

# Commercial Drone Applications Pathway with Curriculum, Certifications and WBL



Educating for Careers Conference 2024  
Sacramento, California

2023  
Attendees



CORE Charter SSP Dronie  
Commercial Drone Applications

# Commercial Drone Applications Pathway, 2nd year presentation



**2014**



**2024**

# Agenda

- Background on our Commercial Drone CTE Pathway
- SSP Grant and Curriculum Development Process
- Growing Opportunities in Commercial Drone Industry
- Curriculum Structure - CA Educators Together
- Student Certifications, WBL, & Industry Partners
- Example School Curriculum Implementation
- Student Success Story
- Questions
- QR code for downloading this entire slide deck



RC Airplanes



CORE / Les



Mentoring



Giving back



New Age Aerial

# Meet Our Super Team!



**Dave McCreary**

CTE Instructor  
Transportation  
SME - UAS Operations



**Chris Mahurin**

Executive Director  
CORE Charter School



**Jeff Patsey**

CTE Instructor  
Transportation sector



**Randi Morales**

Curriculum Writer  
English Dept. Head  
Wheatland HS



- ❑ Public K-12 Charter School (Since 1998)
- ❑ Personalized Learning Model
- ❑ Serving rural population - Yuba/Sutter Counties
- ❑ High school population = approx. 200 students

# Development of Drone Program

- 2014-15 Introduction to Model Aeronautics
- Added Advanced Model Aeronautics 2015-16
- Focus shifted to UAVs/Drones
- Aerospace STEM Academy
- 2016 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 107
- 2018-19 Specialized Secondary Program (SSP)
- 2022 WBL -Community Partners with Onboarding SOP





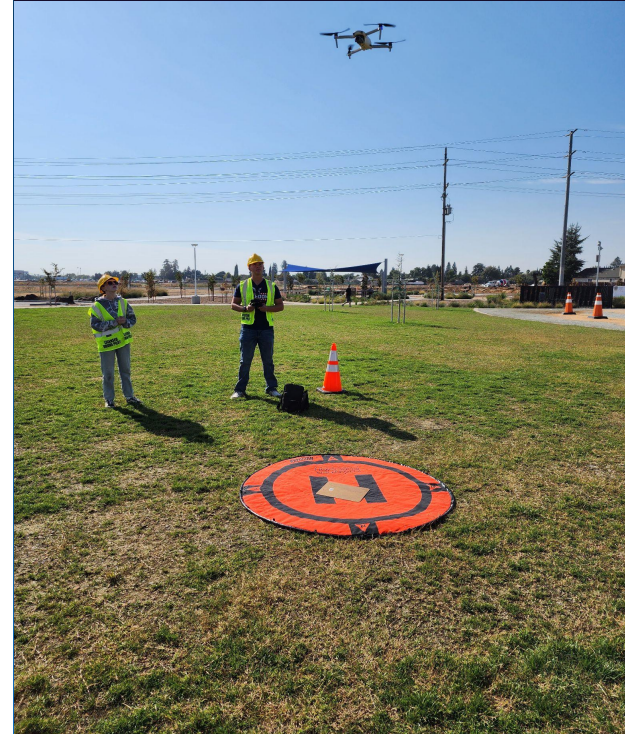


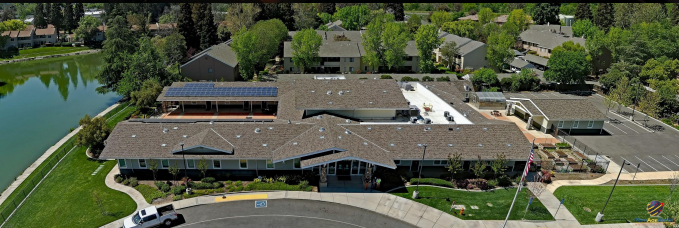
# Opportunities for Students

- **Commercial drone market was valued at 6.51 billion in 2021 and estimated to grow to 47.38 billion by 2029.**
  - Fortune Business Insights, in its report titled, "*Commercial Drone Market, 2022-2029.*"
- **Rapidly transforming numerous industries:**
  - Film
  - Real Estate
  - Public Safety
  - Agriculture Management
  - Infrastructure Monitoring
  - Environmental Monitoring

# SSP Grant & Curriculum Development

- Specialized Secondary Programs (SSP)
  - California Education Code section 58800:  
*“...to provide advanced instruction and training in high technology fields and in the performing arts”*
  - Planning Grant & Implementation Grant Phase
- Golden State Pathways Program Grant (GSPP)
  - Planning and Implementation  
*(Due March 19th 2024)*





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EDUCATORS TOGETHER

**Year One :**

SSP Commercial Drone Applications  
for California - Year One Version 1.0

**Year Two:**

SSP Commercial Drone Applications  
for California - Year One Version 1.0



# Commercial Drone Applications (Years 1 & 2)



- Our curriculum was written in “weekly lesson plans” rather than traditional day-to-day lesson plans due to non-traditional scheduling, coursework, and overall school structure.

