CART board of directors honored AT&T for the donation at its monthly board meeting June 2.

No specific direction has been designated for the money at this time. The school is still 18 months away from its first semester.

"As we're getting ready to launch 11 different labs, AT&T was generous enough to step up to the plate and say we want to be part of CART," said Kathy Eide, communications and grants consultant to the Clovis Unified School District. "They realize students [who attend CART] will have a higher education base than a standard high school curriculum."

CART board chairman Dick Johanson said the donation shows a definite relationship between business and education. "We're very grateful to AT&T, not only for a generous gift, but it emphasizes the relationship that's going to exist between business and education once the CART is operational," he said. "This is an example of the spirit between business and education we hope we'll continue to see as we go along. We're most appreciative of AT&T's generosity."

Richard Douglas, project manager for AT&T, said the company doesn't plan to make any specifications on the use of the money.

"We'd like to see it go to a telecommunications lab, but they will put the money wherever it's necessary to get things started. They need the ability to put the money wherever they need it to get [CART] off the ground."

Douglas said AT&T donated the money because they believe in what CART stands for. "It's right in line with AT&T's goals," he said, "education and technology development. We just believe in CART."

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rebound in midst of lawsuit

By Doreen Oken

Staff Writer

A lawsuit over a copy machine may not be the undoing of the Reedley Chamber of Commerce, but it certainly hasn't bolstered the financially strapped nonprofit.

Serving a community of nearly 20,000 residents and more than 200 members, the struggling chamber recently lost its director and is attempting to rebound from dire financial straits.

Back in November 1997, the chamber sought help from the city of Reedley, which partly funds the chamber's annual budget of \$70,000. The city responded by awarding a lump sum of \$11,666.

Since then, the chamber's board of directors has worked to balance the budget and return the nonprofit organization to solvency. A business plan was developed late last year and the chamber voted to dump most of its fund-raising efforts to concentrate

on delivering services to members and boosting Reedley's economic development.

All that effort seemed to be working — that is, until the chamber was served with a civil law suit in January.

The suit stems from an agreement concerning a state-of-the-art copy machine. The chamber contracted with Select Business Systems for the machine in December 1997. The contract included the copier and a service agreement that totaled nearly \$600 per month, a fee the struggling chamber evidently

See Reedley, page 17

CART rolls out latest plans, starts construction for new facility next week

By Michele D'Ambrosio

Staff Writer

A clearly defined path is emerging for CART, the developing technology school set to transform Valley high school students into competent workforce candidates.

CART, an acronym for the Center for Advanced Research and Technology, will start construction on its cutting-edge facility in Clovis next week. The center has been billed as unpar-



**CENTER
FOR
ADVANCED
RESEARCH
AND
TECHNOLOGY**

alleled and innovative, and its developing model is stirring more curiosity

as it nears the opening date of September 2000.

As it stands, the center is expected to include 11 laboratories with concentrations in four career clusters:

- professional sciences
- engineering
- advanced communications

- global economics

The center's approach to education

will differ from traditional teaching models in that it will foster a business-like atmosphere where students gain hands-on experience, including the operation of retail store and a bank.

"Our goal is to actually open a bank in the financial industry laboratory," said CART chief executive Pat Wright. "In addition to assuming responsibility

See CART, page 17

SkyWest grounded in South Valley with airport reconstruction project

By Michele D'Ambrosio

Staff Writer

Visalia Municipal Airport's only commercial carrier, SkyWest Airlines, will discontinue flights for part of the summer as a result of reconstruction at the airport.

While SkyWest officials say they were surprised that the airport will shut down its runway for the eight-

week project instead of working in increments, an airport executive said there was no other way. Reconstruction of the runway is necessary because an overlay placed in 1984 was later determined to expand and contract differently than the underlying asphalt, causing cracks and peaks, said Mario Cifuentes, airport operations special-

ist. Visalia Municipal Airport is primarily a hub for private and cargo aircraft, but Cifuentes said only SkyWest Airlines will be effected by the reconstruction.

SkyWest determined that its Brasilia planes could not safely use the airport's runway alternative — a taxiway that cargo carriers will use. SkyWest planes are

larger than the cargo carriers.

That means travelers scheduled for flights from May 17 to July 9 will need to make other arrangements. Although officials haven't figured out how many people will be impacted, SkyWest typically boards about 800 passengers a month in Visalia.

See SkyWest, page 21

Conference

Continued from page 1

produces more than \$800 billion in goods and services annually, making it the seventh largest economy in the world and the prime hemispheric "gateway" for trade in the United States, according to the secretary.

"How can we stay competitive in

the global marketplace well into the 21st century? What can we expect for Central Valley exports?" Hatamiya asked.

He will address those issues at the conference.

Joining Hatamiya will be Cherie C. Watte, of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and Luis Ma. R. Calingo, a professor of international management at the Monterey Institute of International

Studies. Other topics for the conference will include:

- Agricultural exports — international feast or famine
- A business survival guide to the Asian crisis
- The future of Latin America
- The big emerging markets

Local business leaders and entrepreneurs are encouraged to attend, particularly those in exporting, air freight, economic development, agriculture, manu-

facturers and food processors.

Conference participants will have an opportunity to network, to develop new business ideas and to identify new business leads, according to event planners.

The conference is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and registration is \$59 in advance. For further information, contact event sponsor Fresno City College Export Center at 323-4689.

- Staff Report

CART

Continued from page 1

for the profitable operation of a bank, the students will be preparing marketing plans to go to schools to encourage students to conduct business with the bank. It will be a real bank. Our goal here is not just to have a partner with a bank sign in place and monopoly money."

The partnerships Wright anticipates with business go well beyond the plans for the bank lab. Another lab will be nurtured by a partnership with a shopping center and will help train students in retail merchandising and marketing.

CART has been modeled after a number of school-to-career programs and endeavors to narrow the gap between academic skills and industry standards. Business already has taken a role in providing in-kind contributions and other donations, as well as direct input in the development of the curriculum.

Wright said there is legitimate concern about student's preparedness for the "real world." CART's partnerships with business are expected to bring relevancy to the curriculum and "in essence, answer the most often asked question by America's high school junior and seniors: 'Why do I have to learn this stuff?'" he said.

