



NEWSLETTER

2024 WINTER EDITION

Celebrating 15 Years of FACES-San Diego

A Letter From Our Director, Mary Beth Moran

Reflecting on our Past, Celebrating the Present and Planning for our Future



“FACES for the Future is now celebrating 15 years of encouraging and inspiring young minds to the many opportunities available in the healthcare workforce. FACES San Diego is part of a larger coalition of FACES programs based out of Oakland California, with a total of 8 FACES programs nationwide. The program was first implemented in San Diego at Hoover High School in 2009, and it expanded to Crawford High School in 2015 and Kearny High School in 2018, graduating 682 students to date. FACES San Diego is the largest program in the nation with over one hundred currently enrolled in our programs.

San Diego is the ideal location to explore careers in healthcare. San Diego is the third largest employer in the field of biotechnologies and pharmaceuticals. San Diego is home to five, well integrated hospitals, that all serve as teaching hospitals for medical schools, nursing schools and allied health professions. FACES is housed within Rady Children’s Hospital San Diego with the distinguished honor of achieving the US News and World Report Honor Roll for health care excellence. FACES students not only get direct exposure to healthcare professionals through our clinical rotation program and clinical panels, but also get one on one coaching and support from our Program Coordinators embedded at each school. This support and exposure to healthcare professions has led our students to transition to community colleges and universities around the country. To further advance our work FACES is now offering scholarship opportunities for training and credentialing in entry level healthcare like a Certified Nursing Assistant so that students can work part time in health care, while obtaining their degree in a health care profession. Additionally, we have added new staff to enhance our connection with our alumni to keep them informed of internship and employment opportunities. FACES San Diego is actively working with state and local health career programs to leverage opportunities for our students and further expand our alumni support. To our FACES alumni and our graduating seniors please keep in touch with us. Come to our alumni events to stay connected and discover opportunities to advance your education and start your career. FACES for The Future had a strong start, has maintained our programming, and has implemented new programs to further expand opportunities for our students and support healthcare workforce development to support our community. Here is to many more years of the FACES for the Future program!”

Farewell Shelli Brown

Shelli Brown began at the Center for Healthier Communities of Rady Children's Hospital in 2018 as the Manager of Youth Development programs. She successfully led the growth and progression of youth programs: FACES for the Future-San Diego and the Rady Children's Medical Academy programs. Her expertise and knowledge have helped build and expand the programs to what they are today. After nearly six amazing years at Rady Children's Hospital, Shelli has received an opportunity to advance her career at an organization focused on mental health in young populations. Shelli has been an amazing asset to our team, a role model to the students, and a mentor to our staff; we have no doubt that she will continue to positively impact those she interacts with at her new position. We hope you join us in celebrating Shelli for this huge accomplishment and milestone as she embarks on her new professional journey! Best wishes Shelli, we will miss you!!



Introducing Jose Perez



Pictured above, Jose in attendance at the FACES alumni event in 2024.

The Center for Healthier Communities welcomed a new FACES for the Future staff member, Jose Perez. Jose joined the team in September 2024 with over ten years of experience working with first-generation youth in the education sector. He is a San Diego native who enjoys pottery, reading, exploring the outdoors, and spending time with his dog in his spare time. Jose began his journey at the center as a FACES Program Coordinator by supporting Hoover High School FACES students to achieve their academic and career goals. We are excited to announce that in November, he transitioned into the Supervisor of Youth Development role to support our FACES team in San Diego!

Team Retreat

The Center for Healthier Communities team and the Population Health team of Rady Children's Hospital spent their annual department retreat at the Mingei Museum in Balboa Park. This day was focused on the theme of Culture filled with different activities to celebrate and embrace both the individual and team's cultural backgrounds. There was a presentation on Cultural Humility and plenty of time for the teams to explore all the wonderful museum exhibits!



Community Rotations

FACES juniors at both Crawford and Hoover High School enjoyed their fall community organization rotations. Over ten partner organizations were willing to host student interns during either the fall or spring rotations. During the fall community rotations, ten students from Crawford and Hoover were matched with the partner organization, Planned Parenthood of San Diego. This rotation was led by health educator, Amina Zuna, who helped students learn about sexual education and teach students where to find important health resources. The pictures below showcase students at Crawford High School who hosted an educational tabling event in the quad to teach their peers and hand out educational materials. They even created a fun Jenga game for students to answer educational questions and earn prizes. The center photo shows students at Hoover High School who also participated in a health resource fair with Mental Health America to provide mental health resources to the community during their volunteer hours.



Clinical Rotations

FACES seniors have the privilege and unique opportunity to shadow staff during clinical rotations at Rady Children's Hospital. Numerous departments at Rady Children's Hospital allow FACES for the Future senior students from Kearny, Hoover, and Crawford High schools to shadow diverse careers in different departments. This year over twenty-six departments held shadowing opportunities this year and we are so thankful for the amazing support of our FACES program! Pictured below are photos from students during 2024 fall rotations wearing their FACES program white medical coats to Rady Children's Hospital departments.