# Commercial Drone Applications Year 1

Z

**Unit One:** *History and Introduction to Aerial Mapping with Photogrammetry Basics*

**Unit Two:** *Career Exploration*

**Unit Three:** *FAA Part 107 Exam and License*

**Unit Four:** *Building a Professional Portfolio*

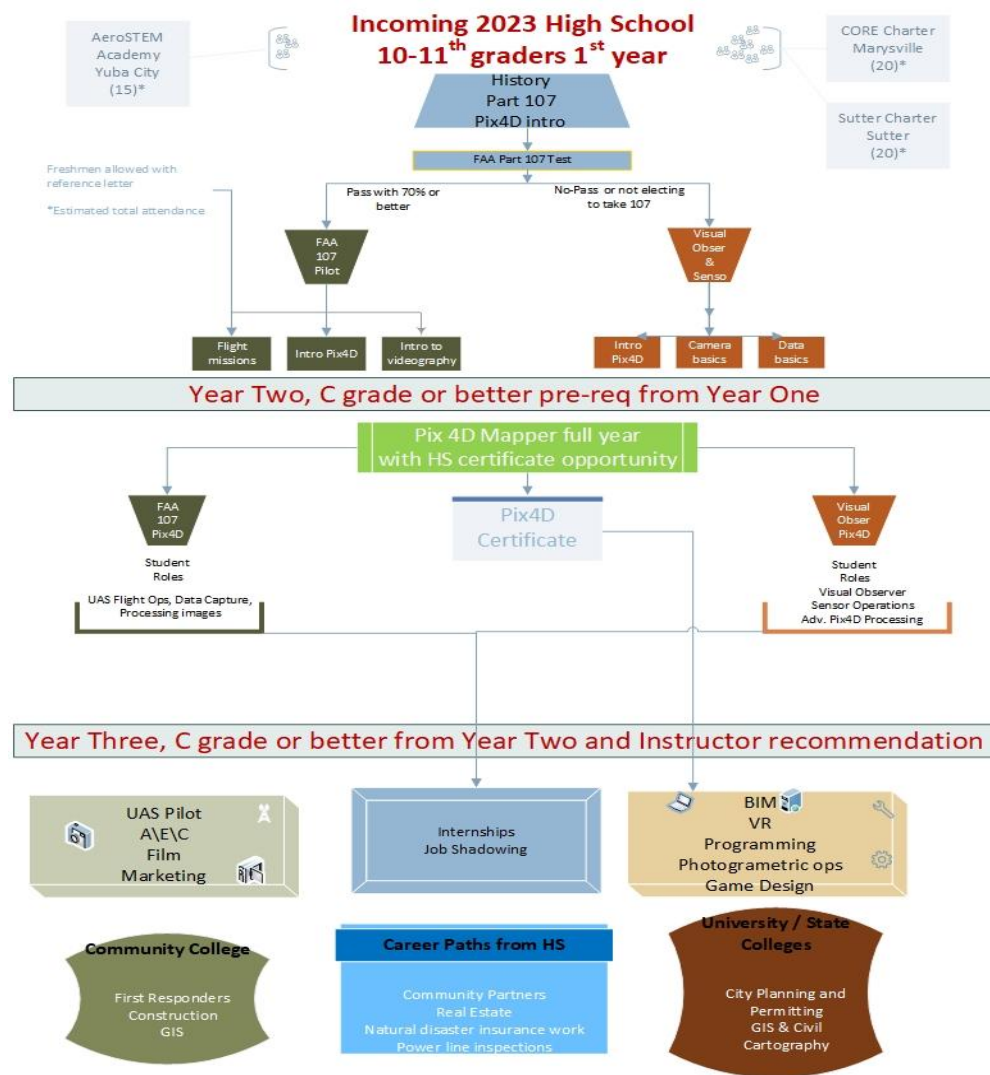


# What about students that do not pass the FAA Part 107 certification?

If students are struggling to pass the FAA Part 107 exam and have decided not to complete their license, another option is available for them to complete year one and continue on to year two course work to complete the pathway.

