



FACES FOR THE FUTURE NEWS AND UPDATES



Visit our Website

This newsletter edition is jam packed with highlights and information! Be sure to click through to read the stories in their entirety!

Highlights

What's new:

- Scholarship Winners
- Alumni Spotlight
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- Community Partner Spotlight
- High School Spotlight
 - Dr. Villanueva at Crawford
 - Ellen Hohenstein at Hoover
 - Graduation in Quarantine
 - Tips for Recent Grads
- FACES for the Future Coalition News



We found a way to honor our seniors despite the pandemic

School Year in Review

The FACES for the Future San Diego team met for its annual planning retreat on June 25th. This is a time usually spent exhaling from what is typically a full school year and reflecting on its strengths and challenges while also making decisions about any programmatic restructuring on the horizon. We are so proud of the rich and impactful program our staff was able to provide for our students. Check out some of our accomplishments below...[Read more!](#)

Congratulations Scholarship Winners!

Ruby Dircio is a rising junior at Simmons University studying for her bachelor's degree in nursing.



Duy Dinh is a rising junior at University of Santa Barbara studying for his bachelor's degree in biology.

Alumni Spotlight

Hoover Class of 2016 Nelva Perales

Nelva Perales recently graduated from University of California Irvine with her BS in Biological Sciences. She plans to apply for post baccalaureate programs to help her prepare for medical school and become an OBGYN. Her alternative plan is to obtain her Master's degree in Public Health with a focus on infectious diseases. Nelva said this about going away to college "It was a beautiful experience! [...read more](#)

Advice for current FACES students: Ask for help! It took me three years to realize that the staff was there for me and is happy to help. You do not have to struggle alone. This sounds like common sense, but many students refrain from it because they feel like a bother or just not smart enough!



Crawford Class of 2020 Salma Abdullahi and Siham Ismail



As 2020 Crawford High School graduates, both Salma and Siham are recent members of our FACES alumni family. Earning honors as class valedictorian and salutatorian respectively, they made such an indelible mark during their high school careers that we felt the need to feature them right away. [Read more...](#)

Clinician Spotlight

Dr. Michael Levy, PhD.

In 2017, the Neurosurgery Department at Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego became a hospital rotation for the FACES for the Future program thanks to Dr. Michael Levy. This department has been a big hit with our FACES students! Brain anatomy, how diseases may affect the brain, and the pre/post processes of brain surgery for patients are lessons the students learn during their time with him. Students review patient charts and exams with the clinician, and in the past, have even been able to see a live surgery! The students work closely with the neurosurgeons, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and administrative staff to understand the department's day-to-day tasks. Dr. Levy is a huge advocate for the FACES program and loves to have the students on-site. He enjoys teaching our students and getting to know them, and genuinely wants to see them succeed in their professional goals. Thank you, Dr. Levy, for your continued dedication to the FACES program!



Community Partner Spotlight

Pro Kids | First Tee of San Diego

Pro Kids, located in San Diego City Heights and Oceanside CA, was established in 1994 with the idea that teaching underserved youth the game of golf could help them develop the character and life skills required to find success in school and life. Over the years, Pro Kids has become much more than a sports program. Their programs combine sport, study, and service to youth grades 2-12 that will set them on a path to success. In addition, they offer college scholarship opportunities to their program members.



Pro Kids has been a FACES partner for several years [...read more!](#)

To find out more about their programs check out their website! <https://www.thefirstteesandiego.org/>

High School Spotlight

High School Spotlight

Crawford High School

Dr. Froylán Villanueva

Dr. Villanueva, or Dr. V as he is affectionately known, has been the principal of Crawford H.S. since August of 2019. While still navigating his way through a complex educational system and diverse student population, Dr. V seems well suited for the challenge. Crawford's student population consists of African refugees from Somalia, Tanzania and the Congo; students from Mexico and other Central American countries; Arab students; Asian students from Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia; and a Karen community of refugees from Burma. Approximately 30% of the student population is considered English learners. This is particularly challenging when it comes to standardized test scores. "Because our students don't speak the language and [the tests are] in English, so compared to other schools that have a more homogeneous community, more of our students are going to be challenged", says Dr. V. [...read more!](#)



Hoover High School

Ellen Hohenstein, M.A.

Ellen Hohenstein wears many hats at Hoover High School. She is the director of the Academy of Health and Healthier Communities (AHHC) as well as a Career Technical Education teacher leading the Health Essentials class as part of the capstone for AHHC. She also teaches psychology classes and is the Director of the school's Health Center. Without Ellen's dedication to public health and education the FACES for the Future program may not even exist at Hoover.

