



NEWSLETTER



2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

FACES-San Diego had quite a busy year! It was so busy, that we weren't able to send out our planned newsletter during graduation season. So, let's recap!

In **January**, we welcomed a new staff member, Nikki Lopez. She is currently serving as a coordinator at Hoover High School. She's been quite an asset to our program, and we are lucky to have her supporting this impactful program as she has been able to establish great relationships with students, staff and partners. To learn a bit more about Nikki, check out our [website](#) where her background is detailed.



In **April**, FACES students were able to participate in the Association for Surgical Education conference held in downtown San Diego. Thanks to the invitation from Rady Children's Trauma Medical Director, Dr. Romeo Ignacio, Jr., students engaged in a half-day of hands-on skills activities facilitated by surgeons in the top of their fields. As a bonus, Dr. Ignacio encouraged the FACES team to invite health career pathway students from other schools to join in the fun. Over 140 students from Hoover, Crawford, Kearny, San Diego and San Ysidro High Schools had a great time learning and connecting!

New philanthropic award! Thanks to a collaboration between FACES staff and the Rady Children's Hospital Foundation, the FACES program applied for and received a \$205,000 award from the Conrad Prebys Foundation. Funds will support FACES students' participation in Certified Nursing Assistant and Phlebotomy programs, Medical Academy access, CPR/ First Aid certification, and general staffing needs. We are so happy that the Conrad Prebys Foundation chose to support health career pathway programming and our future clinicians.

Back at the hospital: FACES held three of its signature events on the Rady Children's Hospital campus for the first time since COVID.

- Our Senior Showcase and Graduation ceremony featuring students from Crawford and Hoover High Schools was held in June. Parents, clinicians and a few partners were able to meander through a room full of posters detailing FACES students' experiences over the last three years and then stay for the official graduation.
- Lab Coat Ceremony hosted incoming seniors from Hoover, Crawford and Kearny High Schools in September. This marked the official start of FACES seniors' clinical rotations.
- Team FACES, kick off event for new sophomores, was also held on campus in October, as well.

Each event was well attended, and FACES staff were grateful to host students back on campus!





Getting hired at RCHSD

FACES for the Future has always strived to provide opportunities for our alumni to continue to grow through our programming and come back to work at Rady Children's Hospital. While we have had some alumni come back, we hope to increase that number significantly. Two alumni formerly worked at Rady's in the Center for Healthier Communities and Alexa's PLAYC. Currently, three FACES alumni are employed as a **Patient Access Representative** in Developmental Services, an **Administrative Associate** in Cardiology and a **Patient Care Assistant 2** in the Emergency Department.

What are some ways you can increase your opportunities?

- Join the FACES for the Future Coalition LinkedIn Page.
- Reach out to Alicia Wood at awood@rchsd.org if you are applying for a job at Rady.
- Make sure that your resume includes your participation in FACES for the Future! Our Human Resources partners already know how awesome our students are, but the only way for them to identify you is to note your FACES participation on your application! Hope to see more of your faces around here soon!

Position Highlight

Rady has many entry level positions that only require a high school education. One such opportunity is a **Patient Access Representative**. In this position you assist patients with check in, verify insurance, and communicate with clinicians, providing a great opportunity to get firsthand experience in a variety of clinical settings. Many health care careers require experience prior to applying for program admission. Why not obtain that experience and get a nice paycheck, as well! In addition, after the first year of employment we have a generous tuition reimbursement program and educational funds that could help pay for your college degree.

For more information on this position and others please contact Rachel Christensen Murray at rchristensen@rchsd.org. You may also reach out to our recruiter Denise Wagner a dwagner@rchsd.org.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER GROUP MENTOR FOR SUMMER MEDICAL ACADEMY PROGRAMS

The Medical Academy (MA) volunteer program is designed to provide young adults with a valuable leadership and growth opportunity supporting high school students who are also interested in pursuing a career in healthcare. This program is open to young adults who are currently enrolled in a post-high school education program (i.e. 2-year or 4-year) with the goal of pursuing a career in healthcare and/or education.

Check out the website for more information, **applications close March 1st!**

Hoover Fall 2023 Community Rotations

This past fall, the junior class also geared up for their community rotation internships. The community partner panel consisted of nine City Heights organizations this year. We are also happy to announce a reconnection with some pre-pandemic sites: Rady Children's Urgent Care in Mid City; Stellar Care Assisted Living Center; City Heights Community Development and Alliance San Diego have resumed hosting FACES students as community rotation sites. As in the previous year, Planned Parenthood, Pro Kids, Center for Community Solutions and Mid-City CAN also returned as community rotation sites.

We thank all these community partners for continuing to support our FACES students.



Hoover Fall 2023 Clinical Rotations

This is the second year that students were able to resume clinical rotations and students are grateful for the unique opportunity. Some of the most popular departments available to students included:

- NICU
- Alexa's PLAYC
- Neurosurgery
- Hematology/Oncology

However, some students were pleasantly surprised shadowing lesser-known departments:

- Rehabilitation
- Food Services
- Respiratory Care

They gained newfound appreciation for those areas of medicine. One student encapsulated his clinical rotation experience as, **"Different worlds collide when you spend time in a hospital, but above all, it reveals how strong the human spirit truly is."** Another student stated, **"I really enjoyed this opportunity to venture into the medical field through different departments as I got to see medical professionals at work firsthand."**

In **February** a second group from Hoover's class of 2024 will be starting their clinical rotations and they are excited for the adventure that awaits them!

New Principal at Crawford



Dr. Reashon Villery joins the Colts community as Crawford High School's newest principal! FACES met with Dr. Villery to share the inspiring, educational opportunities that our program has to offer. She is thrilled that FACES is at Crawford to increase students' interest in health careers and that the program enhances learning beyond the classroom.

Crawford Spring 2023 Community Rotations

Among the spring 2023 FACES community rotations at Crawford High School, students who interned with the Center for Community Solutions (CCS) were given the chance to professionally record and edit an episode for CCS' podcast, "SD YOUTH Relationships". In their research on healthy relationships, FACES juniors (Class of 2024) created a survey for their peers, family, and friends to learn about their communities' beliefs about relationships. They discussed their findings in the episode and also invited CCS' Staff Therapist, Karla Sanchez, to talk about careers in mental health and her own personal take on relationships. The episode was released in October 2023 and can be found [here](#).



Crawford Fall
2023



Claudia Cebrero

Claudia Cebrero is a FACES alumna from Crawford High School who graduated with honors and has demonstrated her passion and commitment to empowering her community. She aspires to help create a brighter, healthier future for all by pursuing a career in biotechnology. As a first-generation college student, Claudia is currently a first-year student at UCSD majoring in bioinformatics. We are proud of her accomplishments and wish her the best in building her bright future.

Quyen Mai

FACES student Quyen Mai graduated from Hoover High School in 2023 and was selected as the Class of 2023's salutatorian. She joined FACES sophomore year because she was interested in exploring different healthcare career options. Quyen was active with FACES events and enjoyed her clinical rotation at Alexa's PLAYC where she learned about play-based education for children on the autism spectrum. Quyen would like to pursue a degree in pediatric nursing or anesthesiology in the future. This past summer she planned to travel to Europe with the Cardinals Interact program.



Her advice to upcoming FACES students:

"Although you may have an idea of what field you want to be in, make sure to get out of your comfort zone and look into other fields and keep an open mind".

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