- Pilot: Students who successfully pass the FAA Part 107 exam
- Visual Observer (VO): Students who want to become a VO rather than a pilot or for students who are struggling to pass the exam
- Use Photogrammetry tools to develop 3D models, videos and games





# Friday Fly Days

- Wednesday Prep (Charging & Firmware Updates!)
- Friday Class (Safety, Mission Planning, Team & Drone Assignments)
- Student Teams 2-3 (Remote Pilot in Command (RPIC) & Visual Observer (VO))
- Advanced Students Supervise Year 1 Teams
- Mission Conclusion (Data collected, equipment returned)
- Tailboard Meeting (Debrief - What went well? What can be improved?)





# Commercial Drone Applications Year 2 Course

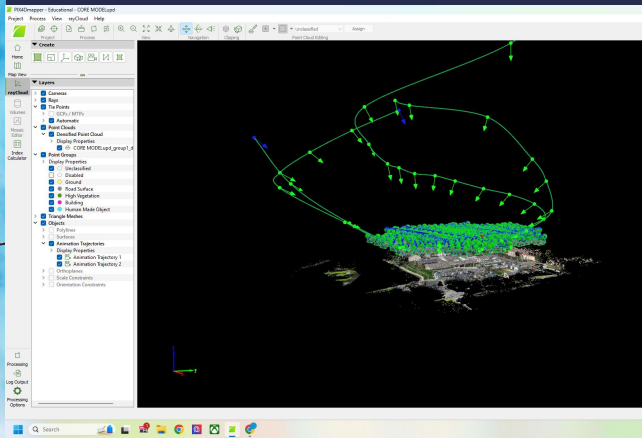
**Unit One:** Introduction to Pix4D and Mission Planning

**Unit Two:** Processing With Pix4D

**Unit Three:** Analyzing Content and Content Delivery

**Unit Four:** Workflow Analyzed and Sensors

**Unit Five:** Internships and Job Shadowing



# New Teacher Prep (You can do it!):

*Educators need to be familiar with the following topics prior to teaching. This can be completed during the summer in about 2 hrs with some simple YouTube videos and this **FREE** course!*

## Year one:

- Photogrammetry
- Aerial mapping
- Various use of drones and other equipment
- Career (especially local) that require the use of drones
- FAA Part 107 certification

## Year two:

- All of the above
- Pix4D mapping and or OSS (Open Source Software)
- Work Based Learning within your community



# Open Source Software (OSS)

Programs with budget limits, CET gives you 2 years of programming, we have also written in what **YOU** choose what is right for your program with additional free resources.

caeducatorstogether.org/lesson-plans/94ya5r/unit-one-week-three-introduction-to-pix4d-and-or-open-source-solutions-oss

## Unit One Week Three: Introduction to Pix4D and or Open Source Solutions (OSS)

- File Management
- Network Flow Chart for Students
- Drones in the News

### Activities in this Lesson

#### Introduction to Pix4D and OSS Lecture

Teacher Notes

In addition to Pix4D Mapper, we have used successfully Meshroom (<https://meshroom.en.uptodown.com/windows>) and Regard 3D (<https://sourceforge.net/projects/regard3d/>) for the open source solutions (OSS). A further list is provided here: (<https://all3dp.com/1/best-photogrammetry-software/>). Note - these programs will not run on Chromebooks. As per the case with most 'CAD' programming, the more expensive the computer the faster the processing. Personally I have ran Pix4D on a INTEL Core i3 laptop with 16gb of RAM. It takes 'time', but will complete the job.

Use the following Google Slides to introduce students to the Pix4D software. The instructor can present these slides while students have their Pix4D accounts open in front of them OR present the information first and then allow students time to explore the program.

OSS track: lots of DIY YouTube videos, Reddit, Facebook groups that will help guide your personal selection of software to achieve your final goals.

