



# Synergies

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CLASSROOM OF THE FUTURE FOUNDATION

ISSUE 25

## Innovation Awards' Nominations Are Due March 16, 2009

You have the opportunity to shine the spotlight on San Diego County's most innovative educators, administrators, and school districts at this year's Classroom of the Future's Innovation in Educations Awards Dinner. "Commanding Innovative Excellence" will be held aboard the USS Midway Museum in downtown San Diego on May 14!

This is the sixth year of annual awards. Winners in 2009 will join more than 20 past recipients who have received cash awards totaling more than \$100,000. Innovation Awards not only salute innovative uses of technology in education, the cash awards of \$5,000 and \$10,000 are reinvested in additional education programs.

Anyone can nominate an innovative program in one of four categories: inspire (motivating students to learn); innovate (finding new and better ways to educate); achieve (demonstrating the results of innovation); and impact (a program reflecting the best of inspiration, innovation and results).

Award recipients are honored at the dinner with a videotaped profile that also is broadcast on ITV Channel 16. They also are saluted before their respective board of education and are highlighted on the Classroom of the Future Foundation website and advertising in The San Diego Union-Tribune.

You can submit a nomination online by visiting [www.classroomofthefuture.org](http://www.classroomofthefuture.org). For more information, please email [cffstaff@list.sdcoe.net](mailto:cffstaff@list.sdcoe.net) or call (858) 292-3685.

## "Era of Responsibility" Inspires Innovation Awards Sponsors

San Diego's business and civic leaders are lining up to sponsor this year's Innovation Awards. We are especially grateful for the continued investment in education's future, given the uncertain economic times faced by all San Diegans.

We've been able to find some creative ways for sponsors to provide in-kind services or products in a concerted effort to keep this a showcase event. Others are signing on as corporate sponsors or buying tables.

Leading sponsors again this year include the Todd Gutchow Family Foundation, General Atomics, Apple, Sony, Time Warner, Cox Communications, Sempra, QUALCOMM, Mission Federal Credit Union and *The San Diego Union-Tribune*. In addition, the USS Midway Museum is deeply discounting its facility rental and related fees. **We also have some late-breaking news:**

*The USS Midway Museum will donate a Museum Guest Pass to every attendee at the dinner! That makes sponsorship an even better investment!*

For more information on how on your company or organization can become involved, please call Bruce Braciszewski at (858) 292-3685.



***"I believe that schools need to share more with the communities around them."***

--Teachers react to future of education article on page 3

## Sneak Preview of CFF Innovation

The innovation and creativity of the Classroom of the Future Foundation knows no bounds! CFF is working with the Education Department of the USS Midway Museum on new classroom spaces now under construction.

Imagine creating 21st century classrooms aboard an aircraft carrier that was built in only 17 months during World War II! That's exactly what's happening and awards dinner attendees will get a sneak preview of this pioneering initiative.



In less than 5 years, Midway's Education Department has grown to hosting nearly 40,000 students per year in onboard math, science, social science, and history programs that meet California Content Standards. The program is "sold out" nearly a year in advance, so Midway is working on CFF on a project to double the number of classrooms aboard the 64-year-old aircraft carrier.

Today, CFF is in the midst of the third phase of the collaborative which focuses on TIME teachers working with Midway educators. The overall project is on course for completion and use by students in September 2009.

## CFF Reaches Out to Santee, Cajon Valley, Lemon Grove Districts



CFF officials have been meeting with the superintendents of three East County school districts on an initiative designed to keep students engaged in the classroom.

The concept is to create more collaboration between teachers which results in more project-based student learning. Project-based learning often employs teams of students who work together but have individual responsibilities. It not only promotes

learning but helps develop social and personal-responsibility skills. Students remain more engaged during the school day, rather than waiting for teachers to deliver educational content in a more traditional manner.

The superintendents of all three districts, Dr. Lisa Johnson (Santee), Dr. Janice Cook (Cajon Valley), and Dr. Ernie Anatos (Lemon Grove), are working closing with CFF representatives on the multi-year project.

## Blake Miller Joins CFF Board

Blake Miller, vice president of marketing for Cymer, has joined the Classroom of the Future Foundation board of directors. Cymer is the world's leader in light source technology used in the manufacturing of computer chips.

Blake has more than 20 years' experience in hardware and software technology marketing and communications and is a welcome addition to the board.

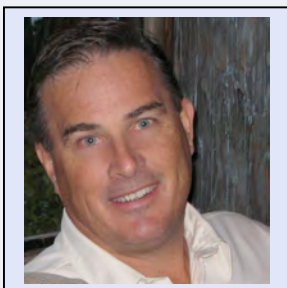
"We are particularly pleased to welcome Blake to the board," said CFF president Tom Dillon. "His broad background both in technology and marketing communications will be important to CFF's goal of creating broader and deeper relationships with the San Diego business community."

***"Technology is expanding and becoming a huge part in the world of education."***

--See Cisco story, next page

***"If used correctly and knowledgeably technology opens amazing doors for collaboration."***

--Cisco story, next page



*-Blake Miller  
Vice President,  
Corporate Marketing  
Cymer Inc.*

## Education Headlines of Note

### **Cisco Systems Previews the Future, Teachers Unsure**

A concept paper, "21st Century Learning Environments" sponsored by technology leader Cisco Systems, paints a classroom in the future far different than the traditional learning environment.

Cisco and other educational leaders envision flexible learning spaces instead of fixed walls. Traditional class periods of 50 minutes are replaced with more dynamic schedules that fit lesson plan requirements. Perhaps most importantly, student education would be team-oriented, a premise based on collaboration, interaction, information gathering, and sharing in a group dynamic.

The concept, one that closely parallels much of the work already being done by the Classroom of the Future Foundation, is one that places a high priority on teaching personal and workplace skills on a par with academic achievement.

Innovative use of technology is key to CFF's work today and the foundation of Cisco's vision of the future. Virtual, online, and remote learning technology creates a stronger sense of community, both within the classroom as well as between schools and their communities. Technology enables education without barriers to learning.

While many educators and administrators endorse Cisco's vision, limited resources and traditional demands on educators' time remain obstacles to realizing the potential of innovative technology available today. Regardless, progress continues on many fronts, in part due to the work of forward-thinking educators and administrators, the Classroom of the Future Foundation, and similar organizations.

Cisco's futuristic white papers on education are at:  
[www.cisco.com/web/SG/learning/21stcenturyeducation/index.html](http://www.cisco.com/web/SG/learning/21stcenturyeducation/index.html)

### **Smithson Institution Goes Digital for Students**

The Smithsonian Institution has announced plans to digitize its collection of 137 million artifacts and employ social-networking tools as principle methods to connect with today's students and future generations.

Work already is under way, including a new education-based website that includes lesson plans based on 1,500 digitized artifacts that are correlated with state education standards: [www.smithsonianeducation.org](http://www.smithsonianeducation.org).

**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).