



Superintendent Ward Sees Key Role for CFF in Students' 21st Century Skill Preparation

San Diego County Office of Education Superintendent Dr. Randy Ward believes dynamic technology in the classroom is vital to preparing both students and teachers.

"Students need to be prepared for the present and future economy," said Ward at the start of the school year. "At the same time, I think technology used effectively can help educators close the achievement gap because its use is one of the few things educators can control."



Dr. Ward also sees the use of technology as critical for educators' professional development. "Many of our teachers still must use technology of the 1950's—chalkboards and overhead projectors. The initiatives of the CFF and others enable the selective use of technology that opens new horizons for both educators and their students."

Much of what CFF focuses on support SDCOE's goals of providing relevant educational programs, accelerating student improvement, and maximizing resources, among others.

"The Classroom of the Future Foundation is effective in convening stakeholders to develop pilot projects in technology. In essence, CFF is "planting seeds" in large and small districts that are developing into some exciting new concepts in the classroom," added Dr. Ward.

"San Diego is unique and fortunate to have CFF fully integrated with the San Diego County Office of Education. The mission of CFF complements our fundamental Board of Education goal which is to build the capacity of our K-12 schools." ❖

CFF-SDCOE Collaboration Covers Broad Spectrum

At its annual retreat last month, the Classroom of the Future Foundation assessed its collaborative efforts with the San Diego County Office of Education. Major initiatives include:

- Working with teachers to identify critical instruction and learning environment needs that technology has the potential to address.
- Working on planning and support for technology enhancement at the Joe Rindone Regional Technology Center, i.e. Teacher Innovation Space.
- Working with Dr. Ward and the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) to expand SDCOE's organizational capacity to meet the Board of Education's Goals.

- Collaboration with the SCOE Science program via a Data Intensive Science Education project that provides professional development for middle school teachers on the effective use of emerging technologies.



Profile: Project LIVE Links Video & Achievement

Not every student learns best by reading a book or taking notes during a lecture. That's never been truer than of today's "YouTube" generation.

Founded in 2004 in the Escondido Union School District, Project LIVE appears to be the answer. The winner of this year's CFF impact award for creativity and effectiveness, Project LIVE uses video production to motivate and educate students.



"It's a medium students know so they can create subject-matter videos," says Escondido Union Elementary School District's Kathy Shirley.

Students research and then produce videos on a wide range of subjects. One of the award-winners this year was "The Rainforest News" produced by first graders! Other productions include "What is President's Day" and "Academic League: The Real Extreme Sport."



This month 50 teachers are participating in an orientation program before they get their students started on new video projects.

Shirley notes the Project LIVE is so successful that students in five San Diego region school districts and even some in other counties are now participating in the program.

"Producing videos enables students to make use of both visual and auditory abilities. It also can be extremely effective for students who may have second-language challenges," notes Shirley.

It's this kind of creative use of technology in the learning environment that can help increase achievement scores for all students.

"Similarly, educational video production has become a professional development opportunity for educators," she adds.

Participating teachers meet regularly to develop their "video production skills," creating an ongoing professional learning community.

"We're making a real impact in a lot of classrooms," says Shirley. ❖

CFF Collaborates With San Diego Foundation

The Classroom of the Future Foundation is looking to the San Diego Foundation for expertise to create an even stronger CFF in the future. A San Diego Foundation grant will fund consulting expertise to help build CFF's governance capability.

As much as CFF has accomplished in recent years, we know much more remained to be achieved. In the coming year we will assess CFF's committee structure, board member participation, recruitment, fundraising goals, and sustainable resource development, among other activities.

"We need to ensure we're as effective and as efficient as possible in being the catalyst for incorporating key technology into our students' learning environment," says CFF executive director Bruce Braciszewski. "Our growing partnership with The San Diego Foundation will provide the resources we need create more capability within the organization."

The coming year's work in part is based on an earlier assessment program founded by The San Diego Foundation. ❖

The Future of Our Children's Education

The pace of change in our children's classrooms is staggering, challenging all of us to keep up. Here's an insider's look at what's taking place:

Digital Schools Study reveals how many schools are adopting 1:1 education models. <http://ads2006.net/ads2006/pdf/ADS2006KF.pdf> and scroll down to page 17 for "Key Findings".

The cost of technology support in education is doubling ever four years! <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showstoryts.cfm?Articleid=7325> ❖