In fact, Wright is so certain that CART students will graduate as com-

petent, well-trained employees in their respective areas, that he's guaranteeing they'll add value to their employers' business from the first day. "We intend to offer a money back guarantee," he said. "If [graduates] do not add value, CART will take them back and train them at our own expense."

CART is an approximately \$16 million facility which is being largely financed by a zero-interest bond. It is expected to serve 2,000 high school juniors and seniors during the day and another 2,000 adult students in the late afternoon and evening. "It's by far the largest and most comprehensive project in the country," Wright said.

The adult students expected to use

CART will be from the State Center Community College District, which oversees several local campuses including Fresno City College.

"The expectation is that we will establish a connected curriculum patterned along the school-to-career model," said Richard "Dick" Giese, vice chancellor of external operations for SCCCD. "High school students could take a high school program, graduate and step into a community college program that was coordinated with the high school program so that they would not necessarily have to repeat some of the entry level courses."

Giese said the SCCCD would continue to meet with CART facilitators in an effort to continue to clarify objectives before the center opens next year.

Reedley

Continued from page 1

could not afford.

Chuck Carson, then the chamber's executive director, signed the contract for the copier. Carson says he signed the lease agreement at the direction of then chamber board officers Bob Lowery, Fred Hall and Kelly Hohenbrink.

Lowery, president of Kings River

acting under the board's directions and "had nothing to do with the copier being returned." He said that because the case was in litigation he would not comment further, and neither would Russ Hose, the attorney representing the chamber in the case.

Select Business delivered the copier to the chamber in December 1997 and picked it up in July 1998 after the chamber had defaulted on its lease agreement, said Select president Todd Mumma. Mumma also said that his company had lost as much as \$5,000 because of unpaid

legal name is Robert Hodgson. The application for right to attach includes both Hodgson and the Reedley Chamber of Commerce.

As if that wasn't enough on the chamber's plate, the chamber has also experienced high turnover in management.

Last fall, the chamber hired a new permanent executive director, Cheryl Lingo, who resigned the post as of April 30. She cited her desire to pursue her own business venture in marketing as the reason for leaving.

The new board president is

actually pays for its rent altogether.

The City of Reedley, which helps fund the chamber, has scheduled a meeting with the group's board for later this month to assess the situation and review goals and performance, according to Reedley Mayor Joe Rhodes.

The special city council meeting will include both the Reedley Chamber and the Reedley Downtown Association, which also receives city funding. Rhodes said Deborah Nankivell, executive director of the Fresno Business Council, will facili-

Companies look to CART for future tech workers

By Jonathan Franks

Staff Writer

The Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) is coming to a 53,000-square-foot warehouse near you — and it's going to revolutionize the way Fresno and Clovis high school students learn.

It isn't a vocational school, but it will prepare young people for jobs in the high-tech sector.

It isn't a school for gifted children, but it's certain to attract its share of future Ivy Leaguers.

It isn't a continuation school, but kids who are turned off by the standard academic fare may find themselves turned on by CART's project-based, hands-on learning environment.

See CART, page 29



See page 5 for more on CART

CART

Continued from page 1

"I think this project is so exciting it'll wind up on the cover of Time," said former Grundfos Pumps Corp. president Jerry Cook, who serves on CART's Joint Powers Authority Board. "It'll be a great catalyst for attracting new industry to the area."

The joint powers agreement represents a unique alliance between Fresno and Clovis unified school districts. Other backers include state and community colleges, local business organizations and some of the Valley's largest employers.

The new high-tech high school will be housed in the old Grundfos Pumps warehouse in Clovis, an arrangement Cook and several other CART stewards have been working on for about two years. If all goes as planned, its doors will open to students in early 2000.

Current blueprints call for 11 learning "laboratories" covering virtually every high-tech trade from aerospace system design to water quality management. An estimated 1500-2300 students will use CART's state-of-the-art equipment each school day.

CART boosters hope most of this stuff will be donated by sponsoring businesses.

Local companies are already eyeing the project as a good source of tech-savvy trainees — a scarce commodity, given the Valley's agriculture-based labor environment.

"There are limited hiring opportunities available locally in health care (technology)," said David Connor, senior vice president and chief financial officer at Saint Agnes Medical Center, which CART lists as a business partner.

CART graduates will make good recruits for technical jobs, Connor predicts, noting that the program will benefit all Central Valley health care providers.

SAMC spokeswoman Kelly Sanchez said the hospital recently donated \$25,000 to CART and hopes to sponsor an internship there.

PG&E, another CART benefactor and business partner, would love to see more students trained in technology-based math and science, said cus-

tomers service director Michael Savage.

But the entire area stands to benefit from CART, Savage said, which meshes perfectly with PG&E's traditional role as donor to community programs. "What really sets CART apart is that it's a truly regional effort," he said.

According to CART administrator Don Ulrich, a vice principal with Clovis Unified School District, the program will work in concert with normal course work so kids can still take classes in humanities, languages and the arts at their home high schools and participate in extra-curricular school activities.

When up and running, CART will offer two or three sessions per school day, each one lasting about three hours. "The idea here is we motivate students by showing them the world of work and how it relates to education," Ulrich said.

Cook said acceptance at the new school will not be automatic. Students will have to apply for admis-

Fresno professor Timothy M. Stearns, who holds the Edward M. Reighard Chair in Entrepreneurship at CSUF and works closely with the Central Valley Business Incubator, said there's a certain "elegance" to having these outfits under the same roof.

Once young people are exposed to the entrepreneurial process, their enthusiasm builds rapidly, he said. "They tend to start seeing things through a different lens, instead of just saying, 'Gee, where can I get a job?'"

Sterne runs a program that teaches young people drawn from 21 area high schools to write their own business plans, and he says he's excited at the prospect of working with CART kids.

Obviously, CART's effectiveness as a learning resource rests on its acceptance by students themselves. If few wish to attend — or if the program attracts more than its share of goof-offs — it won't be the dazzling success everybody's predicting.

"Once young people are exposed to the entrepreneurial process, their enthusiasm builds rapidly. They tend to start seeing things through a different lens, instead of just saying, 'Gee, where can I get a job?'"

— Timothy M. Stearns

sion, though the screening process has yet to be devised.

