



Synergies

SDG&E Strengthens Commitment to Classroom of the Future Initiatives

SDG&E has awarded CFF a \$31,000 grant, resources that will bolster several successful programs of widespread ramifications.

One is Project RED, a program that pioneers 1:1 learning and provides best-practice professional development opportunities for educators and administrators. Eight San Diego County school districts now participate, the most recent additions being Bonsall Unified School District and Oceanside Unified School District. The eight districts are responsible for the education of more than 100,000 students.



The program is based on sound research, analyzing the track records of top school districts around the country that employ 1:1 learning technology and techniques. Project RED now has a quantifiable track record, prompting school districts to contact the Classroom of the Future Foundation to find out how they can participate in the collaboration with The Greaves Group and the San Diego County Office of Education.

SDG&E also underwrote the \$10,000 impact award and the \$1,000 innovative superintendent award at the 2015 Innovation in Education Awards program. SDG&E has been a strong sponsor of the program for more than a decade and is one of more than 40 business partners who support this growing recognition program.



In addition, SDG&E is providing \$10,000 for CFF to work with CoTA, a teachers-and-artists professional development program that helps educators infuse the visual and performing arts into various curricula. Since its inception in 1998, CoTA has collaborated with 1,200 teachers and more than 25,000 students at 33 schools from 5 districts throughout San Diego County.

CoTA's three-year intensive "Collaborations" provides elementary schools a comprehensive arts-integration professional development program. Each year, teachers receive 15 to 20 hours of training, totaling 55 hours over three years. By the end of the program, teachers are skillful and purposeful in enlisting the visual and performing arts as modes of learning and communication.

Local STEM Recognized Nationally

The San Diego County Office of Education, in collaboration with the Classroom of the Future Foundation, has been selected to be one of 27 school districts nationwide to establish a national STEM collaboration, entitled "Designing and Implementing Community-Based STEM Learning Ecosystems Initiative."



The STEM Funders Network chose districts that have been at the forefront of

"Memory is the cabinet of imagination, the treasury of reason, the registry of conscience, and the council chamber of thought."

St. Basil

“All knowledge is of itself of some value. There is nothing so minute or inconsiderable that I would not rather know it than not.”

Samuel Johnson

STEM education initiatives. Now the goal is for those national leaders to combine their best-practice experiences and make them available to others. The vision of the organization is that “all U.S. students should have equal opportunity to engage in high-quality STEM learning experiences that will enhance their ability to succeed in a STEM career or other chosen path.”

SDCOE/CFF was one of five California districts invited to participate. The others are in San Jose, Los Angeles, Camarillo and Corona Del Mar.

CFF’s Bruce Braciszewski to Retire

The Classroom of the Future Foundation’s executive director for the past 17 years, Bruce Braciszewski, will retire by the end of 2015. The board of directors has formed a search committee and will begin recruiting in October. Recently married, he is relocating out of the county and plans to travel with his new wife.



He leaves behind a remarkable track record and legacy at CFF, having taken the helm only about a year after CFF was established. One of the earliest accomplishments was the T.I.M.E. Initiative, a teacher-driven project focusing on making innovative technology part of the classroom and learning environment. It became the blueprint for today’s 1:1 learning programs.

Two years later the Innovation in Education Awards program was established to showcase innovative leaders and technology use and provided almost \$300,000 in awards to local districts. Also the High Tech Academic Achievement Scholarships program has provided \$440,000 in financial scholarships for hundreds of AVID students.

In addition, under Braciszewski’s leadership, CFF created the Innovation Office; facilitating Project RED programs; played a key role in STEM collaborations; and now is reassessing its vision for the next two to three years.

“It’s been an honor working with such a dedicated group of education and business leaders,” said Braciszewski. “The growth of CFF and its impact on school districts throughout San Diego County bodes well for the opportunities future students will have in the twenty-first century.” Braciszewski adds he likely will be doing some education-related consulting in the future.

