

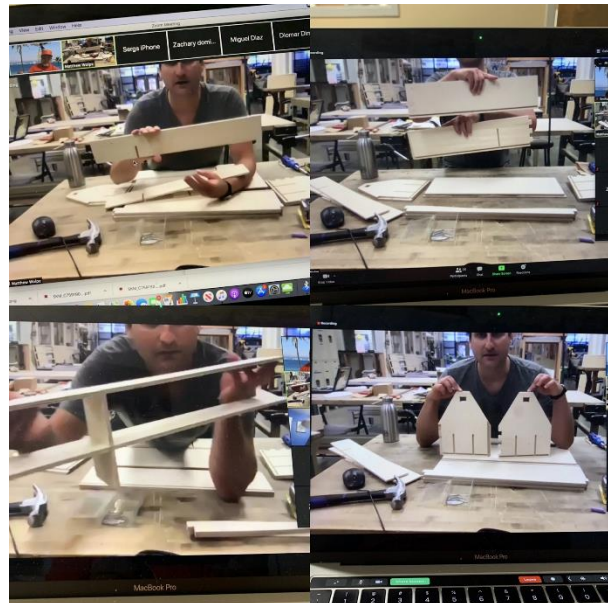
APPRENTICESHIP

Skilled Trade Training Programs Turned Uncertainty into Success

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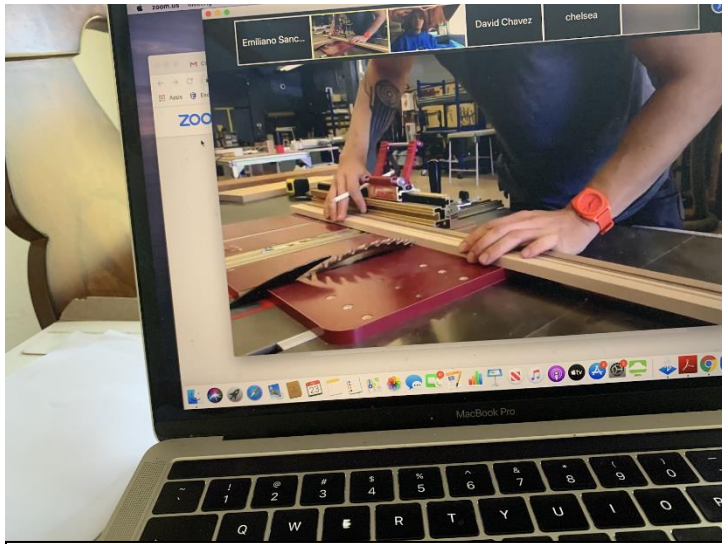
Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) had scheduled their 4th Annual OUSD Skilled Trades Fair at Laney Community College for March 13, 2020. It was projected to host over 300 students from OUSD, Berkeley, San Leandro and Alameda School Districts. Students of the Fremont High Program were poised to host a table at the event and other Fremont students were ready to be ambassadors, helping with logistics. Suddenly, the COVID-19 pandemic brought everything to a screeching halt and all in-person instruction halted.



A Laney College instructor demonstrates the assembly of a wooden tool box over Zoom.

Given the uncertainty of the crisis, it was weeks before the schools were able to develop a plan to distribute necessary technology to the students, and it took months to purchase the equipment needed to educate all students in the district. The shelter in place ordinance, and the fact that several of our students and their families were actually infected by the virus made student contact impossible.

As summer approached, the instructors of the program at Fremont collaborated with OUSD's Linked Learning Office and the CTE Department at Laney Community College to develop a program that included virtual instruction and delivered kits for projects that students could work on and assemble at home. This proved to be a good solution and now this model is being used in the school year programs at both Fremont and Skyline. In fact, this model is being implemented across the district.



An instructor gives instructions on Zoom and demonstrates to Fremont High students how to cut wood.

And now that the district has distributed Chromebooks or other devices to all students, the students in the program at Fremont are learning to use virtual programs like Sketch-up to develop design skills. Measurement and reading designs and blueprints are essential skills in the trades. With more technology access, we scheduled virtual guest speakers from the skilled trades for the classes in our program.

While it hasn't been ideal, this pivot in programming has kept it alive and thriving. Everyone is looking forward to being able to

move back to in-person instruction, perhaps in 2021. But until then, OUSD and the program at Fremont have made it work.