



FACES for the Future

SUMMER 2025

NEWSLETTER

2025 SUMMER EDITION



Congratulations 2025 graduates

Graduation is always an exciting time of the year for FACES students. The FACES San Diego team looks forward to celebrating our students graduating from high school and the FACES program every year with a special celebration at Rady Children's Hospital. The students display and present their senior posters, which accumulate their personal achievements, experiences, and future goals. FACES students must meet all of the three-year requirements of the program to have the privilege to attend graduation. At this ceremony, seniors are awarded with their FACES certifications and take commemorative photos in their lab coats. This year for Class of 2025, there were 14 graduates from Crawford High School and 32 graduates from Hoover High School. After celebrating the end of their high school career in FACES, we encourage students to remain connected with the FACES Alumni network for future opportunities and networking!



SCHOLARSHIPS



Thanks to a generous scholarship funded by our partner Booz Allen, a FACES student, Hawa Muse, was awarded the opportunity to attend the first session of Summer Medical Academy (SMA) at Rady Children's Health. Hawa is now a current senior at Crawford High School and has been a very engaged student in the FACES program since she joined in 2023. Hawa shared a photo from her experience at SMA and reflected on some of her favorite memories: "One of the coolest parts of the Summer Medical Academy was visiting UC San Diego. I actually got to touch a real human brain, which was crazy but so exciting. Going inside the emergency response helicopter was also unforgettable it made me realize how amazing a career in healthcare could be."

This quarter, Anel Muñoz Veyna, joined the Center for Healthier Communities in August as her internship placement within the Health Careers Connection program. Anel has helped support both the Summer Medical Academy and FACES programming this summer! We are so grateful to have Anel as part of the Youth Development team. Read her bio below:

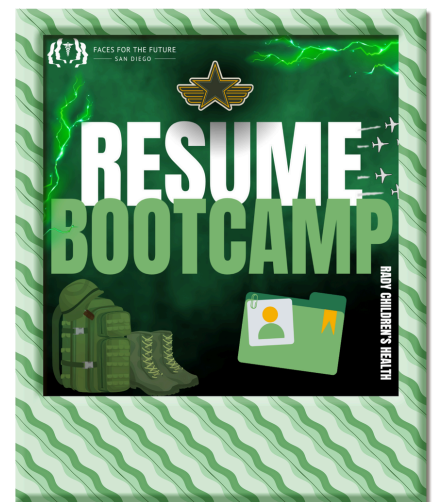


“Hello, my name is Anel Muñoz Veyna I’m an incoming third year student who has been attending UC San Diego, I am majoring in General Biology. I joined the Health Career Connections (HCC) internship program because I wanted exposure to all the different career paths that are available within healthcare. I have also had the opportunity to continue to provide mentorship and assistance to younger generations of healthcare providers. I have really enjoyed working with Rady Children’s Center for Healthier Communities as I have been able to provide support for the Summer Medical Academy.

ALUMNI EVENTS

On June 12, 2025, an exciting virtual resume review event was hosted by FACES San Diego for alumni to learn best practices on how to update their professional resumes and how to specialize them based on personal experiences. We are so thankful that the event was helpful to the attendees and grateful to the staff of Rady Human Resources team who dedicated their afternoon to help students revise and personalize their resumes.

For those who were unable to attend, we are hosting our in-person annual Johnson & Johnson alumni networking event on October 24, 2025. Online registration is now open: bit.ly/FACESmixer2025

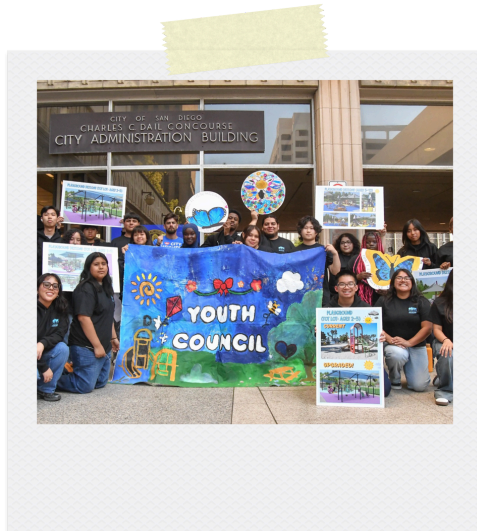


Partner Appreciation Lunch

Our annual community appreciation lunch was held a little earlier this year at the end of June! The FACES coordinators and members from the FACES community partners gathered together for lunch and great conversation. Student posters from their community rotation internships were on display for the organizations to read! This yearly tradition is our favorite way to appreciate the community partners that host our FACES students for their community rotations during junior year. The staff at these organizations have been amazing role models for our students and continue to work for the City Heights community. A huge thank you to Alliance for African Assistance, Alliance San Diego, Crawford Community Connections, Pro Kids-First Tee, Mid-City CAN, Stellar Care, United Women of East Africa, Planned Parenthood, and Rady Urgent Care.