The Classroom of the Future Foundation Board of Directors has created a search committee and will be actively recruiting for an executive director before the end of this year. For inquiries and additional information contact Brian.Elswick@sprint.com.

New Chair and Vice Chair at CFF



Longtime CFF board member Ritz Sherman is now chairman of the CFF board. The 27-year veteran at Apple has worked with K12 districts throughout California to implement new educational technology and environments, with an emphasis in personalized learning. He has served on several national boards and panels. He served as vice chair of CFF in 2011 and 2014.



Darrell Stewart now serves as vice chairman of the CFF Board. He is the public sector manager for the SLED (state, local and education) group at Intel Corporation. He helps lead Intel initiatives that engage public-sector leaders, visionaries, advocates and industry partners, a philosophical approach very similar to the mission of the Classroom of the Future Foundation.

“A liberal education... frees a person from the prison-house of his class, race, time, place, background, family, and even his nation.”

Robert Maynard Hutchins

CFF's Social Media Update

Are you using social media in your classroom yet as a teaching tool? Here are some ideas to try:

1. Create a Facebook Group for your class
2. Create a custom hashtag for the class to use on Twitter or Instagram for projects
3. Post student videos on YouTube or directly into Facebook
4. Showcase students' work in photos posted on Pinterest or Instagram
5. Tweet updates to parents from your Twitter account
6. Teach students to become storytellers on Twitter in 140 characters or less
7. Help students learn how to record a short video using a phone or tablet, add special effects, then post their assignment on YouTube

To discover more ideas that are being shared on social networks in the classroom, go to www.BuzzSumo.com, enter your topic, then discover the popular articles shared on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Pinterest, and Google+.



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



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

Linked Education Technology News

[Social networking giant joins other tech firms offering education resources](#)

Impressed by the learning environment at Summit Public Schools, Facebook said Thursday that the social network teamed up with the charter school network to revamp an online education tool. The tool, dubbed the “Personalized Learning Plan,” allows K-12 students to schedule and track their coursework and assignments, helping them see how it fits into their skills and career path. Eventually, the social network plans to make the software available for free to all schools in the United States...

[8 things every teacher can do to create an innovative classroom](#)

Innovation is a trait that I desperately want to instill in my students, and many teachers I talk to seem to share that goal. In the current climate of high stakes testing, state standards, and prescribed learning outcomes, it can be incredibly difficult to foster an atmosphere of innovation and creativity that inspires students. But rest assured, it is possible...

[What Google's virtual field trips look like in the classroom](#)

Last spring, Hector Camacho guided his high school economics class on comprehensive tours of the New York Stock Exchange, Federal Reserve banks, and the Treasury Building. Students swept their eyes up countless Neoclassical columns before heading inside for a detailed look — all without leaving the library of their Mountain View, California school...

[Is mobile the key to physics instruction?](#)

Usually high school students take biology and chemistry before taking physics; yet, only 36 percent of students end up in physics courses, according to the American Institute of Physics. Meera Chandrasekhar, a professor of physics at the University of Missouri, received a \$5 million multi-year grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to address this challenge. She and her team developed a hands-on physics course for ninth graders designed to give them a

	<p>better chance at being successful in higher-level high school and college-level science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM courses...</p> <p>5 reasons schools aren't using more innovative classroom models</p> <p>Nine out of 10 administrators surveyed in a new report said using technology effectively as part of instructional practice is important to educate and prepare students, but a few key challenges are delaying plans for more innovative classroom models. Seventy-eight percent of surveyed parents said using technology as a regular part of daily classes is the best way for their child to develop the skills they'll need to succeed in college and the workforce, according to Trends in Digital Learning: Empowering Innovative Classroom Models for Learning, released by Project Tomorrow and Blackboard...</p>
	<p>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 © 2015. Education technology news summaries are courtesy of eschoolnews.com.</p>