DUAL CREDIT CORNER

ISSUE NO. 2 | SEPTEMBER - 2025 | VOLUME 2

Amplus Academy Maximizes Student Opportunities Through CSN Collaboration

WELCOME TO
AMPLUS ACADEMY

Amplus Academy students (L to R): Kylah Alexander, Josephine Hulet, Fenet Ajema, Cristian Fuentes, and Royal Tat participate in Jumpstart, Dual Enrollment, and/or CTE College Credit with CSN, with the potential to earn associate's degrees before high school graduation.

At Amplus Academy, students don't just prepare for the future—they start living it. The school is one of the few in Nevada

history, environmental science, and math. Many complete multiple semesters of coursework, putting them where high schoolers can earn college credit in three different ways: through **Jumpstart** courses, **Dual Enrollment**, and **CTE College Credit**. Together, these options give students a head start on both college and career.

The journey often begins as early as sophomore year with the Jumpstart program. Students can take classes like *Academic and Learning Success 101*, which introduces them to the college environment. By junior and senior year, they can branch out into foundational courses in communication, psychology, sociology, and anthropology—earning general education credits that transfer directly to college.

For students ready to dive deeper, Dual Enrollment offers the full college experience. Amplus students take CSN courses online or on campus, tackling subjects such as English composition, well ahead of their peers—some even graduate high school with enough credits to be close to an associate degree.

Beyond academics, Amplus prepares students for the workforce through CTE programs. With pathways in marketing, video production, and more, students gain hands-on skills while exploring potential careers. These classes also qualify for articulated college credit, helping students strengthen their transcripts while saving on future tuition.

By weaving together Jumpstart, Dual Enrollment, and CTE College Credit, Amplus Academy creates a powerful launchpad for its students. Graduates walk away not only with college credits, but also with confidence, practical skills, and a clear sense of direction—ready to thrive in whatever path they choose.

Why Not You? Viviana Garner’s Vision for Students at Amplus Academy

When a bus pulls away from Amplus Academy each morning, it isn’t just shuttling students across town—it’s carrying them into their futures. Packed

with high schoolers heading to the College of Southern Nevada (CSN), that bus symbolizes the heart of what Viviana Garner is building at Amplus: a place where college, career, and high school blend into one seamless experience.

Garner, the school's first-ever Acceleration Institute of Amplus (AIA) Coordinator, has seen the program grow from a side project to a defining force in the school's culture. Previously an assistant principal for five years, she now dedicates her full focus to expanding opportunities in dual credit, Advanced Placement (AP), and Career and Technical Education (CTE). The creation of her role, she says, "was about giving AIA the attention it always needed. It's a full position now because our kids deserve a full experience."

That experience is paying off. This year, senior Benjamin Solomon is set to become Amplus Academy's first student to graduate with both a high school diploma and an associate's degree in business—an achievement made possible through CTE marketing coursework and dual enrollment opportunities. "That's his hard work," Garner says proudly, "but it's also the result of our program finally becoming what it was meant to be."

One of Garner's guiding principles is breaking down the myth that advanced opportunities are reserved for straight-A students. For the first time, Amplus is seeing students with GPAs below 3.0 thrive in Dual Credit and CTE programs.

learning. With a new hospital rising behind the school and a major casino complex nearby, she envisions students moving from classroom to career through internships and partnerships. "We're surrounded by opportunity," she says. "Now it's about pounding the pavement and connecting with businesses who will give our kids that first job or hands-on experience."

For Garner, the mission is also personal. The daughter of Cuban immigrants, she grew up with Spanish

> "
>
> *There are kids who never thought they belonged in these spaces, and now they see themselves here. They realize they do deserve a seat at the table.*
>
> "

"There are kids who never thought they belonged in these spaces, and now they see themselves here. They realize they do deserve a seat at the table," she explains. That shift in mindset is part of what makes AIA more than an academic track—it's a culture. Students in the program earn pins for their lanyards, much like athletes earn varsity letters, creating a visible community of learners who push each other to aim higher. Garner describes it as a "really unique group of kids that just love to learn and want to do better for themselves."