"This isn't a trade or vocational school like the automotive or metal shops they had when I was in high school," said Cook. "It will be a privilege for kids to be accepted here. We'll have the whole spectrum of young people, all the way from those who want to work right after graduation ... to those who want to end up at Stanford or Harvard."

The inspiring nature of CART's curriculum — and its partnerships with the Entrepreneurial Training Center and Business Incubator, which are also located at Grundfos — may spark some of the more creative graduates to start their own high-tech businesses, Cook said.

California State University,

But one education expert says there's every indication CART will be a hit with young people.

Deanna Evans-Schilling, a professor of education at CSUF and a nationally-known expert in student motivation and gifted children's programs, said kids are generally enthusiastic about using computers.

Three powerful human needs are met when project-based course work is done on computers, she said: psychological safety, "love needs" and self esteem.

The ability to spell-check or calculate automatically makes children feel more secure about their work and frees them to be more creative, she said, while collaborating on projects fulfills their need for love by encouraging teamwork and friendship.

As for self-esteem, computers provide a sense of power and capability in most kids, giving them a positive sense of themselves.

"The project as it's described should lead to very high levels of motivation," Evans-Schilling said.

Asked if critics might fault the program for de-emphasizing books, she said the on-line, high-tech world these students will enter does in fact encourage strong verbal skills. "They're obviously going to be doing a lot of reading in their labs," she said.

Gifted children should thrive, given the program's independent, business-based model, she said. "Getting them started and getting out of the way is the best way to educate them."

Kids who are struggling in school can also thrive when exposed to the high-tech world, she said — as long as they're given all the help and encouragement they need in the early learning stages.

Citing a non-reader she knows who eventually became a high-paid computer consultant, Evans-Schilling said, "When a child starts having success in one area, there's a halo effect, and they start to do well in areas we haven't even explored."

According to administrator Ulrich, CART is breaking new ground. Only one other high technology-based secondary school — New Technology High School in Napa — operates west of the Rockies, he said, and it's built around a different model.

JoAnne Miller, New Technology High's spokeswoman, confirmed this. Students attend full-time, she said, and steep themselves in general computer lore, rather than choose from a variety of industries.

All learning is accomplished through computer applications and the Internet, she said. By way of example, she cited a recent project on World War I propaganda, in which students produced a multi-media CD-ROM.

New Technology High's students are happy with the curriculum, it would seem. During Miller's conversation with The Business Journal, a noisy group of students entered her office. Asked what young people thought of the school, she simply relayed the question to them.

"We love it!" chorused several students.

"We don't even want to go home!" hollered another.

The Wright stuff

Name: David Pat Wright - brother Pat
Age: 44
Education: BA English, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga
MED: education administration and supervision, University of Georgia, Carrollton
EDS: education administration and supervision, University of Georgia, Carrollton
First job: Teacher/football coach
Hobby: Cooking

New CEO sees national recognition for CART

By Earl Wright
 CUSD Today

Pat Wright said he has been given a blank sheet of paper to create a national model for preparing youngsters for the 21st century.

"Now that is true (educational) reform," he said.

Wright, 44, was introduced in July as the CEO of the Center for Advanced Research and Technology, a joint project of the Clovis and Fresno unified school districts that will welcome its first students in the year 2000. The center will feature a business-like setting with 11 laboratory environments where eleventh and twelfth grade students from both school districts will work on projects designed by the business community.

"There are 100,000 students (in the two districts)," Wright said. "That's a fairly large blip on the radar screen."

While the Clovis Unified School District, from the outset, designed the CART curriculum with rigorous academic concepts and competencies, Wright said the ultimate goal is very simple.

"At the end of each day we want to be able to answer that question that every student asks: 'Why do we have to do this stuff?'"

"They're doing 'this stuff' to learn the skills necessary to be an active and productive part of the Valley's work force in the next century."

With his chiseled features and slight Southern drawl, one might figure Wright would feel at ease walking the sidelines of Lamonia Stadium while coaching one of the district's powerhouse football teams. That's not too far from the truth. The former University of Tennessee-Chattanooga linebacker began his career in education as a football coach.

"I had a great experience as a student and athlete," he said. "Some of the people I admired most were coaches who could teach. I had a football coach who was a very bright person who valued education."

"I've had some tremendous role models."

Wright majored in English and was serious about his studies. "People there made it very clear there was a university before there was a football program."

Coming from what he calls the "hills and tumbourines" South, Wright said he wanted to give back to his community so teaching and coaching was a natural.

"But the more I taught the more I became convinced that the customer (student) had



New CART CEO Pat Wright meets the public and gives his vision for the Center for Advanced Research and Technology. CUSD Today photo

changed. In the best case scenario, brand new textbooks were 7 years out of date. This was for students whose primary motivation was Nintendo and MTV."

About the time Wright was earning his masters and specialty degrees, he became firmly convinced that technology was the obvious direction for him and for education. As he climbed the ladder in Carrollton (Georgia) City Schools, finally becoming a principal, he said he asked himself the age-old educators' question, "What do we expect kids to know and how do we know they know it?"

He was shocked by the revelation. "When I applied that question to Carrollton, I discovered we hadn't changed in 50 years."

He said he decided it was time for change, but Carrollton is in the poor, rural South. It didn't have much money in the bank and little prospect of finding any cash locally. Wright knew there was a lot of grant money floating around nationally so he decided to go after a share. He sat down at his keyboard and wrote 145 grant requests.

In baseball terms, Wright said he had a terrible batting average, landing only two grants, but the ones he launched were "a home run and a triple." Tele-Communications Inc. and IBM, two of the nation's technology heavyweights, decided to invest \$1.6 million in Carrollton.

In 5 years Wright used that financial infusion to reinvent education in Carrollton. "We used an entrepreneurial approach. We

looked at the students as our customers and installed a method of quality control while still teaching them what we expected them to know. We made some fairly broad technological changes but we still used the common barometers - drop-out rates, attendance and test scores."

Wright decided the investment in education in Carrollton should be written as a business plan.

"At that time the cost to educate a child in Georgia was \$5,300 a year. We had a dropout rate of 24 percent. (For a business), that was an exorbitant loss."

