

Teraka Gonzalez: My CTE Story



Teraka Gonzalez, teacher at Ben Lomond High School in Ogden School District, shares her Career and Technical Education (CTE) story and her journey to become a high school teacher. “What truly influenced me to become a CTE teacher was the desire to merge my passion for health sciences with the opportunity to directly impact students’ futures. After pursuing a range of careers in health-related fields—from a physical therapy aide to an athletic trainer—I realized that my true calling wasn’t just to work in the field but to help guide and inspire others to explore and succeed in those careers.”

COLLEGE: “I was fortunate enough to have professors and mentors who believed in me, and they opened my eyes to how impactful it could be to teach. I loved the idea of being part of something bigger than just working in an office or clinic. Being able to shape the future of students who are interested in health sciences was incredibly rewarding.”

EXPERIENCE: “Through my experiences working with athletes and seeing the power of health education firsthand, I grew more passionate about sharing that knowledge with others.”

CAREER: “The moment I learned about the alternate licensure route, I saw the opportunity to become a high school teacher as a way to combine everything I loved—my background in athletic training, my interest in educating others, and my passion for helping students explore careers they may never have considered otherwise. CTE teaching allows me to blend real-world experience with the classroom and give students practical, hands-on learning experience in health science fields.”

FUTURE: “I want to inspire students to not just think about the next step in their education, but to envision a fulfilling career path where they can make a difference in the world—whether that’s through physical therapy, athletic training, or another health-related field. Becoming a CTE teacher has allowed me to do just that, and I am grateful for the chance to be a mentor and guide for the next generation.”

“I owe my entire career to CTE . . .”