CONNECTED CURRICULUM

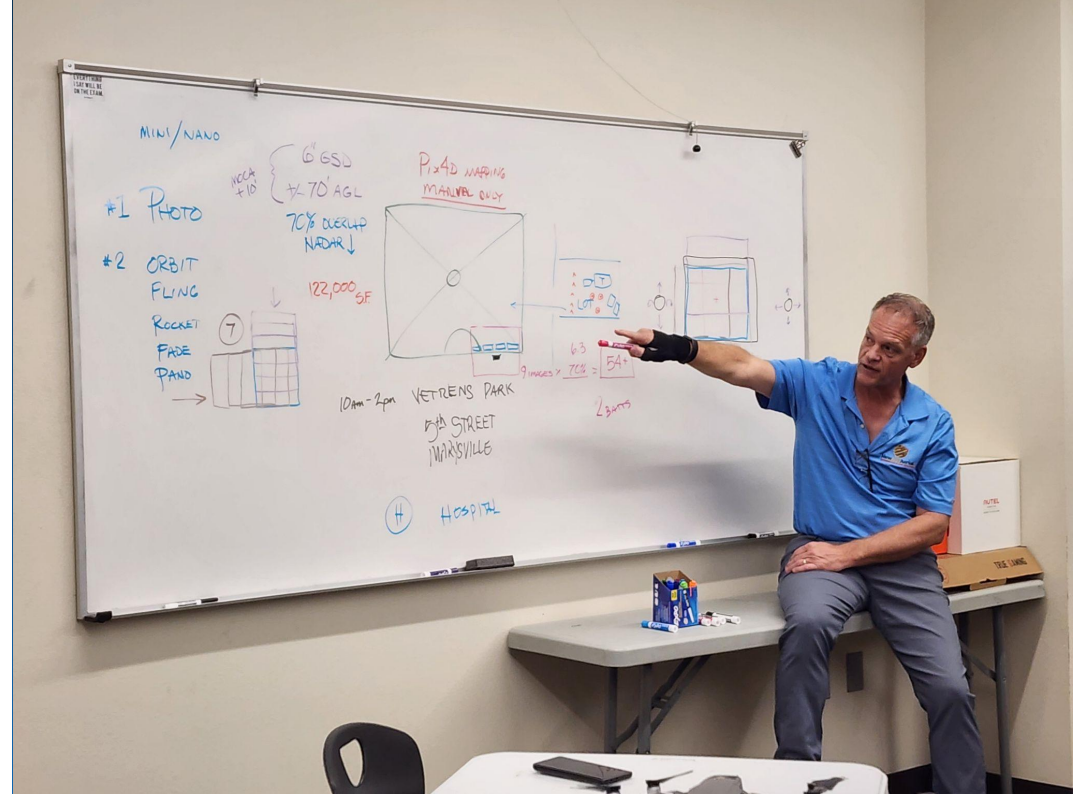
- SSP Commercial Drone Applications for the Stat...

SIMILAR LESSON PLANS

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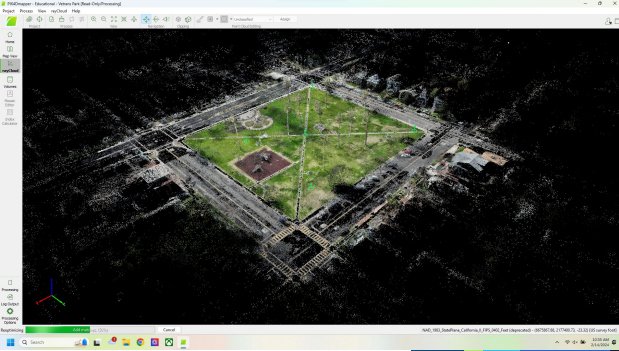
# Our Findings:

- After teaching year one, we went back to the drawing board
- We added a parallel track with only using open source software (OSS) and cell phone cameras
- Students needed additional scaffolding for their certifications
- Students needed to see the end goal in the beginning
- Not all students will pass the FAA Part 107 certification exam and some may not want to try
- Community partners are now giving us their Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to train from as the training evolves



# Community Partners!

Yuba Water Agency | CES | Marysville Parks | Marysville Fire Department



- 4th Year Student
- Job Shadow
- FAA Part 107 Pilot
- Pix4D understanding
- Digital photography
- “A” Student

