Phillip J. Patiño School of Entrepreneurship

Phillip Patiño was an alumnus of Fresno State, and started his education career by teaching in Woodlake, after serving in the US Army. He also taught and coached basketball at Fowler High School. The majority of his career was as a teacher and administrator at a number of schools (Calwa and Webster Elementary, Hamilton, Sequoia and Kings Canyon Middle, Hoover, Bullard and McLane High Schools) all within at Fresno Unified School District. After his retirement in 1991, he returned to work with student teachers at the Kremen School of Education within Fresno State.

Mr. Patiño served in the community of Fresno in many capacities, including the Airport Optimist Club, the Association of Mexican American Educators, Fresno State Chicano Alumni and the Kremen School of Education Alumni.

The first school of its kind in the nation, it will prepare students for the world of business with hands-on business experience and the opportunity to launch their own companies. The curriculum will include how to develop programs, code, and how to build websites. Students will learn all standard courses of study through the lens of entrepreneurship. They will be guided by both teachers and members of the local business community toward the creation of their own businesses which they will run during their senior year.

The Board of Education voted on May 26, 2015 to name the school after the educator and longtime administrator Phillip J. Patiño. The school opened on August 17, 2015, and the dedication was held on October 12, 2015.