After learning about the FACES for the Future program going on in Oakland, Ellen worked with Rady Children's Hospital San Diego and Dr. Magaña in Oakland, spending 3 years advocating for a FACES program at Hoover. In 2009, the program started with a small cohort of students. Shortly after, she went to bat for the students again and created the AHHC track for all Hoover students interested in healthcare. Since then, Ellen has continued to champion the cause of health education, mental health awareness and ensuring that FACES continues to grow and thrive at Hoover. This last year 64 seniors graduated from the FACES program and joined the over 300 alumni from the Hoover cohort. Ellen continues to advocate for the growth of AHHC and FACES. This year she officially added a mental health track to the academy providing students 3 options to explore as they follow their path towards a healthcare career. She has and continues to be an irreplaceable ally for the program and a constant source of inspiration for the staff and students alike.



Crawford High School's Virtual Health Fair

This year we have had to pivot our programming in light of keeping our students and country safe from the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus. We want to commend our Crawford High school juniors for completing their Virtual Health Fair. They have been working hard this past year to complete their community internships with our various community healthcare partners. Prior to COVID-19 and the mandated shelter in place, our Juniors were planning for the Health Fair we typically hold on campus. Instead of giving up on all their hard work, we found a unique, creative way to keep them engaged and excited to share their insights. Our students used the limited resources they had, worked with one another virtually and have put together a video presentation.

Please check out the presentation about what the students learned from their community internships and more information about our partnered organizations.

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FACES Virtual Health Fair.mov

[Read more](#)

drive.google.com

Graduation in Quarantine



At the beginning of June, our senior students came to celebrate the culmination of their three years in the FACES for the Future program. However, this was not their typical graduation ceremony. Like many school activities, our FACES graduation was at risk of being canceled due to the COVID 19 pandemic. However, the FACES staff knew how important it was to celebrate our students for all their hard work and dedication to the program, and to keep some “normalcy” in their lives. With that being said, FACES staff put their heads together, organized a virtual graduation and celebrated San Diego’s Class of 2020 FACES students. This

brought both Crawford and Hoover High School students together in a virtual setting. We provided recorded messages from our keynote speakers, Dr. Nicholas Holmes, Chief Operating Officer at Rady Children’s Hospital-San Diego, and Dr. Tomás Magaña, MA, FAAP, Founder and Director of the FACES for the Future Coalition. We heard from our senior graduate students about their FACES journey and well-wishes to their classmates as they move to their next chapter in life. Both school’s principals and FACES staff spoke to the FACES Class of 2020 congratulating them on this significant milestone, despite the obstacles they faced towards the end of their year. Lastly, we hosted a special guest- rapper, actor, writer, philanthropist, and activist Common, who shared a heartwarming and inspirational message for the FACES Class of 2020! We wish our FACES students the best of luck as they move on in their journey, knowing they are resilient and will reach and accomplish their goals. As a reminder, the FACES staff is always here to help and support. CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!



FACES for the Future Coalition News

Youth Advisory Council

First meeting:

In the FACES Coalition Youth Advisory Council, our youth have engaged in a number of discussions about the plans to tackle COVID-19 and the many adjustments needed to support our students. Our youth had a ton of ideas and input on how to use social media interaction between the coalition and students. The youth were thinking of creative and engaging ways students could ease the mental struggles of quarantine as well as anxiety behind the rapid spread of the pandemic. The youth council members enjoyed being able to connect with one another across the nation and learn about the other programs’ similarities and differences. Overall our San Diego members enjoyed the conference with Dr. Tomás Magaña, the Founding Director of FACES, and the coalition administration team.

[Learn More](#)

More Info

Role Modeling Resilience

This has been an extraordinary period in our history, and the FACES San Diego team has risen to the challenge. With schools closing, many programs might have considered placing their activities on pause until the situation returns to normal. But the FACES team realized, from the beginning of this pandemic, that this was not the time to “wait and see” how the situation would evolve, but rather embrace the situation and engage with our students to help them navigate these challenging times. The team demonstrated what it takes to build resilience; connection, learning new skills to deal with a challenge, and engaging with even greater energy to reach goals. [To this end](#), ...



Tips for Recent Grads



Congratulations to our FACES Class of 2020 graduates. We want to recognize each and every student for all for the hard work and dedication put into completing their high school journeys. They have demonstrated the resilience it takes to push through the many challenges and come out successful. We want to leave you all with a few tips and excerpts from *The Graduates Handbooks: Your No-nonsense guide for What Comes Next* book by Dr. Clark Gaither...[read more!](#)

Connect with FACES alumni at your school!