



# Synergies

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CLASSROOM OF THE FUTURE FOUNDATION

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## CFF Board Retreat to Result in Passionate Education Champions

This year's Classroom of the Future Board of Directors retreat promises to produce some impactful results as CFF seeks to build stronger relationships with business, community and educational leaders.

Under the leadership of Board Chair, Colleen Peterson, one focus this year will be on helping individual board members become champions of individual CFF programs. The thought behind this strategy is that CFF champions will become more active representatives in the community, based on enhanced awareness, advocacy and involvement in specific CFF programs.

"As CFF Board members become more actively engaged in our programs, they will experience CFF three core services – collaboration, validation and financial facilitation – first hand. This direct knowledge will allow them to more actively enlist the ongoing support of their own member companies and more effectively replicate successful program efforts with other school districts," notes Colleen Peterson.

In addition, the CFF board is focusing on communicating its mission and service offerings to the San Diego educational community and to prospective member companies and prospective individual donors by enhancing its marketing communications strategies. Goals include making the CFF website more accessible, promoting CFF programs more prominently online and through social media, and showcasing scholarship and program award winners.

Colleen adds, "We donned 2010/2011 as 'the year of execution' and have intentionally set some high goals for the organization. We will be using the insight gained during the Board retreat to guide our future course and serve as a detailed roadmap for specific program and marketing activity moving forward. With this sharp focus we can execute more effectively and collectively make a difference."

## CFF Programs Span Wide Range of Education Technology Potential

As CFF board members become more engaged in terms of awareness, advocacy and involvement, the gamut of CFF partnerships offers them a broad spectrum of options. It also reflects the breadth of CFF contribution to the education community:

**Model Classrooms:** CFF is working with the USS Midway Museum and San Diego Natural History Museum to develop technologically innovative education programs. (Photo: Sara Hanscom presenting in Midway Model Classroom)



*"There is a place in America to take a stand: public education. Public education after all is the engine that moves us as a society toward a common destiny."*

--Tom Brokaw

*“As a general rule, the most successful man in life is the many who has the best information.”*

--Benjamin Disraeli

**STEM/STE(A)M Initiatives:** CFF is a strong advocate of education content that focuses on science, technology, engineering, math and possibly arts content.

**Santee Project-Based Learning:**

CFF is providing financial and expert assistance to the Santee School District in expanding project-based learning programs in additional schools. (Photo: CFF Board member Chris Baker visiting the PRIDE Academy in Santee.)



**Cajon Valley EmSTEM Magnet:** A CFF project to utilize technology, including an iPod Touch Program, for English language learners.

**Lemon Grove STEM Proposal:** An initiative to create a STEM school-within-a-school at Vista La Mesa Elementary School and to transform Lemon Grove Middle School into a STEM magnet school.

**STEM Collaboratory:** A program to provide teacher professional development on project-based learning, improved technology utilization, and greater availability of STEM professionals from the business community.

**Teacher Innovation Forums:** A CFF-organized cadre of innovative teachers who advise CFF on various programs and initiatives.

**SDCOE Partnerships:** CFF works with SDCOE on a number of fronts, including greater broadband access as well as pioneering use of a cloud-computing portal.

**Hi-Tech Scholarships:** An inspirational academic achievement scholarship program specifically for students who overcome personal challenges.

**Innovation Awards:** CFF awards that showcase innovative classroom programs that inspire students toward greater academic achievement.

## **Gary Devan of Mission Federal Credit Union Joins CFF Board**

Gary Devan, chief information officer at Mission Federal Credit Union in San Diego, has joined the Classroom of the Future board of directors. A native of San Diego, Gary has 38 years' experience in financial institution technology.



He has been active with the San Diego Science Alliance, several technology advisory committees and the Hoover High School Academy of Information Technology Advisory Board.

## **Jack in the Box, Cymer to Underwrite Scholarships in 2011**

We're pleased to announced that Jack in the Box and Cymer will sponsor the High Tech Academic Achievement Scholarships in 2011, extending a close partnership between CFF and these business community leaders.

Their contributions will enable CFF to provide as many as 16 scholarships to students who overcome personal challenges in stellar academic achievement.

*“The desire of knowledge, like the thirst of riches, increases ever with the acquisition of it.”*

--Laurence Sterne

2010 scholarships made possible by Jack in the Box and Cymer were awarded to: Humberto Figueroa, Granite Hills High School; Ruben Lopez, San Ysidro High School; Oscar Montiel, Montgomery High School; Marissa Pitman, El Capitan High School; Savi Toma and Josue Moreno, El Cajon Valley High School; Maya Eckhardt-Polanco, Borrego Springs Middle/High School.

Christine Fuentes, Martiza Ibarra and Phuong Tran, Oceanside High School; Patrick Maldonado and Agazit Tesfai, Grossmont High School; Laura Ruiz, San Dieguito Academy; Diego Marez, Carlsbad High School; Nour Nona, Bonita Vista High School; and Margarita Vargas Patron, Escondido High School.

## **Superintendent Ward Showcases Student Technology Access Needs**

In a recent issue of the *San Diego Business Journal*, San Diego County Superintendent Randy Ward made a passionate plea for greater student access to innovative learning technology.

Dr. Ward noted that two laws recently enacted in California now enable school districts to use textbook funds to buy computers, hardware and other e-resources. In short, the Legislature redefined traditional education resources to include the kind of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning tools that CFF is dedicated to providing to teachers and students.

Dr. Ward is a passionate advocate of that. "...technology is able to engage students in powerful ways," he wrote. "Otherwise reluctant students often become interested when their teachers use technology to deliver or enhance instruction. As more than one educator has said, 'In order to close the achievement gap, we first must close the engagement gap.'

"As we develop our capacity to maximize and deliver online education, equipping more and more homes and communities with broadband connections, we will see academic achievement improve among all students. Regardless of who they are or where they live, students in the digital age will have access to the finest learning materials in the world at any time," he added.

CFF commends Dr. Ward as a champion of innovative learning technology in the classroom!

## **Education Technology News Briefs**

**Primary Source Research:** The National Archives has created a new web site to help educators teach with 3,000 primary-source documents. The site, called DocsTeach, not only lets teachers explore thousands of documents in a variety of media from the National Archives holdings, but it also includes online tools to help teachers combine these materials and create engaging history activities that students can access over the internet.

The seven tools featured on the site are designed to teach critical thinking skills as they relate to history activities, such as weighing evidence, interpreting data, focusing on details, and so on. Each tool employs interactive components such as puzzles, scales, maps, and flow charts that teachers and students can tailor to their needs.

**Investing in Education:** The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation plans to invest up to \$250 million over the next eight years to develop “next-generation instructional tools” that will help states and school districts implement the Common Core state standards, the foundation said in its annual report Sept. 7.

The Gates Foundation, one of the largest givers of money to K-12 and higher education in the United States, also plans to fund “data-driven research that explores ways states can modify the [Common Core] standards and assessments to improve student success in school and the workforce.”

**Smaller is Better:** Scientists at Rice University and Hewlett-Packard are reporting this week that they can overcome a fundamental barrier to the continued rapid miniaturization of computer memory that has been the basis for the consumer electronics revolution, reports the *New York Times*.

In recent years, the limits of physics and finance faced by chip makers had loomed so large that experts feared a slowdown in the pace of miniaturization that would act like a brake on the ability to pack ever more power into ever smaller devices like laptops, smart phones, and digital cameras. But the new announcements, along with competing technologies being pursued by companies like IBM and Intel, offer hope that the brake will not be applied any time soon.

*(News Brief source: [www.eschoolnews.com](http://www.eschoolnews.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).