



Synergies

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CLASSROOM OF THE FUTURE FOUNDATION

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Sponsors Are Lining Up for This Year's Innovation Awards Dinner

The lineup of sponsors for this year's Innovation In Education Awards Dinner is more impressive than ever.

The 11th Annual Innovation In Education Awards will be held on Wednesday, May 21 at 5 p.m. at the Hahn University Center on the University of San Diego's campus.

The title sponsor this year is SDG&E, a longtime CFF supporter. Presenting sponsors include the University of San Diego, San Diego County Office of Education and Qualcomm. As community interest in STEM education increases, CFF is seeing greater sponsorship enthusiasm from the San Diego business community.



Tables are still available for this signature event, but the reservation deadline for \$1,500 tables of eight is May 14. For more information, contact Bruce Braciszewski at (858) 292-3685 or visit www.classroomofthefuture.org.

Several Initiatives to be Showcased

Some of San Diego's most forward-thinking uses of educational technology will be showcased at the Innovation Awards Dinner on May 21.

The **San Diego Unified School District's iHigh Virtual Academy** will receive the achieve award for its online/blended, college-prep high school program. It not only serves its student body, but students from 18 school districts are enrolled online. The "dual enrollment" model enables military transfer students, students with medical issues, and students with flexible schedules to participate. Graduating students have completed close to 1,500 online course credits over the past four years. A major advantage of the program is that students have expanded choices beyond what their district offers and can craft coursework schedules to meet their individual circumstances. The school will receive a \$5,000 award from Mission Federal Credit Union.

The **Escondido Union School District's Bear Valley Middle School** will receive the innovate award for its STEM/robotics program. Students collaboratively use science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) principles online with business community mentors to develop innovative projects. Rather than "the keeper of knowledge," the teacher connects student groups with resources and experts online. One result was an award-winning drone project designed and built to fly into earthquake-damaged buildings to detect gas leaks. The school will receive a \$5,000 cash award from EDmin.

Cajon Valley Middle School's Learning Through Production, not Consumption program will receive the inspire award. The program is transforming student assessment from paper-based exercises to creative problem-solving multi-media projects online in which students collaborate. Since 2011, students

"Children need all school workers... Janitors can see children when (teachers) don't see them, and bus drivers recognize that children who are disruptive on the bus are likely to be disorderly in the classroom. They're partners in education. We need each other to make this work."

Rev. Jesse Jackson

“Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students. What better books can there be than the book of humanity?”

Cesar Chavez

receiving “A” grades have increased 31 percent while failing grades have decreased 47 percent. The emphasis of a digital-based learning environment also has led to significant increases in student involvement and notable decreases in student behavior issues. The school will receive a \$5,000 cash award from Qualcomm.

The **Encinitas Union School District** will receive the impact award for its commitment to providing all 5,500 students with iPads for greater access to digital curriculum. The program emphasizes making a wide range of creative apps available to students. More than 70 percent of all students learn how to use the apps on their own time, making the time spent on class work far more productive. Similarly, 72 percent of students’ parents report their children are more engaged when they have their own digital learning device. This is the third year of the program and Encinitas will receive a \$10,000 cash award from SDG&E.

20 AVID Students to Receive Scholarships

Thanks to a \$20,000 donation from the USS Midway Museum and a \$20,000 donation from the Jack in the Box Foundation, 20 AVID students will receive \$2,000 scholarships at the May 21 dinner.

Education Leaders to Be Honored May 21

Three education community leaders will be honored for their dedication and accomplishments at the Innovation Dinner at USD.

Dr. Paula Cordeiro will receive the Visionary and Outstanding Leadership Award. She is dean of the School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES) at the University of San Diego. She has held leadership positions on several leading education-community boards of directors and has authored three books, including the textbook *Educational Leadership: A Bridge to Improved Practice*, now in its fifth edition.



Kathy Shirley will receive the Innovative Educator Award as director of technology and innovation for Escondido School District/Bear Valley Middle School. Kathy played a leading role in developing the district’s 1:1 learning program based on mobile-device technology. The award is sponsored by Peterson Hill Marketing.

Dr. Devin Vodicka will receive the Innovative Superintendent Award for his work in the Vista Unified School District. Dr. Vodicka has held several school district leadership positions in the North County and is a former teacher. He holds a doctorate in organizational leadership from Pepperdine University. The award is sponsored by SDG&E.