While Amplus already covers college tuition and even textbooks for its dual credit students, Garner is looking ahead to the next big step: work-based

Example of a lanyard pin for the Acceleration Institute of Amplus (AIA).

as her first language and a family belief that each generation should achieve more than the last. That legacy fuels her determination to ensure students—especially those from underrepresented backgrounds—see themselves in college and career pathways.

Ask Garner what makes Amplus Academy stand out, and she doesn't hesitate: its culture. She describes it as "snug"—tight expectations that create safety, structure, and a sense of belonging. From locked phone pouches to uniforms to communication cards checked by teachers each day, the consistency is intentional. "It may seem small, but that snugness gives kids the security to open up and learn," she explains.

Her next goals are clear: streamline AIA's systems, strengthen community partnerships, and keep expanding access. But at the core of her work is a simple question she often poses to students, even as young as seventh graders: *Why not you?* It's a mantra that has already transformed what's possible at Amplus Academy—and one that continues to push students to see their futures not as distant dreams, but as opportunities already within reach.

Sabrina Carrington Builds Futures at Amplus

When Sabrina Carrington was earning her finance degree at Arizona State University, she imagined herself striding down the streets of New York City in heels, briefcase in hand, ready to take on Wall Street. But one unexpected opportunity—a role as a computer teacher in Yuma, Arizona—changed her trajectory entirely. What began as a detour became her calling. Today, Carrington is the Secondary Principal at Amplus Academy, where she's helping students shape futures just as ambitious as the one she once envisioned for herself.

ARCHER
PRIDE
AMPLUS ACADEMY

Carrington has been with Amplus for five years, steadily moving through roles from teacher to assistant principal, and now principal of grades six through twelve. Her journey reflects the school's culture: growth-minded, student-centered, and deeply collaborative.

One of the projects Carrington is most proud of centers on Amplus' Exceptional Student Services (ESS) department. She and her team have created pathways for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) to thrive not just in general education, but also in advanced opportunities like Dual Credit, Advanced Placement (AP), and Career and and and culture, then there's a domino effect on our teachers, staff, and ultimately our students," Carrington explained. That approach seems to be working—Amplus Academy's campuses recently achieved the state's top five-star rating across all levels, with the middle school leaping from three to five stars in just one year.

“

Kids typically want to do well, and they feel really bad when

Still, Carrington's path hasn't been without surprises. She admits she never imagined leading a high school, since she had never taught at that level. What she has learned, though, is that listening—really listening—is essential. "Kids typically want to do well, and they feel really bad when they're not. Being a great listener can tell you so much about how to support them," she reflected.

That belief in connection carries into her daily practice. Though she could delegate lunch duty, Carrington

> *they’re not. Being a great listener can tell you so much about how to support them.*
> ”

Technical Education (CTE) tracks. “I think that’s something we do that’s different,” she said. “We’re able to provide that level of academics in either direction—and some of our students are excelling across all three.”

Another area of pride is the school’s carefully built master schedule, designed with smaller class sizes in mind. For Carrington, it’s not just about logistics but about ensuring that every student, whether in AP Physics or general education English, gets focused attention and access to meaningful options.

Her leadership philosophy centers on developing her assistant principals into creative, supportive leaders. “If I can focus on how they build relationships

intentionally takes on sixth grade lunches herself. Rolling trash cans and wiping down tables may not be in a principal’s job description, but Carrington sees it as vital. “It’s a sacred time. They see me in a different light, and I get to build relationships with them from the very beginning of their secondary journey.”

Her favorite moments at Amplus, however, come at the end of that journey—senior grad walks. Watching younger students cheer for the graduates as they parade through in caps and gowns is, for Carrington, a powerful reminder of the work behind the scenes: the tough conversations, the late nights, the persistence to help every senior cross the stage.

As she looks to the future, Carrington is excited to grow dual credit opportunities in partnership with the College of Southern Nevada, while also exploring innovative models like CSN’s Jumpstart program, which could allow Amplus teachers to serve as adjunct professors. She’s equally motivated to keep nurturing Amplus’ culture of open dialogue and shared purpose.