The FACES for the Future program originated as a high school program, but has since expanded with the intention to become a lifetime community of support. We aim to have a continuous relationship with our FACES alumni and help support program graduates throughout their professional careers. Below we have highlighted some of the FACES for the Future alumni who have shared their unique journeys after graduating from the FACES for the Future program.

Intisam Mohamed



“As a class of 2020 alumni of the Faces of the Future program, I’m grateful for the transformative experiences and invaluable connections I gained during my time in the program. I recently graduated from San Diego State University with a degree in Political Science, and I’m now a community organizer at SAY San Diego. This role allows me to advocate for positive change and engage with my community on important issues. As I reflect on my journey, I’m reminded of the words of Mahatma Gandhi: “Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” I’m excited to continue applying the lessons I learned in the program as I work towards making a meaningful impact in my community.”

Elizabeth Le

“After being part of Rady Children’s FACES program at Crawford High School, I took a challenging yet rewarding path. After my high school graduation in 2019, I enrolled in community college where I completed my prerequisites for nursing programs while navigating personal and family challenges. Today, I am proud to work at Rady Children’s Hospital, as I continue my studies in nursing school, graduating in 2026 and completing a full circle back to the place that helped inspire my career.”



Alondra Romero



“Since graduating from Hoover High School in 2020, I have completed my undergraduate studies at San Diego State University where I gained an amazing foundation in health systems, community health needs, and policy management. I am now working at Rady Children’s Hospital and have been here for three years. This has been beneficial in increasing my understanding in health administration. Currently, I am applying to graduate program to receive a Master’s degree in Health Administration to pursue a Health Administration career. My goal is to build my academic and practical experiences to make a meaningful impact in this field and be someone who could make a positive impact in the healthcare industry.”



Samia Rahman

This quarter, Samia Rahman, joined the Center for Healthier Communities in September as her internship placement within the Health Careers Connection program. Samia has helped support the FACES for the Future program and we are grateful for all she has accomplished throughout her internship, including several projects focused on alumni engagement!

Get to know more about Samia:

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“I am currently a fourth-year student at UC San Diego studying Molecular and Cell Biology and Clinical Psychology. I decided to apply to the Health Care Connections program for the 2023 summer because I wanted to gain healthcare experience as a prospective physician and become more involved in healthcare research. Since HCC offers paid summer internships, I thought it was the perfect opportunity because of the ability to make my summer meaningful through connections in healthcare. My internship placement site was at Harbor UCLA Summer Urban Health Fellowship (SUHF) and it was one of the most impactful experiences in my undergraduate career because of the ability to learn about healthcare issues impacting underserved communities and partaking in many of the events catered to the community of Wilmington. I really enjoyed collaborating with other SUHF members on numerous projects regarding health talks to the Wilmington community members, presentations on anti-racism in the annual Health Summit, managing the annual free community health fair, and so much more. It was such an unforgettable experience being able to be more involved in different aspects of healthcare and hearing many patients' and doctors' experiences relating to the health field. This program and HCC really helped me to determine what populations I would like to serve and helped solidify my interests as a potential pediatrician.”

Become an Intern



Health Career Connection (HCC) offers a comprehensive paid summer internship that provides an opportunity for networking, professional development, and mentoring in the healthcare field. The [2025 Internship and Healthy Equity Scholars Program application](#) is open until December 11, 2024. This is an amazing opportunity to earn a stipend and gain valuable experience in healthcare and public health related fields! HCC opens an application every year for new summer internships.

National University

For our winter newsletter, we would like to highlight our long-term community partnership with the National University Nursing Program. This fall, FACES for the Future welcomed National University's "Cohort 73" Nursing Students to Crawford and Hoover High Schools. The nursing students and their instructor, Julie Hinchey, provided presentations to FACES students that included a nursing panel Q&A session and a hands-on workshop that taught students how to measure vital signs.



Thank you, Cohort 73, for your investment and time commitment to our students!

RADY ALUMNI EVENT IN JANUARY

FACES for the Future

Alumni Networking Event



**Rady Children's Hospital
Education and Office Building
7960 Birmingham Drive
San Diego, CA 92123**

**Saturday, January 11th, 2025
10:00 AM- 12:30 PM**



- ✓ Career Fair
- ✓ Networking
- ✓ Resume Feedback
- ✓ Raffle Prizes
- ✓ Refreshments
- ✓ Personal Development

SCHOLARSHIPS

- The San Diego Foundation Scholarship application is due March 5, 2025.
- The Black Leaders Scholarship application is due January 3, 2024.
- The Mensa Foundation Scholarship application is due January 15, 2025.
- The Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay is due by December 30, 2024.
- The SBB Research Group Foundation STEP Scholarship has rolling applications throughout the entire year.
- The Julie Adams Memorial Scholarship- Women in STEM application is due March 1, 2025.
- The Education Dynamics First Generation Scholarship application is due by August 30, 2025.

OPPORTUNITIES



Volunteer as a Group Mentor for the Rady Children's Hospital Summer Medical Academy! Mentors receive great exposure to medical education and networking with Rady employees, while also having the opportunity to provide mentorship and support for high school students who are also interested in pursuing a medical career. The online application is now active and due by 2/28/25.

Stay in Touch:



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FACES FOR THE FUTURE
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