



Synergies

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CLASSROOM OF THE FUTURE FOUNDATION

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Board of Directors Focuses on Goals for 2010 and Beyond

The rapidly changing face of technology in the classroom was a recurrent theme in the recent annual Classroom of the Future's board of directors retreat. Education and business community leaders met with educators and administrators to identify the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

With several years' experience of planning and implementing technological programs in the classroom, this year CFF officials discussed short term results and long term ramifications with the San Diego County Office of Education and individual school district officials. They included Cajon Valley Superintendent **Janice Cook** as well as Santee superintendent **Pat Shaw**, Coronado superintendent **Jeff Felix**, and SDCOE's chief technology officer, **Steve Clemons**.

East County STEM (Science, Technology, Energy Mathematics) schools as well as Coronado's online line learning program and Lemon Grove's 1:1 program were among those pioneering approaches to technology in education that are being explored.

The CFF board of directors will finalize its 2010 priorities in late September. *(Photo: USD SOLES building, site of 2009 CFF Retreat)*



“Genius without knowledge is like silver in the mine.”

--Benjamin Franklin

Retirement Leads to Larger CFF Role



After 33 years' service with the San Diego County Office of Education, **Bruce Braciszewski** retired August 31, leaving him with more time to devote to the Classroom of the Future Foundation. Previously he had split his time between CFF and his SDCOE position as Senior Director for ITV and EBS Services.

Bruce is particularly proud of the collaboration between SDCOE and a fledgling CFF that began in 1997. It has grown from a single technology center to three regional technology centers, active programs in 12 school districts across the county, CFF's Innovation Awards, and a growing scholarship program.

He also played a key role in the development of SDCOE's microwave broadcast system about 15 years ago, some of which is utilized by the district, and the majority of which is leased to commercial interests. The leases will generate more than \$140 million over 30 years for the San Diego County Office of Education.

Braciszewski also is proud of his involvement in the successful \$240 million

“The great aim of education is not just knowledge, but action.”

--Herbert Spencer

bond issue for city schools. From broadcast to communications to community relations on behalf of the education community, he can focus that broad experience fully on Classroom of the Future Foundation initiatives.

Sempra Supports Project Learning

CFF board members **Ritz Sherman, Todd Dillon** and **Rick Beach** presented the Santee School District with a \$15,000 grant to expand the district’s pioneering project-based learning program, thanks to a donation from Sempra Energy.



The initiative began about four years ago when Santee educators participated in a professional development program at UCLA. The program focuses on student collaboration on projects rather than traditional “podium education.” Project learning also emphasizes the use of 21st century technology.

The Sempra grant will provide the resources necessary for additional Santee teachers to participate in professional development. As they complete the training program, they return to the district and show other teachers throughout the district how to embrace the project-based learning philosophy.

CFF Plays Key Role in Expansion of (USS) “Midway University”

Thousands of San Diego students are now learning about math, science and social studies “far out at sea” without leaving port, thanks to a partnership between CFF and the USS Midway Museum.



CFF and its participating TIME teachers provided extensive technical expertise over the past year as the museum expanded from four to seven lab-classrooms to accommodate overwhelming demand by local teachers. The classroom expansion has increased the education program’s capacity from 32,000 to nearly 50,000 students annually.

Every class visit is an adventure aboard Midway. Leading-edge technology that includes Promethean Activboards for the Midway educator, and wireless “active vote” devices for the visiting students bring subject matter alive in a truly unique context.

When students learn about Newton’s Laws, for example, they experience the drama of jet aircraft launching off the flight deck at 150

“You cannot teach a man anything. You can only help him find it within himself.”

--Galileo Galilei

miles per hour. When weight is discussed, they hear the carrier’s 130-pound links in its anchor chains rumbling through the ship.

“The Classroom of the Future Foundation helped us insure that leading technology did not detract from the unique learning environment that is the USS Midway,” said education director **Sara Hanscom**. “For more than a year their team provided invaluable technical knowledge, classroom design expertise, product selection input, and pilot testing assistance.”

The museum anticipates an ongoing relationship with CFF as it works toward its goal of making “Midway University” accessible to each of the county’s 500,000 K-12 students at least once in their academic careers.

In addition to extensive in-kind and pro bono work by HMC Architects and contracted services by the CFF Innovation Office, the Midway University expansion project was made possible by donations from the Jack in the Box Foundation, Hervey Foundation, and individual members of the museum’s board of directors.