Community Partner Highlight



This Summer newsletter, we are proud to highlight our partner organization, Mid-City CAN, and give a special shoutout to the Youth Council department. Our team commends Mid-City CAN for continuing to create a safe space for youth to advocate for their community. The Youth Council department allows BIPOC youth to participate actively in advocacy and civic engagement. Mid-City CAN has consistently allowed our students to volunteer at several departments for their junior school year internship requirements. Many of our FACES students have also participated in Youth Council meetings and played an active role in securing funding for the City Heights Urban Village Revitalization Campaign in Henwood Park. We are proud partners of Mid-City CAN, which is an organization that continues to give back to the City Heights community.

If you are interested in getting involved with the important work that Mid-City CAN does, visit their website [here](#).

Meet Foshay Mallard

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I'm currently enrolled in the Medical Assistant program at Western Medical Training Center. The program is fast-paced and requires strong availability for coursework and classes, but it has been very educational and rewarding. The material is clear and engaging, and it's helping me feel well prepared, especially as I look ahead to starting in-person clinical labs on August 27.

As a mother to a wonderful baby, balancing school and parenting has its challenges, but it has also been incredibly motivating. I'm currently in the online portion of the program, and I'll begin my externship in October. Ideally, I would love to complete my externship in a setting that involves working with children, although I'm still researching options and keeping an open mind.



FACES Class of 2022

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Meet Paloma Maldonado

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My experience in the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program with the Nile Sisters has been truly amazing. I learned so much and now feel a step closer to achieving my goal of becoming a nurse. I am deeply grateful to FACES for the Future San Diego and Rady Children's Hospital for awarding me the scholarship that made this possible. This opportunity has been life-changing, and I will forever be thankful for the chance to advance my career in healthcare.



FACES Class of 2023

INTERESTED IN CNA CERTIFICATION?

Four alumni from FACES San Diego like Paloma have been awarded the opportunity to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) through scholarships provided by Conrad Prebys. This fall they are offering an evening course that starts on September 22nd and a weekend-only course that starts on October 4th. If you are a FACES alumni who is interested in applying for a scholarship to enroll in this CNA program located in City Heights, please email Maddie Moran for more information!

Eden Mengistu



"Hello! My name is Eden Mengistu, and I am a proud graduate of the Hoover High School FACES program, Class of 2018. I am a college graduate from the UC Santa Barbara, and a recipient of the Promise Scholar Fellowship, providing financial support to allow me to graduate debt-free with a BS in Psychological and Brain Sciences in 2022. I continued my studies in Arizona, where I received an MS in Psychology in 2024. I currently serve as a Program Coordinator at a local ethnic community-based organization, where I support a range of youth development, mental health, and community wellness programs that serve both youth and the family unit as a whole. In my role, I have the privilege of working closely with East African community members—many of whom are refugees or immigrants navigating new systems and seeking connection. I'm especially passionate about assisting community members in need of culturally responsive support. I see myself reflected in the youth I work with, and it brings me deep joy and fulfillment to support their growth, confidence, identity, and sense of belonging.

Working with my community is more than a job—it's a personal calling rooted in shared experiences, cultural pride, and the belief that every young person with diverse and complex backgrounds and upbringings deserves the opportunity not just to survive, but to thrive."

Maleyka Andar



"Hi, my name is Maleyka Andar. I am a 2024 UC San Diego graduate with a Biology major. I am from City Heights and graduated from Crawford High School in 2020. I was introduced to FACES in 2016 and graduated from the program in 2020. After college, I was struggling to find a job until I went to a FACES alumni conference, and was encouraged to apply to Rady's. After applying, I heard back from a couple jobs and I'm now a Patient Care Assistant (PCA), which will help me get a better experience in healthcare as I want to be in the medical field. My current advice to FACES students & alumni is that it is okay to not have everything figured out right now- we are young and still trying to figure out our dreams and aspirations, and that it will take a while to reach those goals. In my personal case, the healthcare field is what I want to go into. Luckily, with my job I'm getting the clinical experience I need to figure out if I want to go into med school or nursing.

When comparing myself to my peers, I was afraid of falling behind or taking gap years but realized that everyone around me is still trying to figure out their lives just as I am. To both alumni and students, please know everything will align for you! I wish you the best!"

- Community college attendees who meet applicant requirements can apply for the California Medicine Scholars Program (CMSP) in September of 2025 for Fall 2026 enrollment. This program is specifically designed for community college transfer students who intend to pursue a health professions career. The curriculum is centered for transfer students and is a longitudinal program that you can be a member of until you enter medical school (including gap years). If you are a transfer student and want to pursue medicine, please learn more about this awesome program [here](#).
- Outdoor Outreach has a six-month paid Fall/Spring Leadership program that helps individuals ages 16–21 develop the skills needed to become leaders within the outdoor industry as well as within their own communities through weekly workshops and outdoor activities. Application for this position closes on September 19, 2025. Apply on their website [here](#).
- The 10th annual Live Well Advance and School Summit conference will be held in San Diego this October 22, 2025. Keep an eye out on their [website](#) for registration updates.

STAY CONNECTED

Don't forget that there are new resources that can be found on our website! The [alumni tab](#) on our website has [resume](#) and [cover letter](#) examples to help you succeed in your professional development.

Our newsletters are also available to download on our website for easy access to embedded links and for personal use. Every edition of the newsletter can be located on our website [here](#).



Instagram

@faces_future_sd



Linked In

Faces for the Future
Coalition



Facebook

Faces for the Future
Coalition



San Diego Website

sdhealthscholars.org

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