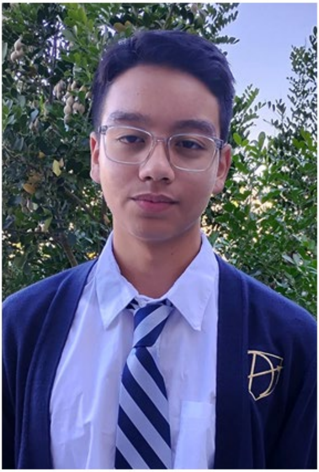
Cristian Fuentes: Navigating College Credit and Career Goals

Cristian Fuentes has been charting an ambitious path at Amplus Academy, embracing every opportunity to get ahead academically while building skills for the future. From the moment he learned about the school's dual credit and Jumpstart programs, he was all in. "My parents had heard about this before I even came into school," he said. "I started researching it and applied as soon as a counselor told me about it."

Starting in 10th grade, Cristian tackled Jumpstart courses such as Psychology 101, Communications 101, and History 101, taking classes online with the guidance of Amplus instructors. Now in 11th grade, he's fully immersed in the dual credit program at the College of Southern Nevada, balancing four college courses—English 101, Math 120E, Environmental Science 101, and History 101—alongside a Marketing CTE class.

Cristian describes one highlight from Communications 101: a project where he and his classmates presented together over Zoom. "We all collaborated and supported each other," he recalled. "It ended up going really well." Experiences like this have given him practical skills and confidence he knows he'll carry forward.

Beyond academics, Cristian is actively engaged in his community and work life. He volunteers with local organizations, including UNLV's ballroom program and his own ballroom team, helping with fundraising and event coordination.



movie is *Ready Player One*.

Looking ahead, Cristian plans to use his college credit as a springboard toward a career in the Air Force, gaining experience in air traffic control while pursuing a bachelor's degree. "I hope to combine my associates from CSN with military experience to stay competitive," he said. His family has been a strong source of support, proud of his focus and commitment to his goals.

> "
>
> *I've made friendships with other college students, and the experience has really helped me grow.*
>
> "

When he's not volunteering, he works at Dave's Hot Chicken, balancing shifts that range from 20 to over 40 hours a week with his school responsibilities.

Cristian also prioritizes fun in his downtime. He enjoys hanging out with friends, collaborative group studying, and playing Roblox in his free time. He's a fan of music from Post Malone and The Weeknd, and his favorite

Reflecting on his growth, Cristian says the dual credit program has helped him mature academically and personally. "I've learned to depend on my classmates and collaborate to get the best results," he said. "I've made friendships with other college students, and the experience has really helped me grow."

Fenet Ajema: Accelerating Toward a Medical Career

At just 10th grade, Fenet Ajema is already making strategic moves toward her future in medicine, embracing Amplus Academy's Dual Enrollment and Jumpstart programs with determination and focus. "I wanted to get as much school done as I can early," she explained, pointing to her goal of a career in the medical field. Her journey began in eighth grade, when she first learned about the program and its potential to accelerate her college path.

This year, Fenet is among roughly 50 sophomores taking ALS 101, the Academic and Learning Success course, earning three college credits while still in high school. She's also tackling three AP courses—Pre-Calculus, World History, and AP Seminar—balancing rigorous academics with her role in student council. Fenet's favorite moment from

"

volunteers at the Discovery Children's Museum, the library, and within the Ethiopian community, and helps her father manage his work.

Her love of learning extends to reading and personal interests, with horror and thriller novels—especially Stephen

> *If my dad could come from a rural country and build a strong life here, I should be able to soar beyond that with the resources I have.*
> ”

ALS 101 came when both sophomore cohorts came together for a collaborative session. “We all got together and figured out who’s taking the course and how we can help each other,” she said. “We’re all in this together.”

Beyond academics, Fenet thrives in athletics and extracurricular activities. She plays volleyball for both her school and a club team, a sport she’s loved since middle school. She also King—high on her list. She enjoys watching classic SpongeBob, horror movies like *The Babadook*, and indulging in comfort foods like brisket and mashed potatoes.

Looking ahead, Fenet plans to graduate high school with an associate degree and pursue a biology major for pre-med, while minoring in business. Her dream is to eventually start her own healthcare company, combining medical expertise with entrepreneurial insight. “I want to make my family proud,” she said. “If my dad could come from a rural country and build a strong life here, I should beable to soar beyond that with the resources I have.”

