



## Arrupe Partnerships for Community-based Learning

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# CET – SOBRATO VOCATIONAL CENTER

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### Organizational Profile

The Center for Employment Training (CET) is a national private, non-profit, community-based organization established in San Jose in 1967. The mission of CET, an economic and community development corporation, is to promote human development and education by providing people with marketable skills training and supportive services that contribute to self-sufficiency. The San Jose Training Center is the largest training center in the national network.

CET serves a diverse population and was particularly designed for youth and adults of all backgrounds who are most in need and hardest-to-serve. CET's goal for each student is a permanent, unsubsidized, job with benefits and growth potential. The job training involves an integration of skill training, basic skills instruction (including VESL), human development, job preparation and job placement. The San Jose Center serves up to 350 students daily, some of whom come from as far away as King City.

Job training at CET is competency based, highly individualized, with small classes. Over seven job training options are offered at the San Jose Center. These include Automotive Service Technician, Building Maintenance, Culinary Arts, Early Childhood Teacher Assistant, Electrician, Medical Assistant, and Medical Administrative Assistant.

**Vocational ESL (VESL) Program:** There is no testing of applicants as a pre-requisite to entering training; CET does not require a minimum education level or English speaking ability. Consequently, the basic skills instruction includes vocational ESL (VESL).

**Plaza Comunitaria - Spanish Literacy Class:** The Mexican Consulate, in partnership with CET, offers Spanish literacy classes to adult learners who have had no formal training in their native language. Plaza Comunitaria students benefit from instruction in Spanish in a low student-to-teacher ratio. Online materials are used for this program. Many of the adult learners work at the middle school or high school level and hope to achieve an equivalent to a high school diploma in Mexico. Instruction often involves math application, i.e. algebra and geometry.

### SCU Student's Role

In the VESL program, SCU students will be involved in one-to-one tutoring—assisting the adult learners with English conversation practice, reading comprehension, business writing/grammar review, and study skills—or working in the classroom as a classroom aide.

In Plaza Comunitaria, SCU students participate as literacy tutors, assisting adult learners while they are completing class assignments and serving as conversation partners during role-play activities. **Tutors in Plaza Comunitaria must speak Spanish fluently and must be comfortable teaching math applications in Spanish.**

### To Do Before Orientation

- Visit the website listed above to learn more about your placement or the umbrella organization with which it is affiliated.
- Read your course syllabus and be prepared to discuss your learning goals with your placement supervisor at orientation.