# Student Experience

## Seth Cox

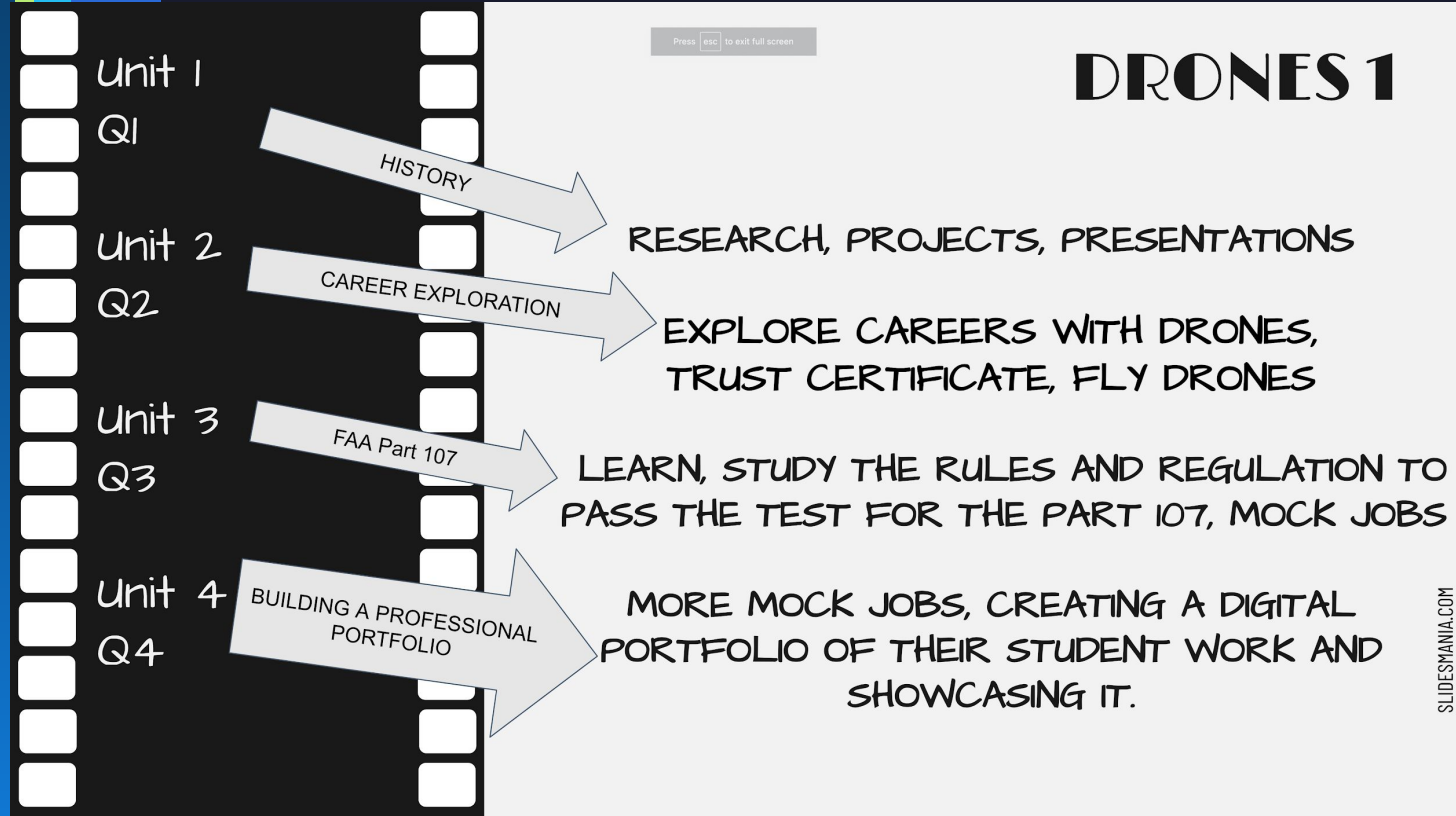


Seth looks forward to working in critical infrastructure with our community partner CES upon graduation in June

- Started in 2019 with a single drone
- Videography focus
- Skydio platform
- 1st year of instructor teaching drones
- FAA Part 107 pilot

# Program Implementation Example

## Dewey Compton- Kern High District



- FUNdraiser by Drone Club
- 100% student creation
- 1st year of instructor teaching drones
- FAA Part 107 pilots
- Gave reel to business owner
- Owner donated \$500 to the Club

# Semper Fries

Food Day Fundraiser- Produced by Drone Year 1 Students



# Questions???

Drone and Career opportunities: *Dave*

Admin perspective: *Chris*

Curriculum Development: *All of us!*

Teaching the Program: *Dave and Jeff*

Student Experience: *Seth*

School Implementation Experience: *Dewey*

*We are here until they kick us out...*



# Thanks!

We hope that our time together will bring some new ideas to CTE on your campus. Please reach out, we would love to help mentor your program.



You can find our team at:  
**CORE Charter School**

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