Even in just six weeks in the dual credit program, Fenet has already noticed personal growth. She’s learned to manage deadlines more proactively, using spreadsheets and color-coded systems to stay organized across college-level coursework, AP classes, and volleyball.

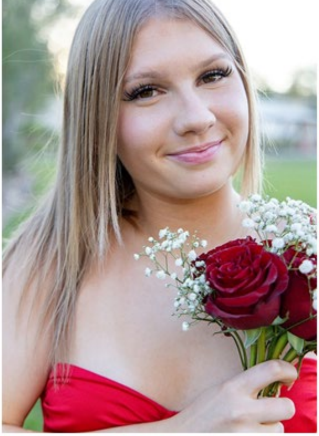
Josephine Hulet: Scoring Big in Academics and Athletics

For Josephine Hulet, balancing

academics, athletics, and ambitious career goals is a full-time commitment—and she wouldn't have it any other way. A junior at Amplus Academy, Josephine is fully immersed in the school's dual credit program at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN), taking four college courses on campus along with a hybrid class and a Career and Technical Education (CTE) course in Marketing.

Josephine first learned about the program in ninth grade through emails from Amplus, but it wasn't until her sophomore year that she fully explored the opportunity. "I play soccer, and it's a full-time commitment because I'm always traveling," she explained. "CSN gives me more time because I get out earlier in the day than I would at Amplus." With her sights set on the medical field, Josephine is taking full advantage of the dual credit program to earn college credits early, giving her a head start on her goal of attending UNLV and eventually pursuing a career as a dermatologist.

Her current college coursework includes History 101, Math 126, English 101, and Environmental Science 101. Josephine says her most memorable experience so far has been writing a literacy narrative in English, a paper reflecting on a formative educational experience. "It's really opened my eyes to writing," she shared. "I used to not really like English, but I'm realizing it's one of my stronger suits."



retirement home and soccer tournaments.

Josephine's dedication extends to her career aspirations. She hopes to pair her medical degree with a minor in marketing or business, aiming to one day co-own a dermatology practice with a close friend. Her parents have been steadfast supporters, particularly

> "
>
> *Teachers treat you like a grown adult, and it's nice not having to deal with disruptions you sometimes see in high school classes.*
>
> "

Beyond academics, Josephine shines on the soccer field, where she has been playing since age four at an elite club level. She credits the sport with teaching discipline, time management, and perseverance, skills she applies both in the classroom and in her personal life. Off the field, she enjoys cooking with her father—favorite dishes include chipotle chicken wraps and fish ceviche—and volunteering at a

her father, who encouraged her to take advantage of the dual credit program to save on tuition and accelerate her path to medical school.

Even in the early weeks of the dual credit program, Josephine has embraced the college environment, learning to manage deadlines, stay organized, and engage as a mature student. She describes the experience as a refreshing shift from high school dynamics: "Teachers treat you like a grown adult, and it's nice not having to deal with disruptions you sometimes see in high school classes."

Josephine also shares a personal challenge few know about: she has Duane syndrome, a condition affecting the movement of one eye. Despite the physical limitations it sometimes imposes, particularly in sports, she navigates her activities with resilience and determination.

Kylah Alexander: Hitting Her Stride with Dual Credit and Big Dreams

For Kylah Alexander, being a junior at Amplus Academy means mastering a delicate balancing act: college-level courses, a potential career in marketing, and personal passions that include music and community service. Fully enrolled in the school's dual credit program at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN), Kylah takes Math 128, English 101, History 101, Environmental Science 101, and a Career and Technical

Education (CTE) class in Marketing.

Kylah first learned about the dual credit program in her freshman year but didn’t fully grasp what it entailed until a sophomore-year presentation in her character development class. “That’s when I started doing more research and looking into it,” she explained. With the flexibility to manage her schedule and get a head start on college, she saw it as a perfect opportunity to explore her future career path.

Her most memorable class experience was in CTE Marketing. “I didn’t think I was super interested in marketing at first, but recently I started becoming more interested,” Kylah said. “It was exciting to learn something that actually interested me and that I might pursue in the future.”

