



# Synergies

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CLASSROOM OF THE FUTURE FOUNDATION

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*Save the Date: May 14, 2009*

## Commanding Innovative Excellence Aboard The USS Midway Museum

Five years ago the Classroom of the Future Foundation was the first to hold an event aboard the not-yet-opened USS Midway Museum. It was one of the most successful events in years and we've decided to return on May 14, 2009 when we hold our annual Innovation in Education Awards program aboard Midway.



Our host committee is building what promises to be a memorable event. They include Bill Geppert, Cox Communications; Linda Lang, Jack in the Box; Bob Barlow, Time Warner Cable; Ed Wallace, Sony; Ron Martin (retired), Mission Federal Credit Union; and Randy Ward, San Diego County Office of Education. We also are hoping to add Linden Blue of General Atomics; Mark Leslie of AT&T; and San Diego business community leader Malin Burnham.

Not only will the event be held aboard the Midway, we are working on some ways to enable attendees to see how CFF is working with the Midway Education Department to build state-of-the-art classrooms aboard an aircraft carrier that was built in 17 months during World War II! (*See next story.*)

Award nominations will be available in early January, 2009. Four awardees will be recognized and awarded a total of \$25,000.

## CFF, Midway Education Collaborative Taking Shape

Imagine a classroom that was built in 1945 out of solid steel. Now convert that space into a forward-looking, smart classroom with dynamic new uses of 21<sup>st</sup> century technology. That's the mission of CFF and the USS Midway Museum's Education Department.

CFF is playing a key catalyst role in the museum's four-classroom expansion of its popular education program. Currently the museum hosts approximately 30,000 K-8 students for classes in math, science and social sciences. The project will approximately double Midway's capacity.

CFF's T.I.M.E. Initiative teachers are providing critical input on how best to utilize the space. In addition, CFF was responsible for the innovative educational design firm, HMC Architects, joining the project team on a pro bono basis.

Of course, such a project, scheduled for opening in September 2009, is not without challenges. Converting spaces that once were sailors' sleeping quarters into classrooms with smart boards, sophisticated Internet access and other features is no easy task. However, both CFF and Midway officials are confident San Diego's most unusual new classrooms that can accommodate up to 90 students at a time will be available by the next school year.

**Award  
sponsorship  
opportunities  
are still  
available!**

Call Bruce  
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***"The beautiful  
thing about  
learning is  
that nobody  
can take it  
away from  
you."***

--B. B. King

***"Knowledge  
is the food of  
the soul."***

--Plato

***"It's harder  
to conceal  
ignorance  
than it is to  
acquire  
knowledge."***

--Arnold Glasgow

## Debra Schwartz Joins CFF Board

Mission Federal Credit Union Chief Executive Officer Debra Schwartz has joined the CFF Board of Directors. She replaced former CEO Ron Martin who remains active with CFF.

MFCU is one of CFF's leading and most committed business community partners. The \$2 billion financial institution serves more than 130,000 members at its 23 branches.

Debra has more than 25 years' experience in the financial services industry. Welcome aboard, Debra!



## CFF Looks to the Future Via Organizational Realignment

A great deal of progress has been made recently as the Classroom of the Future organization conducts a critical self-assessment and identifies reorganizational priorities to enhance several aspects of governance.

Several members of the board have stepped forward to become committee chairmen and lead the development of action plans in many areas. They include:

- Gordon Moss (AT&T), Sam Attisha (Cox Communications): Development co-chairs
- Ritz Sherman (Apple Computer), Laura Metzger (Arena Pharmaceutical): Financial co-chairs
- Todd Gutschow (Gutschow Family Foundation): Board Development
- Tom Maguire (Kyocera Wireless Corp): Marketing Communications

These committees' representation reflect CFF's increasing presence in the San Diego business community, a key component as we work to develop new and innovative business partner relationships.

## Education Headlines of Note

### Does Technology Rewire the Brain?

Does extended time spent on the computer and Internet change how young people learn? How does violent content effect the development of young people? What are the emotional ramifications?

Dr. Gary Small, a psychiatrist at UCLA, believes exposure to digital technologies such as the internet and smart phones can alter how the brain works.

When the brain spends more time on technology-related tasks and less time exposed to other people, it drifts away from fundamental social skills such as reading facial expressions during conversation, Small asserts. A number of studies are under way.

### 10 Ways to Boost Learning with Technology

More than 100 national policy makers have made suggestions to an educational technology directors association on how to best use technology in education. Many are consistent with the fundament mission and vision of the Classroom of the Future Foundation:

- 1) Ensure that technology tools and resources are used continuously and

***"Critical thinking is a lot harder than people think, because it requires knowledge."***

--Joanne Jacobs

seamlessly for instruction, collaboration, and assessment.

2) Expose all students (pre-K through 12th grade) to STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) fields and careers.

3) Make ongoing, sustainable professional development available to all teachers.

4) Use virtual learning opportunities for teachers to further their professional development, such as through online communities and education portals.

5) Incorporate innovative, consistent, and timely assessments into daily instruction.

6) Strengthen the home-school connection by using technology to communicate with parents on student progress.

7) Provide the necessary resources so that every community has the infrastructure to support learning with technology, including assessments and virtual learning.

8) Obtain societal support for education that uses technology from all stakeholders--students, parents, teachers, state and district administrators, business leaders, legislators, and local community members.

9) Provide federal leadership to support states and districts regarding technology's role in school reform by passing the ATTAIN Act.

10) Increase available funding so that schools can acquire telecommunication services, internet access, internal connections, and maintenance of those connections.

**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).