Wright decided it was not smart business to acquire money from the private sector while suffering huge internal losses, so he set out to recapture those losses. In a short period, due to the new opportunities available in Carrollton, Wright said the dropout rate declined to 3 percent, "and since 1990 has remained under 3 percent."

"As I look back at the Carrollton project, the \$1.6 million has been recaptured three times," Wright said.

Wright's success did not go unnoticed by Denver-based TCI, and in 1991 the company made him an offer that would allow him to take his Carrollton model national. He jumped at the chance.

He established 10 sites in all varieties of settings - rural, urban, and suburban - modifying the Carrollton model slightly to fit the setting.

"Each case had a very clear barometer to

measure success," he said, "and in each case, the needle moved. There was a substantial return on investment."

Wright said during his eight years at TCI he learned one great truth: "The greatest challenge to our education system is teacher training and support. During the last 10 years the teachers who are out there learning new teaching styles are doing it on their own."

His final project for TCI was to design and build a teacher training and professional development center. The center grew to serve schools in 49 states and was so successful that a second was opened.

Wright believes his transition to CART will be seamless. "I always have the most exciting job in the world," he said. While the comment was meant to be light conversation, his eyes were deadly serious.

"The issues for me have always been pretty much the same," he said. "What are people doing now? What's working? Where are we frustrated?"

"I've been around the block enough to know it takes a true commitment. It takes a capital commitment and it takes partnerships."

"But it's a two-way street. We expect to add value to our partners."

Wright, who has been commuting between his District of Columbia home and Clovis, said he plans to be located here permanently by September. While the students are not scheduled to arrive at CART for another two years, Wright said there is much work to be done and he's anxious to begin.

Foundation for Clovis Schools moves fund-raiser to November

By Linda A. West
 CUSD Today

The Foundation for Clovis Schools is redesigning its largest

Holiday Tree Auction
 and
 Guardian Awards
 November 22

Reception at which teacher grants are presented. Recipients will be recognized to give donors the opportunity to see first hand where their support is focused.



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CART's High Tec Education Model to Play Key Role in Valley's Future

By Pat Wright

**Chief Executive Officer
Center for Advanced Research
and Technology**

The Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) is the largest, most comprehensive high school education reform project in the United States. Eleven high-tech laboratories are being constructed to provide career-focused education and training to over 2,000 high school juniors and seniors from thirteen high schools in the Fresno and Clovis Unified School Districts. Through a partnership agreement with State Center Community College, an additional 2,000 adults will utilize the facility in the evenings. This combination of the last two years of high school with the first two years of post-secondary education provides a new perspective to a "four year education."

CART is a collaborative initiative between the Fresno and Clovis Unified School Districts. Each district has committed in excess of \$20 million dollars to acquire an old water pump manufacturing plant and renovate it into a state-of-the-art high tech facility. A primary goal of the project is to narrow the gap between the classroom and the real world. Fresno's economic future, and the overall health of the community, depends upon its ability to educate and train a workforce capable of supporting existing industry and attracting new, high-tech jobs to the area.

An unemployment rate twice that of the U.S. average coupled with an accelerating birth rate has brought a sense of urgency to the community that has resulted in a strategy to combine education reform with economic development.

The two school districts have partnered with business and industry in creating a real-world, real-work program with its foundation solidly rooted in science, mathematics, English and technology. Business and industry

partners representing a cross section of the community both geographically and demographically are in support of the project. These partners have agreed to assist in the development of a project-based curriculum that integrates rigorous academic standards with real-world applications. The result will provide students with a good answer to perhaps one of the most often asked questions in high school, "Why do I have to learn this stuff?"

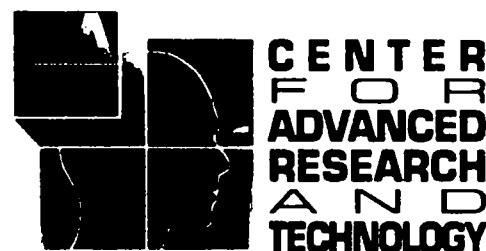
CART itself is organized on a business model. A Joint Powers Authority Board comprised of business and community leaders, as well as the superintendents of each district, governs CART. Reflecting a new paradigm, CART is led by a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), a Chief Operating Officer (COO), a Dean of Curriculum and Instruction, and a team of instructors representing the best of the academic and private sectors.

CART's business model for instruction is interdisciplinary and project-based. The initiative is based on extensive research that indicates students learn best when

they are actively involved in their education. Active, participatory learning, directly related to real-world applications, will provide the motivation and incentive needed by a significant percentage of students who have been underachievers.

CART's focus is on technology and the role technology currently plays in careers. There is also a focus on identifying future technology-related careers and ensuring that students in the Fresno community are equipped with the skills necessary to obtain entry into careers with income potential sufficient to overcome the present economic gap.

For further information, please contact Pat Wright, Chief Executive Officer, pwright@cart.org, www.cart.org.



Bringing UC to the Valley

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

The most important single element of Merced's Valley communications strategy is the completion of the CalREN-2¹ network: by laying a permanent North-South communications superhighway through the Central Valley for education and research. At least in initial form, this vital link will be in place within the next two years, earlier if we are successful.

Of course, it's one thing to build the superhighway, another to have in place a network of access roads and vital services required to reach where you're going from home.² In conjunction with its push for CalREN-2, UC Merced is a strong advocate for a broad set of commercial communication networks and services needed to attract industry

and support economic growth of all kinds. While it cannot (and should not) provide the spectrum of commercial communication services needed to achieve this vision, UC Merced sees itself as a catalyst for broad change and development in the Valley.

Questions and comments may be sent to ron.orcutt@ucop.edu

¹The CalREN-2 statewide network is a project of CENIC, the not-for-profit Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California. CENIC's membership includes the UC and CSU Systems, Cal Tech, Stanford, and USC. Details on CENIC and the CalREN-2 Project can be found on the Web at: www.cenic.org.

²There was a period of time after it was opened to traffic when there were few, if any, gas stations along Interstate 5. Many motorists were stranded as they ran out of gas.

Fresno, Clovis districts map innovative road to first-of-its-kind research, technology center in western United States; look for 1999 opening

A center of study unlike any other west of the Rocky Mountains is in the conceptual stage now and on the fast track to becoming a reality by October 1999, serving students in the 11th and 12th grades in both Fresno Unified School District and Clovis Unified School District.