Lemon Grove Receives \$25,000

The Lemon Grove School District recently received a \$25,000 grant in support of its Teacher on Special Assignment Program from CFF thanks to a donation from the Todd & Mari Gutschow Family Foundation.

The initiative pays for a teacher, **Sally Ahern**, to devote her time outside the classroom to become a technology mentor for other teachers. Together with CFF, Lemon Grove has developed some pioneering uses of technology and now is committed to expanding usage throughout its elementary and middle schools. “Teachers teaching teachers” is a key component to greater adoption of emerging education technology.

The check, presented by **Todd Gutschow**, CFF chair **Tom Dillon**, and CFF executive director **Bruce Braciszewski**, also reflects a strong and continuing working relationship between Lemon Grove educators and the Classroom of the Future Foundation.

Technology News Inside, Outside the Classroom

Across California, schools saw a 4.5-percent increase in the number of elementary students scoring “proficient” or “advanced” in math. But 64 Orange County elementary schools that used a **math software program** created by the nonprofit MIND Research Institute saw a nearly 13-percent increase in the number of students scoring in those top levels, reports the Los Angeles Times.

Such gains show that “demographics and background have nothing to do with kids’ success,” said Santa Ana Unified School District Supt. Jane Russo.

The MIND institute used neuroscience research to create a way to teach math based on spatial-temporal reasoning. “It’s thinking in pictures,” said Matthew Peterson, co-founder of the Santa Ana-based institute. Using computer games as well as interactive visuals in the classroom, students are taught fractions, equations, comparisons, and other math processes. Later, they learn the vocabulary and symbols that go with the subject matter. In the computer lab, students proceed at their own pace through lessons twice a week. The software records their work, so researchers can improve the computer program or teacher training...

...School districts across the country are aggressively **cutting back on the**

avalanche of paper sent home, trying to exploit the much-cheaper communication channel of the internet, reports the New York Times. While saving money is often the main motivation, some districts are finding that going paperless has other advantages, like eliminating classroom distractions, informing parents more quickly about test results or swine flu outbreaks, and promoting environmentalism.

Schools in the Chicago suburb of Naperville have adopted paperless policies and begun a "take back the backpack" campaign to cut down on fliers handed out to students. School boards from Georgia to Arizona have switched to paperless meetings, where online agendas and minutes have replaced inch-thick information packets. And New York's Scarsdale Middle School will no longer print report cards this year; instead, grades will be available through a secure section of its web site, which officials said would save \$1,000 annually and, they hope, reduce peer pressure over comparing grades...

...Minnesota's Kingsland Public Schools is considering an alternative school schedule in which students would spend **four days in a traditional classroom setting with the fifth day of instruction delivered via technology and computer**, reports the Post-Bulletin of Rochester, Minn.

District officials say the proposal remains at the discussion stage, but it could be implemented as early the second semester of this academic year.

Officials say the proposal should not be viewed as a four-day school week, because the fifth day -- or digital day -- would be a school day also. Only in this case, the instruction would be delivered at a remote location, such as at home, the library, or the computer lab at school...

...The Santa Clara, Calif., county health department is putting together an educational campaign for area **high schools that uses social media to teach students how to guard against swine flu**, reports the San Jose Mercury News.

According to county health officer Marty Fenstersheib, 17 is the median age of swine flu victims. So the health department soon will be sending a "toolkit" to area high schools outlining a campaign that will use social media, such as a YouTube video contest, to develop flu prevention messages. The toolbox also will include materials and information to help students run their own peer-to-peer education campaign.

According to Los Gatos-Saratoga High School District assistant superintendent Bob Mistele, "We've communicated to teachers the same commonsense precautions they would take for the regular flu. When a student contracts the flu, the student goes home." Mistele said if the county health department determines there is indeed a swine flu threat, the district is prepared: "We've really tried to prepare should this escalate. We'll utilize eMail to all the parents and our school messenger [phone] system. We won't be sending any notes home with students--that's not effective. For high school students, Facebook and Twitter are the most effective forms of communication.

Synergies is a newsletter of the Classroom of the Future Foundation. For more information, contact Bruce Braciszewski at (858) 292-3685 or visit www.classroomofthefuture.org.