



# Synergies

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CLASSROOM OF THE FUTURE FOUNDATION

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## CFF Collaborates, Validates, and Facilitates Innovation in Education

Just as leaps in technology are challenging longstanding education practices, the Classroom of the Future Foundation is responding and adapting to the changing needs and opportunities found in San Diego County's classrooms.

This shift in focus was evident at this year's annual Innovation in Education Awards dinner where the CFF relationship with education has evolved to offer districts **collaboration**, **validation**, and **financial facilitation**. Many superintendents can cite examples of how CFF has fulfilled one or more of those roles with their educators.



In fact, it was a panel of superintendents at last fall's CFF retreat that crystallized why the Classroom of the Future Foundation should be focusing on these three specific areas. Several presentations made at this year's awards dinner

benefited from the work of CFF. These three core services from CFF match the needs of our educational community with the potential offerings from the business community. Moving forward, forging stronger links will help drive innovation in education throughout San Diego region public schools.

## Programs, Districts, and Students Receive Awards and Scholarships



The Classroom of the Future Foundation again honored some of San Diego County's most innovative educators as well as accomplished AVID students at its annual Innovation in Education Awards dinner, held at the University of San Diego last month.

Four groups of educators were awarded the **inspire**, **innovate**, **achieve** and **impact** awards and sixteen students received **High Tech Academic Achievement Scholarships**, underwritten by Jack in the Box, Biogen Idec, and Cymer. It's remarkable how geographically diverse the awards were this year:

### North County Coastal

Scholarships were awarded to five students bound for college: Christine

*“The dream begins, most of the time, with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you on to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called truth.”*

--Dan Rather  
Broadcast Journalist

*To know the road ahead, ask those coming back.”*

--Chinese Proverb



Fuentes, Oceanside High School (UCSB: math); Martiza Ibarra at Oceanside (Cal Poly Pomona: architectural engineering); Phuong Tran at Oceanside (UC Berkeley: biochemistry); Diego Marez, Carlsbad High School (UCSD: electrical engineering); Laura Ruiz, San Dieguito Academy (UC Riverside: medicine related).

#### **North County Inland**

The Bonsall Union School District received CFF's achieve award for its "Integrated Learning Environment, a program that helped close the achievement gap for English learners and disadvantaged students by blending school- and home-based learning with 24/7 educational access to game-like instructional programs.

The Escondido Union Elementary School District received the impact award by incorporating iPods into the educational system so that students can learn at their own pace and so that teachers can construct project-based lessons with an emphasis in engaging multimedia content. Other districts are already adopting Escondido's approach.

Margarita Vargas Patron of Escondido High School also received a scholarship (UCSD: medicine).

#### **East County**

Seven East County students earned scholarships and the Santee Elementary School District received the inspire award from CFF. The district has created a PRIDE Academy (Purposeful, Rigorous, Innovative, Dynamic Education) that emphasizes collaborative groups of students who present their projects to audiences of classmates. The inspirational approach has produced significant API point gains.

East County scholarship recipients were Maya Eckhardt-Polanco at Borrego High School (UC: environmental engineering); Humberto Figuera at Granite Hills High School (UCSD: engineering); Patrick Maldonado at Grossmont High School (Humboldt State: engineering); Agazit Tesfai at Grossmont (UCSB: pharmacy); Josue Moreno at El Cajon Valley High School (UCSD: civil engineering); Savi Toma at El Cajon (UCSD: biology); and Marissa Pitman at El Capitan High School (Whittier College: forensic science).

#### **South Bay**

Three South Bay students received High Tech Academic Achievement Awards as well. They include Ruben Lupez at San Ysidro High School (UC: chemical engineering); Nour Nona of Bonita Vista High School (SDSU: math); and Oscar Montiel at Montgomery High School (UC Irvine).

#### **San Diego**

Serra High School's Biotechnology Workforce program received the innovate award for bringing the biotechnology community into the classroom via classroom visits, field trips, job shadows, and externships. Innovative partnering generates motivation, role models, and the vital link between school and career.

*“Education is the transmission of civilization. Civilization is not inherited; it has to be learned again by each new generation.”*

--David Kearns  
Former chairman of  
Xerox Corp.

## Classroom of the Future Board Adds SDG&E, AT&T Representatives



**Patti Wagner**, SDG&E's vice president of information technology, has joined the CFF board, adding significant technology expertise to the organization. Patti is responsible for corporate information technologies, information security, IT infrastructure, and network and telecommunication services.



**Tom Holland**, an AT&T senior account manager who has worked with fifty K-12 school districts in San Diego and Imperial Counties, also has joined the CFF board. A 30-year veteran of information technology, Tom also has been a education advocate who brings diverse experience to the CFF board of directors.

### Education News of Note

#### STEM Funding Proposal Advances

The U.S. House of Representatives gave its assent on May 28 to \$84 billion in federal funding to help keep the country competitive in the fields of scientific and technological innovation, just days before a new list suggested China is challenging America's dominance in supercomputing.

Among other measures, the bill supports science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education through a coordination of activities at all levels.

#### Federal Education Technology Funding Report

Computer-based testing, online high school courses, instructional data systems, and a dropout reengagement program that uses a blended model of instruction are just some of the uses of federal education technology funding that are occurring in states, a group of state leaders told Congress in lobbying for further ed-tech support.

President Obama's budget proposal would fold EETT—the largest single source of federal funding for school technology equipment, support, and professional development—into a new competitive grant program that aims to promote effective teaching learning by making technology an integral part of education.

#### Using Skype to Educate

With school budgets continuing to shrink, many educators are turning to free or inexpensive software such as Skype, along with the web cameras that now come standard on most laptop computers, to connect with other classes or colleagues online—forgoing traditional (and more expensive) video conferencing solutions.

Numerous educators said they have used Skype in one form or another for lesson planning or instruction, with most citing its cost (or lack thereof) and ease of use as the main reason for going with the software program.

Skype offers a range of free services, including the ability to make voice or video calls and send instant messages to other Skype users. Users also can pay for services such as making calls from a PC to a landline or cell phone.

(Source: [www.eschoolnews.com](http://www.eschoolnews.com))

## **Education Trends Technology**

Here are the top trends in learning management systems, online learning and mobile computing identified in a 2010 Software & Information Industry Association report released this month.

In 2008, 35 percent of the K-12 schools surveyed said they had no plans to buy a learning management system, but lower prices and higher federal accountability requirements will change their minds, according to the report. And when they do change their minds, they'll be looking for digital content and professional development to go along with the systems.

The e-learning market has been expanding steadily, and over the next four years, forecasters predict that K-12 online learning will advance at a compound annual growth rate of 17 percent, while higher education will grow at 8 percent.

In the past two years, netbooks have arrived on the scene, but their sales are already growing more than 200 percent per year. K-12 schools adopt them at a higher rate because many of them provide devices for their students. Netbook trends include 10-inch screens, faster processors, longer battery life and built-in wireless wide area networks.

While these are some trends that are happening now and in the next year or two, the report also forecasts what education technology will look like in the future. In the next five years, the report predicts that cloud computing, cell phone use and 3G and 4G data plans will become mainstream in education.

*(Source: [www.convergemag.com](http://www.convergemag.com))*

**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](http://www.classroomofthefuture.org).