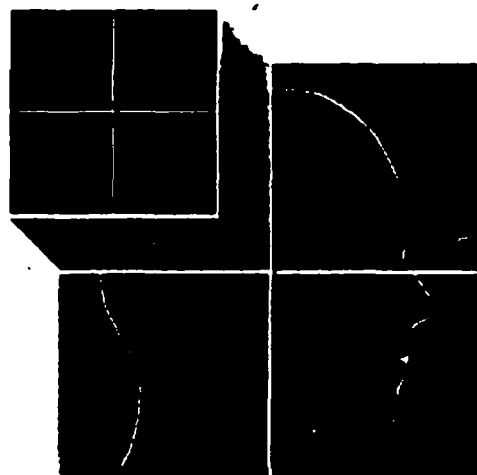
The Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) will be housed in the Grunfos Pumps manufacturing plant at 2555 Clovis Avenue. The property was purchased and the two school districts have formed a Joint Powers Agreement Board to govern the new Center.

Originally conceived by Clovis Unified, both school districts collaborated to design a school where students could attend classes for half a day engaged in projects applying high technology, math and science principles.

The Center itself will not look like a typical high school. Students, bused from their respective schools, will enter the immense facility where a mall lined with laboratories on either side will await the student interested in the world of finance, telecommunications, multimedia technology, chemical technology, manufacturing, engineering/design, logistics and spatial technology, agricultural technology, environmental science, biomedical study or information systems.

There will a 300-seat amphitheater for presentations or programs.

It is at this Center where the student



CENTER FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

with an appetite for discovery will learn to run experiments or tackle a project requiring a teamwork approach to solution, not unlike the workplace they will enter a few years down the line.

Envision a learning environment with no desks, where curriculum is cross-disciplinary and "informational commons" will offer electronic libraries and access to the Internet. Students will complete their projects using more than one laboratory, and 12th graders may even find themselves working with a mentor business off-site.

The Center for Advanced Research and Technology will offer courses designed by both teachers and business people. Teacher teams will be responsible for each lab.

The local business community has embraced the concept and is actively

involved in its development. A Business Incubator will be housed at the Center where entrepreneurs can apply for office space and support staff assistance as they launch their new enterprise.

The Fresno Business Council, a body of chief executive officers of 100 businesses in the metropolitan Fresno-Clovis area, is represented on the JPA Board and plays an active role in the CART development.

Critical to its success will be the corporate sponsorship of the labs housed at the Center. Sponsorships will be available to companies committed to education through innovative approaches that could even involve loaning staff to serve as specialists in the labs.

The Center will be based on a business model, headed by a chief executive officer and staffed by educators. A princi-

pal will oversee instruction and there will be two vice principals representing both school districts. Teaching staff will be drawn from both districts, although openings could be filled by educators not affiliated with either district. The chief executive officer will be responsible for overall management of the Center as well as for attracting corporate sponsorships.

The Center is also expected to serve adults during non-traditional school hours and the State Center Community College District will share in the use of the facilities.

The Center for Advanced Research and Technology is designed to prepare students with training and skills demanded in the job marketplace today, particularly those involving ever-changing technology and emerging industries.

The Joint Powers Agreement Board is chaired by Richard Johanson, representing the Fresno Business Council. Other members are Richard Lake, CUSD Board member; Manuel Nufiez, FUSD Board member; Pierre Sicard, Business Incubator; Jerry Cook, Grunfos Pumps; Walter Buster, Clovis Unified School District superintendent, and Carlos A. Garcia, superintendent of Fresno Unified School District.

The vision of the Center describes the program as being "a national model for secondary education...to provide motivation for students/adults to be better learners by creating education relevant to the workplace."

CART ready to hire leaders to take it into 2000

By Jeff Garza

McClatchy News Service

A time frame has been set for the selection of a principal and 11 team leaders to guide the Center for Advanced Research and Technology into the next century, announced CART board members at a meeting Aug. 4.

Pat Wright, the recently hired chief executive officer of CART, said he is about to initiate a search for the ideal candidates — individuals with the knowledge and experience necessary in creating a vibrant non-traditional learning environment.

Wright also announced at the board meeting his intention to change the title of the position of principal to chief operating officer, which he believes better reflects the scope of that administrator's duties.

"The chief operating officer has two primary sets of duties. The first is to oversee development of the curriculum. The second is to manage the day-to-day operation of the facilities," Wright said.

Although he would like to have the chief operating officer position filled within the next 60 days, Wright is prepared to let the search go on until October, if it means finding the perfect candidate.

"I would like to move as quickly and as prudently as possible to find the right candidate," he said.

CART is the brainchild of both Clovis and Fresno unified school districts. Its board members are made up of CUSD, FUSD and Fresno Business Council board members.

The educational center will house up to 2,000 high school juniors and seniors who will study within 11 business and technology laboratories, such as biomedical technology and engineering.

Wright intends to visit many CART-like programs around the nation in an effort to find the most qualified chief operating officer.

The first non-operational semester in the 1999-2000 school year will be spent recruiting and then hiring team leaders. They will then use the spring semester to become acquainted with CART and its curriculum.

"I'm looking at bringing them on for a portion of the day during the spring semester, writing project-based curriculum and discussing where to go from there," he said.

The school's laboratories will combine business and industry projects with academic work. Students will receive workplace training through interaction with the business community. CART will be open to college students for evening classes.

"When I was a high school principal in Georgia we used to survey our students," Wright said. "Typically they'd ask, 'Why do we have to learn this stuff?' I think there is an absence of relevance in high school curriculum."

Wright said CART's curriculum will be designed to have a greater relevance to the needs of Fresno's and Clovis' business communities. "Part of the curriculum might focus on manufacturing jobs in today's world,

for instance."

Each of the 11 team leaders being recruited will be responsible for overseeing a particular laboratory.

"The team leaders will act as a sort of department chair," said Walt Buster, CART board member and superintendent of Clovis Unified. "The team leaders will be

specialists who understand the curriculum and the needs of the work world -- that takes talented individuals."

The CART center is located in the old Grundfos Pumps building on Clovis Avenue south of Shaw Avenue. It is scheduled to open to students in January 2000.