> “
>
> *It was exciting to learn something that actually interested me and that I might pursue in the future.”*
>
> ”

Outside of academics, Kylah is a creative force. She plays piano, writes music, and plays other instruments, using music as an outlet for self-expression. She also enjoys reading,

experiences have taught her leadership, responsibility, and the joy of giving back to her community.

Looking toward the future, Kylah has ambitious plans. After completing her dual credit courses and earning an associate degree, she hopes to attend UNLV for a marketing degree. But she also dreams of getting her pilot license, gaining real-world experience, and then using her earnings and ability to start her own business and contribute to her family’s wedding planning and marriage coaching company.

Kylah’s family has been incredibly supportive of her pursuits. “I’d be the first in my family to actually go to college and hopefully finish college,” she said. Their pride, combined with her own drive, motivates her to embrace every opportunity and challenge.

The dual credit program has also pushed Kylah to grow personally. Exposure to a college environment has strengthened her planning skills, accountability, and consistency. She’s learned to color-code her planner, plan ahead, and balance responsibilities—all while carving out time for her passions, like music.

Despite her accomplishments, Kylah stays refreshingly humble. Few know that she’s moved across three states and especially fantasy novels, which allow her to explore new worlds and ideas.

Her extracurricular activities extend to volunteering by helping at the coffee shop with her church, , and leading skits during Vacation Bible School for elementary-aged children. These

attended six different schools, navigating countless neighborhoods and challenges along the way. Now settled in Las Vegas, she's determined to make the most of her time at Amplus Academy, combining academic rigor with personal growth and creative expression.

Royal Tat Sets His Sights on Law Through Dual Credit Success

At just 16, Royal Tat is already navigating college-level coursework, building the foundation for a future in law, and discovering new strengths along the way. As a junior at Amplus Academy, Royal isn't just a student—he's a multitasking scholar, musician, and volunteer, fully immersed in the dual credit program at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN).

His current course load includes English 101, Environmental Science 101, Math 126, Sociology 101, History 101, and a CTE Marketing class. Royal first heard about the dual credit program in freshman year and jumped in during his sophomore year with History, Psychology, EPY, and Communications. "I decided to stick with it after this year so I can get through all my associate's degree and go into law straight away afterward," he explained.

Outside the classroom, Royal is a multi-talented student. He plays piano and trombone, enjoys volleyball, and loves spending time with friends in CSN's in a more mature academic environment. "I actually do learn stuff in class, and if you just manage your time, it's a lot better," he said.

Beyond academics, Royal has a surprising personal fact: he's double-jointed in most parts of his body, which sometimes makes his movements look unusual during sports. Yet, much like his dual credit journey, he approaches challenges with adaptability and confidence.

library study rooms. When it comes to gaming, he's a fan of Valorant, even when it frustrates him. Sushi is his go-to meal, and he fondly remembers shows like *SpongeBob* and movies like *Minions*.

Royal is also committed to his community. Since eighth grade, he has volunteered at Windmill Library, sorting books, and has taken part in Amplus Academy's tutoring service, ASK. He also occasionally performs in the pep band during school games.

Looking ahead, Royal plans to continue his education at UNLV or UC Berkeley, aiming for an associate's degree and then a bachelor's, with hopes of earning scholarships to fund law school. "My family was hoping I'd go into the medical field, but I'm more focused on law," he said.

The dual credit experience has shaped Royal personally as well. He's developed better time management, accountability, and the ability to thrive

Royal Tat is proof that ambition, dedication, and curiosity can make a high school junior feel like a college student—already laying the groundwork for a future full of promise in law and beyond.

> "
>
> *...I can get through my associate's degree and go into law straight away afterward.*
>
> "

Royal Tat's journey shows that embracing challenges early can open doors to opportunities most high school students can only imagine. With his drive and discipline, he's not just keeping pace—he's setting the stage for a future where law, leadership, and lifelong learning intersect.

September 5, 2025

CSN Counselors' Day Navigates Wellness, Academics, and Career Pathways

KLIPPENSTEIN

CSN hosted a half-day session for local high school counselors on programs and services offered at CSN such as Nevada Promise, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Disability Resource Center (DRC), Financial Aid, Academic Success, and Dual Credit. Participants also toured the West Charleston campus.