Matt Baier, Director of the Center for Innovation at Cathedral Catholic High School, will receive the Innovative Technology Award. Matt trains and helps teachers in integrating technology into their classes, creates and manages online courses, and facilitates tech training for parents. He has been an acclaimed social science teacher for 13 years and runs “iPads in the Classroom: A Conference for Educators.”

“Everything is interesting if you go into it deeply enough.”

Richard Freyman,
Nobel Laureate

Business Leaders Support STEM

CFF has received two grants from two of its leading supporters. Ashford University has awarded \$5,000 to the STEM program at Lemon Grove Middle School and Emerald STEM Academy. General Atomic has awarded \$3,000 to support the STEMposium, a four-day professional development program for teachers during the summer.

Project RED to Drive Efficiency

A collaboration of CFF, the San Diego County Office of Education, six school districts, and a leading national consultant is taking shape, with the intent of improving learning efficiency in the face of limited school resources.

Fundamentally, the group is looking at how to integrate successful educational technology programs with business strategies that preserve resources and improve efficiency. In other words, doing more with less. The initiative grew out of the Classroom of the Future’s 2013 board retreat.

Local education leaders are working with a national consultant, the Greaves Group, in developing a pilot project designed to be launched this September. The program will be highlighted at the Innovation in Education Awards Dinner on May 21 at USD.

Pilot Project at Vista High School

Verizon, Samsung, and the Classroom of the Future Foundation are joining forces to create a pilot 1:1 learning program at Vista High School. Samsung is providing students with tablets and Verizon is providing 24/7 broadband access for a physics class.

By providing connectivity more universally accessible than WIFI hot spots for students, the project will assess how that impacts teaching strategy and student achievement. UCSD researchers will track both student utilization and outcomes through the end of the school year.

Free Resources on our Social Media

At CFF, we take pride in providing free resources for educators to assist them with bringing innovation into their classrooms. One free resource is all the free information on our social networks about EdTech, STEM/STEAM, local education news, and much more. We curate content from more than 50 educational blogs and news sources, and then post the best articles on our social networks for our followers. Are you following us yet? Here are our social networks:



[Facebook.com/CFFSD](https://www.facebook.com/CFFSD)



[Twitter.com/CFFSD](https://twitter.com/CFFSD)



<https://plus.google.com/102428139548266230458/posts>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/classroom-of-the-future-foundation>

Linked Education Technology News

[3 Practices That Support Education](#)

Don’t let the headline mislead you: This story won’t tell you how to innovate. Still, being open and willing to take a risk or two can put your school district on

the path to something great. And adopting new policies or practices can set you on the road to modeling innovation for your district and others.

[5 Steps to Better Early Childhood Tech Use](#)

Closing the digital divide has been a constant challenge as technology tools and use become more prevalent in schools. Now, research shows that developing early technology skills can help close the digital divide. Though technology use has expanded in schools, students' at-home technology and internet access isn't necessarily reliable.

[School Libraries Urged to Embrace Digital Cautiously](#)

Technology might make some parts of libraries obsolete—but librarians won't be among them, panelists contended at the annual Texas Library Association conference in San Antonio, which drew 7,200 attendees. As the popularity of electronic books continues to rise, schools are emerging as a dynamic area of how libraries adjust.

[8 Technology Tips From District Leaders](#)

When it comes to school technology, having a plan, and having strong leaders to guide that plan, are two of the most important steps to success, according to the 2014 winners of *eSchool News'* Tech-Savvy Superintendent Awards. The eight winners of the *eSchool News* Tech-Savvy Superintendent Awards program, chosen for their commitment to educational technology and teaching and learning, shared their best practices for creating schools that boost student engagement and achievement by leveraging technology tools during a series of webinars sponsored by Lenovo.

[Tablets Turning the Page of Textbooks](#)

With more than 170 million units sold, the iPad has revolutionized mobile computing since its release in 2010. While Apple's market share plummeted to about 36 percent last year with the emergence of cheaper Android-based tablets, it can be said that the iPad has changed the way people work, play and communicate. Four years after being introduced to consumers around the globe, the trend-setting tablet is poised to drastically change the way Raleigh County students learn by turning textbooks, plastic foam dioramas and library card catalogs into things of the past.

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 © 2014. Education technology news summaries are courtesy of eschoolnews.com.