CART board to form financial foundation

By Scott A. Mayes

Independent Staff Writer

The board of directors for the Center for Advanced Research and Technology is in the planning stages of developing the CART Foundation, an entity which will be used to house and possibly solicit funds and grants for the technology based high school.

CART officials expect donations to the school to be large and feel there is a need for a vehicle to house, administer and distribute the funds as necessary. CART donations are currently being housed by the Foundation for Clovis Schools-- a non-profit, fundraising organization supporting the Clovis Unified School District.

CART is a joint venture between Clovis and Fresno Unified. The CART board is made up of Fresno and Clovis Unified educators as well as community members. The philosophy behind CART is to tie in education, technology and the business community in a professional environment.

The school is expected to begin classes in January 2000, offering classes to high school juniors and seniors. The school will have 11 state-of-the-art laboratories where students will learn the latest in business and technology. The labs will combine business and industry projects with academic work and students will receive workplace training through interaction with the business community. CART will be open to college students during evening classes.

Despite Clovis' commitment to CART, there is an expectation that adjustments will be made once the CART Foundation is formed. "I am confident that monies given to [the Foundation for Clovis Schools] for the CART will be given to the future CART Foundation," said CART board member and foundation member Jerry Cook.

Foundation for Clovis Schools supporters solicit public and private money asking donors to support specific programs that are outlined for each school year.

CART is currently one of three projects that the Foundation for Clovis Schools has selected to support during the 1998-99 school year. Clovis' foundation will also be supporting Character Counts, a school site value-based program and Classroom

**AT&T
Wireless
donates
\$10,000 to
CART. See
story on
Page 8A.**

THE CLOVIS INDEPENDENT

6-5-98

CART

Continued from Page 1A

Grant Funds which helps teachers purchase additional materials and learning tools.

Linda Holmes, CUSD director of communications, foundations and grants, said a CART Foundation would affect the volume of money received by the Foundation for Clovis Schools. "I think it will redirect monies," she said. "When they have their own foundation, those monies would not come through our foundation. I think it would affect total contribution to our foundation."

Cook expects that the CART Foundation will differ from the Foundation for Clovis Schools based primarily on the volume of funding.

"CART is serving the total of Fresno and Clovis Unified," Cook said. "I believe the donor base for the CART is really national, maybe even international. ... The type of gifting will be collaborative in terms of not only cash, but also materials, equipment and labor."

There is currently a three-to-five month turn-around time on a non-profit status application, which could be granted by either the Internal Revenue Service or the state of California.

There is an expectation that the uniqueness of the CART facility would create tours from across the nation which would create additional revenue.

"I envision very organized group tours along the lines of those done at Hearst Castle" Cook said.

See CART, Page 8A

Student projects impressed visitors from Washington, D.C.

The representatives of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, visiting Clovis last month to name the Center for Advanced Research and Technology a national model for the future of education, were truly enthusiastic when they met some of the students involved in 21st century projects.

The visitors from Washington, D.C. were appreciative during the student presentations and asked detailed questions about each project.

CART, which will open its doors to students a year from now, is a joint project of Clovis and Fresno unified school districts and other educational institutions in the Central Valley. The students from Clovis, Buchanan and



Earl Wright
Publisher

Edison high schools demonstrated their projects in environmental science, medicine, entrepreneurship and engineering.

Thomas Koerner, executive director of NASSP, told the students that they are on the cutting edge of what education will be in the future. Rob-

ert Mahaffey, director of communications for the organization, said he would be getting the word out about CART across the country.

Local business leaders who attended the presentations were equally amazed. One turned to a colleague and said, "It wasn't like this when I was in high school."

I think that's the point. If the expectations of bright students are not limited, there's no telling what they can do. It's going to be an exciting new century.

■ ■ ■

Students of the yet-to-be-named central Clovis school will have a unique opportunity. They will be able

to watch their new school being built.

Normally when a new school is built it is completed before students are drawn from surrounding schools to fill it. In the case of the central Clovis school, the student body will be formed and housed in the temporary buildings of Clovis Primary School while the new school is being built.

Robert Hansen, who has been named principal of the new school, said he will take special pleasure in charting the progress of the new school with the student body before they move into it in the fall of 2000.

■ ■ ■

The pre-Christmas snow in Fresno and Clovis was an every-30-years

event, except for those of us old enough to remember the 1960s. It actually snowed hard enough twice in that decade to blanket the ground.

The first time was in the winter of 1962 when numerous schools closed throughout the Valley for a "snow day." Officials deemed it too dangerous for the school buses to travel their normal routes.

Even though classes were cancelled, I remember most of the kids who lived in town showed up at school to build snowmen and throw snowballs.

Earl Wright is publisher of CUSD Today. He can be contacted at 299-2140 or by e-mail at cusdtod@sirius.com.

CART: Organization gives program high marks

Continued from Page B1

announce a partnership with CART and to view projects from students involved in the pilot program.

Because CART won't open its doors full-time until January 2000, students participate in the program at their own schools.

CART is a collaboration among the Fresno and Clovis unified school districts, the Central Valley Business Incubator, the Entrepreneurial Training Program, the State Center Community College District, California State University, Fresno, the Fresno County Office of Education and the University of California at Merced.

Demonstration team

The program's mission is to educate students in a project-based, interdisciplinary learning experience using new and emerging technologies. Association with the educator group is intended to help publicize the program, officials said.

On Thursday, students from Clovis, Buchanan and Edison high schools demonstrated projects in engineering, medicine, science and entrepreneurship.

Edison senior Jeff McCray and his fellow students showed a device to help senior citizens rise from a chair. It's called the "Ultramatic Lift," and students will

"It's exciting to start something like this from the ground up."

— Pat Wright, CART chief executive officer

enter it in the National Engineering Design Challenge in Washington, D.C., in February.

The design took about two months with the students, mostly sophomores, working on it for about an hour each day.

When he was a sophomore, McCray worked on a device they called the "Tiger 2000," a wheelchair-exercise machine that provides exercise and massages for paraplegics. It earned seventh place in the national competition.

"Since I was little, I liked working with moving parts. Now I can build things myself. Rather than dream, it's reality," said McCray, who intends to put his interests to work and major in mechanical engineering at the University of Southern California.