Dr. Stacy Klippenstein welcomes 62 high school counselors to the CSN West Charleston campus.

Expanding Access Through CSN Dual Credit Opportunities
College of Southern Nevada

Scott Gallegos and Natalie Lorenzano, Dual Credit Managers, share the benefits of Jumpstart, Dual Enrollment, and CTE College Credit in concurrent sessions.

CTE Academy Pathways

We have developed college credit options for CTE concentrators in the following CTE high school programs:

- Accounting
- Advanced Computer Science
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Automotive Technology
- Aviation Technology
- Building Trades in Construction
- Culinary Arts
- Cybersecurity
- Design Drafting
- Digital Game Development
- Early Childhood Education
- Electronic Technology
- Emergency Medical Technician *Pilot 2025-26
- Fashion, Textiles & Design
- Fire Science
- Forensic Science
- Graphic Design
- Hospitality & Tourism
- IT Networking
- Law Enforcement
- Multimedia Communications
- Radio Production
- Teaching and Training
- Theatre Technology
- Video Production
- Web Design & Development
- Welding Technology

To view a list of all approved CSN Jumpstart Concurrent Enrollment Courses and Instructor Qualifications, view this **PDF**.

CSN Dual Credit Definitions

Ways for a student to earn college credit from CSN while in high school.

Articulated Credit

Name of Program:
CTE College Credit

Type of Class:
High School CTE Classes

Instructor:
High School Teacher

Location:
High School

Concurrent Enrollment

Name of Program:
Jumpstart Concurrent Enrollment

Type of Class:
College Course

Instructor:
High School Teacher

Location:
High School Campus or Online

Dual Enrollment

Name of Program:
Dual Enrollment

Type of Class:
College Course

Instructor:
College Faculty

Location:
College Campus, Center, or Online

Tuition and Fees: **No Cost - Free**	Tuition and Fees: **Per Course Fee**	Tuition and Fees: **Per Credit Fee**
Textbooks: **Provided by the High School**	Textbooks: **Provided by the High School**	Textbooks: **Provided by the High School or Purchased by the Student**

QUALIFICATIONS

Don’t have a master’s degree? That’s okay! High school instructor qualifications for college courses in CTE areas also consider industry experience, certifications, and education in lieu of a masters degree. To view a list of all approved CSN Jumpstart Concurrent Enrollment Courses and Instructor Qualifications, view this **PDF**.

INCENTIVES

We offer attractive incentives for teaching a CSN course at your high school:

- Earn a stipend of $1000 per section each semester
- Work closely with CSN faculty in subject matter
- Opportunity to teach on campus as an adjunct faculty

APPLY

To apply, please complete the following:

- Credential Review Form
- Resume & Resume Detail Form
- Unofficial Transcripts

Math, English, and ALS applicants require academic department supplemental form.

You may email the Credential Review Packet to your assigned Dual Credit Manager or **DualCredit@csn.edu**.

Do you have an idea for a Dual Credit Corner article? Tell us about a special student, educator, program, or event for a future newsletter.

Send to: DualCredit@csn.edu

CSN Dual Credit includes programs such as Jumpstart Concurrent Enrollment, CTE College Credit, Dual Enrollment as well as many other partnerships and initiatives which award college credit to high school students.

If you would like to explore new programming options in Jumpstart Concurrent Enrollment and/or Dual Enrollment, would like to obtain Credential Review Packet Forms, or are an existing partner that needs day-to-day program support, please contact the Dual Credit Manager for your region. Use this **PDF** to identify your manager.

Kayla Buscher	**Natalie Lorenzano**	**Scott Gallegos**
(702) 651-7971	(702) 651-5804	(702) 651-7922
kayla.buscher@csn.edu	natalie.lorenzano@csn.edu	scott.gallegos@csn.edu

If you have questions about CTE College Credit, please contact the program assistant director.

Somer Rodgers
702-651-5490
somer.rodgers@csn.edu

For any other questions, please contact the CSN Dual Credit Office to speak with the director.

Leticia Wells
702-651-3179
leticia.wells@csn.edu