



Synergies

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CLASSROOM OF THE FUTURE FOUNDATION

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James Wright Is Appointed New Chief Executive Officer of CFF

James Wright has been named the new Chief Executive Officer of the Classroom of the Future Foundation. Since 1997, CFF has engaged business, community, and educational leaders to create innovative learning environments in San Diego County K-12 public schools.



"I am honored to join the Classroom of the Future Foundation team. Innovation in our schools is critically important to the future of San Diego students," said Wright. "CFF is making a difference every day, but I know we can do even more to bring businesses, educators, and the community together to improve the lives of students. I am excited about the opportunity to work with the CFF board, staff, all of our wonderful volunteers, and the entire community to strengthen our education system."

Wright has more than six years' development, marketing, and senior leadership experience in nonprofit leadership and management experience with local and national nonprofit organizations. He has served as Director of Development and Marketing at Feeding America San Diego (FASD), the largest distributor of donated food in San Diego County. He helped raise more than \$5.3 million in private support in the past year. Prior to joining FASD, Wright served for two years at the Federation of American Scientists, a national science policy think tank in Washington D.C.

"We are thrilled to be able to bring someone of James' experience and passion to lead our efforts to improve the learning experience for San Diego students," said CFF Board Chair Ritz Sherman. "He will provide wonderful leadership to our organization and help us to achieve our goals."

Wright holds a M.A. in nonprofit leadership and management from the University of San Diego, and a B.A. in political science from the George Washington University.

Wright Shares His Initial Thoughts

"I've been extremely impressed with how much of a difference a very passionate board of directors has made in the San Diego region's educational community. Some of San Diego County's strongest companies are valued CFF partners and that speaks volumes about the success of CFF to date."

"This will be a year of evaluation and strategic planning. Working with the board and our partners, the goal is to look into the future, re-assess educator needs, and build on CFF's foundation of more than a decade of success."

Nominations Now Open for 2016 Innovation Awards; Due March 11

Online nominations for the Classroom of the Future Foundation's prestigious Innovation in Education Awards are now open. Each year educators and the business community issues awards for innovative uses of educational technology in several categories. These include (with last year's winners):

"Excellence is achieved by mastery of the fundamentals."

Vince Lombardi

“Information is the currency of democracy.”

Thomas Jefferson

Impact Award: In only four years, the San Diego County Office of Education Leading Edge Certification for the Online and Blended Teacher program has certified more than 600 teachers from more than 50 schools, districts, and institutions of higher learning.

Inspire Award: The Feaster Charter Engineering Lab (Feaster Charter School, Chula Vista Elementary School District) has taught more than 1,475 students how to use engineering to create a prototype with the potential to change our daily lives.

Innovate Award: Design39Campus (Poway Unified School District) is challenging students to create “new learning adventures” based on their individual interests. This customized approach to education includes groups of students organized by common interest as well as learning space and equipment configurations that are adaptable to meet individual student interests.

Achieve Award: The B3techies program at Longfellow Elementary School (San Diego Unified School District) is a website and YouTube channel created by seventh graders to provide a variety of how-to and video tutorials that help educators embrace technology and enable students to learn 24/7.

To nominate a program, visit <http://classroomofthefuture.org>.

Innovation Awards Event May 25

The 13th Annual Innovation in Education Awards will be held on May 25 at 4:30 p.m. at the Shiley Theater on the University of San Diego campus.

More than 500 educators, business leaders, and students gather each year to celebrate innovative uses of educational technology in classrooms, homes, campuses and districts. In addition to program awards and student scholarships, other recognition will include Innovation in Technology, Innovative Superintendent, Innovative Educator, Visionary Award, and Outstanding Leadership.

Leading sponsors again this year will include the USS Midway Museum, AT&T, Sony Electronics, Cherry Road Technologies, Cox Communications, Gutschow Family Foundation, Cubic Corporation, Curriculum Associates, and Mission Federal Credit Union. Sponsorship of this keystone event is a great way for local leading businesses to partner with some of the most forward-thinking educators and administrators in the region. For more information, contact James Wright at james@classroomofthefuture.org

Cubic’s Albertson Joins CFF Board



Darryl S. Albertson, Ph.D., vice president of Human Resources at Cubic Corporation, has joined the CFF board of directors. Cubic employs approximately 8,000 people and has a presence in nearly 60 countries.

He brings a wealth of experience to the CFF board of directors, including global learning, workforce planning, organizational development, and strategic staffing.

Albertson is involved in developing San Diego’s workforce and is a key contributor to Cubic’s STEM strategy. These promise to be great assets as CFF plots its course for the future.

CFF, USS Midway Extend Partnership

Later this year the USS Midway Museum and CFF will launch “Phase 10” of its decade-long partnership. CFF has worked closely with Midway as it developed two clusters of STEM curriculum classrooms aboard the aircraft carrier.

“Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing had happened.”

Winston Churchill

More than 50,000 San Diego students now visit Midway classrooms annually. The emphasis this year will be to evaluate and revamp the companion self-guided, teacher-led audio tour for students. Midway Education Director Sara Hanscom says “Everything will be open for discussion: new technology, new content, and extensive discussion on how we can refine the touring students’ experience in a STEAM context.”

Later this year some of the region’s most forward-thinking educators will meet with Midway educators to consider how the learning experience of a student who tours Midway can be most effective, educational and inspiring. The goal is to implement a new student-tour experience for the 2017-18 school year.

This is part of Midway’s substantial commitment to the Classroom of the Future Foundation. The museum will be a sponsor of the upcoming awards event and also again will contribute \$20,000 to High Tech Achievement Scholarships for AVID students.

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

[Teach students to communicate effectively in the Innovation Age](#)

Ready or not, education has entered the “Innovation Age,” where it’s not about what students know but what they can do with what they know. Teachers can prepare students thrive in the Innovation Age by teaching them to think at three levels: “what,” “so what,” and “now what.” Students might think of it in terms of three overarching questions: What is the basic concept? What is its relevance and what is it related to? And now, what can I do with what I have learned to find solutions to unmet needs...

[Secret to good online teaching is all in the approach](#)

I have heard a lot of people say that they don’t think that online schooling works well because there isn’t in-person interaction between a student and their teacher. This belief is a myth. When both teachers and students participate the same way they would in a face-to-face setting, amazing things

<p><i>“Every man has a right to his opinion, but no man has a right to be wrong in his facts.”</i></p> <p>Bernard M. Baruch</p>	<p>happen in the online world—just as often as they do in the traditional classroom...</p> <p>No paper and pencils one day a week gets everyone thinking creatively Sometimes one simple question is all it takes to trigger revolution in a school. In the case of Kelly Mill Elementary outside of Atlanta, the question was: How can we more effectively engage our learners? It’s loaded, I know. The idea migrated from my head into staff meetings, and a variation on that question eventually ended up posted next to every copy machine in our school to prompt teachers to find new ways of teaching—without paper and pencils...</p> <p>Tinkering: personalized learning and critical thinking into one powerful package Picture this: a grandparent working on a car in the garage or a kid figuring out the inner workings of a clock. A group of students with screwdrivers in hand taking apart old desktop computers to learn about circuits. Or a parent encouraging their child to invent contraptions for feeding pets or taking apart everyday objects such as old clocks and doorknobs to figure out how things work...</p>
	<p>Synergies is a newsletter of the Classroom of the Future Foundation, © 2016. For more information, contact James Wright at (858) 292-3685 or visit www.classroomofthefuture.org. Education technology-and-related news summaries are courtesy of eschoolnews.com.</p>