Carol Bonjorni and Brad Cluttz, a senior and junior, re-

spectively at Clovis High, said their involvement in CART will not only help in other classes but also in life after school. Their project about Mary Shelley's novel "Frankenstein" involved studying neurological science, contagious diseases, genetics and other medical topics

"We studied disorders in children and that will help us later

in our parenting lives," Bonjorni said. "We learned how to recognize children's diseases."

Cluttz drew a laugh from the crowd when he said, "I'm a junior and it's going to help me in my other classes next year. I have to work hard and do stuff instead of just messing around."

Koerner called CART "exemplary" and said his organization

intends to tout its attributes at an international conference next year in Helsinki, Finland.

Pat Wright, CART chief executive officer, said the partnership with the 52,000-member educators group raises the profile from local to national interest.

"It's exciting to start something like this from the ground up," Wright said.

CART program draws high praise
Partnership with national education group expected to raise profile.

By DONALD E. COLEMAN
THE FRESNO BEE

Fresno County's Center for Advanced Research and Technology, or CART, could become a worldwide model, the director of a national education organization said Thursday.

"We feel the NASSP [National Association of Secondary School Principals] has a real role to play in cloning CART in other school districts around the country," said Thomas Koerner, executive director of the 83-year-old organization.

Koerner and other representatives from the Washington, D.C.-based group visited the CART site in the old Grundfos Pump facility in Clovis to

Please see CART, Page B4

Clovis High School senior Courtney Monge reviews an architect's model of the former Grundfos Pump building — future home of the Center for Advanced Research and Technology — Thursday.



RICHARD DABRY - THE FRESNO BEE

CART breaks ground on future of education

Pacific Bell donates \$250,000 to new facility

By Wendy Nugent
CUSD Today

It is education for the future as well as the future for education.

The Center for Advanced Research and Technology, a radical concept in combining academics with enterprise, was launched at a groundbreaking ceremony on May 28.

CART will be a state-of-the-art research and technology facility in which students work on real-world projects created by businesses. The goal of the venture is to prepare young people for the workplace or for university studies by providing actual hands-on assignments. Scheduled to open in August 2000, the facility is the first of its kind in the

"We're designing an environment that connects the classroom to the real world and brings all the tools of technology to teaching and learning."

—Pat Wright, CART CEO

United States and perhaps the world.

Two years in the making, CART is a joint effort of the Clovis Unified and Fresno Unified school districts. Other educational partners are the Fresno County Office of Education; State Center Community College District; California State University, Fresno; and University of California.

"This is an extremely exciting day, not only for the Clovis Unified School District and the Fresno Unified School District, but for the entire community," said Pat Wright, CART chief executive officer, on the day of the groundbreaking ceremony.

"We're making history here."

The center has formed partnerships with companies and business leaders who will provide guidance. These include the Fresno Business Council, Fresno Chamber of Commerce, Clovis Chamber of Commerce, Fresno Workforce Development Board, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories, Microsoft, Pacific Bell, AT&T Wireless and PG&E. Other local, national and international businesses will support CART activities.

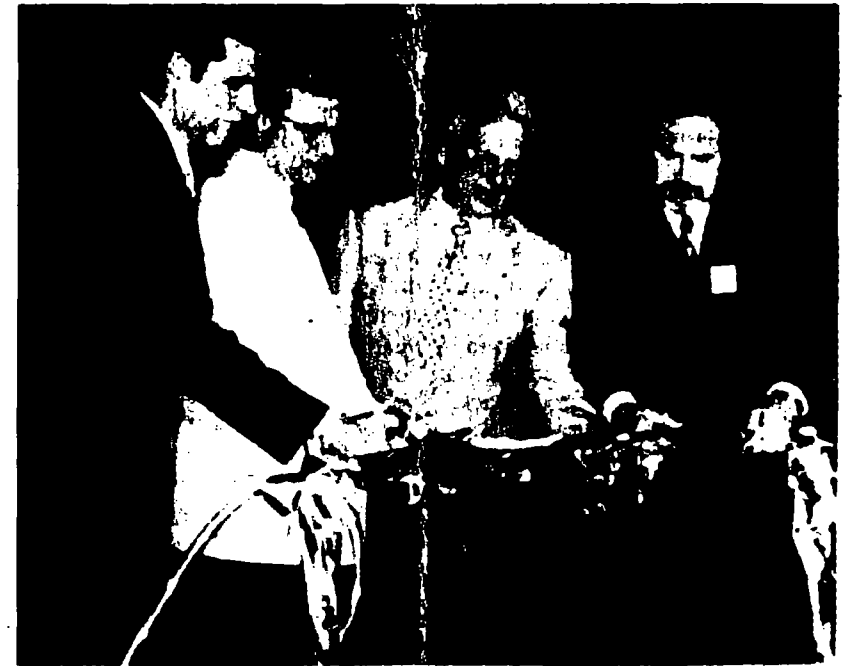
Eric Johnson, executive director of external affairs at Pacific Bell, presented a \$250,000 donation to CART.

He said that Pacific Bell's contribution is to help prepare students for the next century and to make the Fresno region economically diverse. The donation to CART is the largest contribution ever made in the San Joaquin Valley by Pacific Bell.

To be housed at Clovis and Santa Ana avenues in a former Grundfos Pumps building, the facility will cover 75,000 square feet. The building is shared by two more CART partners, the Entrepreneurial Training Program and the Central Valley Business Incubator. Planned are laboratories covering 11 subject areas (*see box on Page 7*).

There also will be information centers containing computer stations for conducting electronic research. A high-speed data/voice/video network with Internet access will link labs, common areas, offices and an amphitheater.

"We're designing an environment
Please see CART, Page 7



CUSD Today photo by Wendy Nugent

Pat Wright, Richard Lake, Dick Johnson and Carlos Garcia cut the ribbon to start construction on the new CART facility.

CART: Superintendent praises collaboration between two school districts

Continued from Page 1

that connects the classroom to the real world and brings all the tools of technology to teaching and learning," said Wright.

High school juniors and seniors and community college students will attend half-day classes taught by instructors from both education and the private sector.

"This is the fulfillment of many years of hard work and dedication on the part of the Clovis Unified School District and the Fresno Unified School District communities," said Walt Buster, superintendent of Clovis schools. "This is the start of wonderful opportunities for students. It can help revitalize the economy of Fresno."

"The CART is a good example of a partnership between education, business and the people of the Fresno-Clovis area to help address education reform and to provide a strong workforce," said Eric Johnson, who serves as president of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce in addition to his position at Pacific Bell. "That workforce is what we need to attract businesses to the area and to address issues of unemployment."

In his remarks to the business and education leaders gathered in the cavernous building, Wright thanked the community for "sharing resources, ideas and enthusiasm."

The common themes of innovation, leadership and collaboration between business and education were echoed again and again by various speakers

CART laboratories

CART will house 11 state-of-the-art labs for a wide range of currently needed job skills.

Career Cluster	Laboratories
Professional Sciences	Biotechnical Environmental Technology Agricultural Technology
Engineering	Chemical Technology Engineering & Design
Advanced Communications	Multimedia & Graphic Design Telecommunication Technology Information Technology
Global Economics	Financial Technology Product Development Retail & Marketing Technology

representing the CART visionary team. CART was cited repeatedly as the catalyst for stimulating the depressed local business climate.

"This is the beginning of a new renaissance in Fresno's economy," said Buster. To build the Valley's economic base, "we need a talented workforce," he said.

Buster paid tribute to the "two extraordinary governing boards" of both Clovis Unified and Fresno Unified, who made the CART vision a reality.

Seconding those thoughts was Carlos Garcia, Fresno Unified

superintendent. He noted that two neighboring school boards put aside their competitive natures and worked together for a common goal.

"Whatever happens in Fresno affects Clovis, and whatever happens in Clovis affects Fresno," he said. "We're working for the same good, and that is our children."

Garcia noted that CART will change the way high schools operate.

"CART represents the new millennium," said Garcia. "This is what the future is. CART is the future and the present."

"This is a groundbreaking for a new tomorrow in education for the entire nation," said Dick Johanson of Johanson Transportation Services, who serves as president of the CART Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors. He expects that CART will serve as a pilot model for similar facilities elsewhere in the country and around the world. The center, he said, will provide training in marketable skills.

Many Clovis Unified school principals were in the audience to witness the birth of a new system of teaching and learning. While geared toward high school and junior college students, the new facility likely will be visited by younger students as well. Sharon Uyeno, Valley Oak Elementary School principal, emphasized the importance of making children aware of job possibilities.

"It will be great to have elementary students exposed to career pathways," she said.

Internet access integral to CART's success

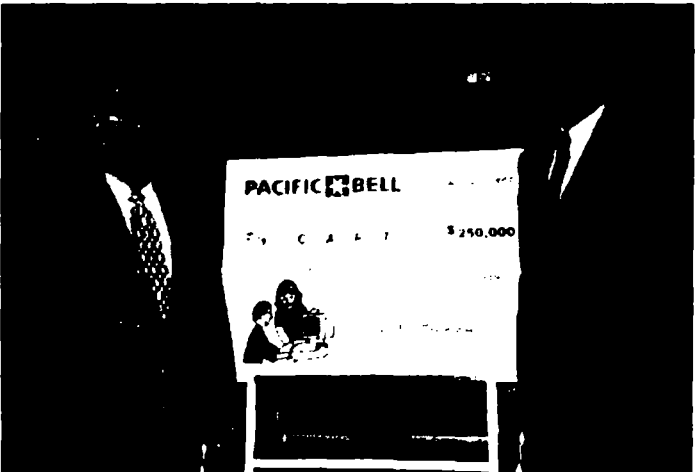
No highly advanced technology center would be complete without a sophisticated website to describe it. CART's website, at www.CART.org, is bursting with information about the new center.

It contains descriptions of the programs to be offered, lists of business and educational partners, and the physical layout of the building. Visitors can take a virtual tour of the facility. Interested students and parents can request enrollment information

online.

Through an online service, students will be able to complete lessons and communicate with their instructor. They will be able to see information in real time instead of using often outdated textbooks.

Pat Wright, CART CEO, said that the computer capabilities will "tear down barriers of time, distance and location" and allow students to implement "anytime, anywhere learning."



CUSD Today photo by Wendy Nugent

Eric Johnson (right) presents a check for \$250,000 from Pacific Bell to Dick Johanson (left), president of the CART Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors.

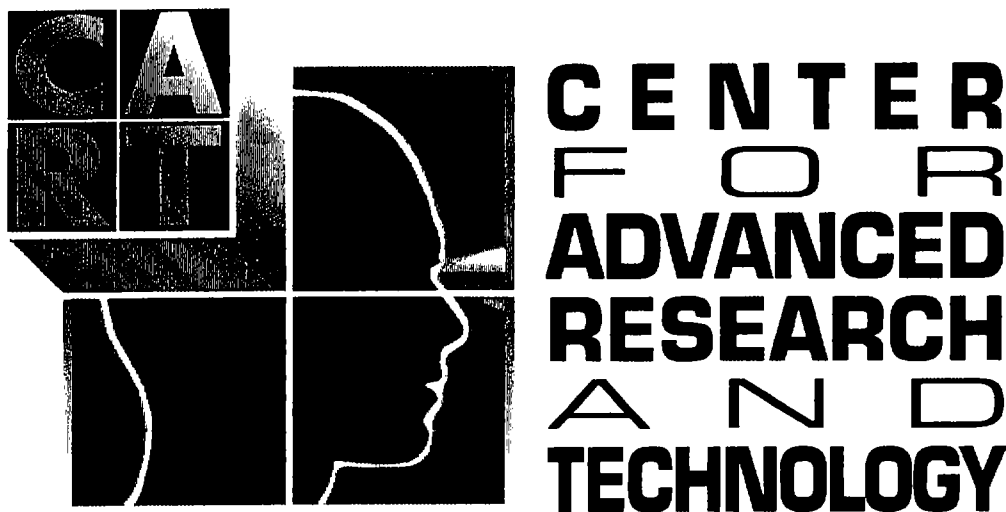
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Charter School Petition



Submitted in a Collaborative Effort
by Clovis Unified School District
and Fresno Unified School District