



FACES for the Future NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2026

2026 WINTER EDITION



FACES Highlights



Danna Salgado

Danna Salgado is currently a senior FACES student at Hoover High School. Danna was featured in an ABC 10 News segment on new student loan changes in the Department of Education. She can be seen demonstrating medical training devices typically found in healthcare careers. As a first-generation student, she uses her voice to advocate for student loans and *"the importance of financial support from the government."* The entire segment is available on the ABC 10 News Youtube channel [here](#). Aside from being an advocate for education, Danna is already working as a Certified Nursing Assistant in her last year of high school. She has also been in the process of applying to colleges and received an early admission letter from the Point Loma Nazarene University Nursing program! We are so proud of you, Danna, and we cannot wait to see what your future holds.



A newfound partnership with the Nile Sisters Development Initiative has opened opportunities for FACES-San Diego to sponsor students in the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program. The first cohort of students to receive a scholarship were FACES seniors Lenya Carrillo, Marlene Romero, and Sarai Rosales of Hoover High School! The photos to the right showcase their graduation ceremony; once they pass their CNA exam, they will be able to find employment as a CNA immediately to gain valuable hands-on experience in a healthcare setting. The most recent cohort of scholarships includes Nayeli Guzman, Emily Vargas, and Halima Hassan of Crawford High School who began their CNA classes in January of 2026.





FACES UPDATES



A brand-new field trip experience was offered to FACES students during the month of November 2025. Students from Hoover and Crawford High Schools enjoyed a wonderful field trip to the Safari Park in Escondido where they were allowed the opportunity for a guided tour of the exotic animal veterinary hospital, which is an opportunity not available for the public! In addition, the students had some free time to explore the park to see the animal exhibits. We are extremely thankful to the staff at San Diego Safari Park for making this a truly memorable experience for the students.



Hoover High School



Crawford High School





INTERNS



The Center for Healthier Communities has the support of two college interns this season! Wensley Lipman is completing a Health Careers Connection internship and Mia Rodriguez is completing a College Corps internship. Our team is very excited to have them support our department. Wensley is pictured below providing a lecture to Crawford FACES students on Social Determinants of Health!

Wensley



"Hi!! I'm Wensley and I'm a fourth-year student at UC San Diego, majoring in Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience. I am so excited to be working on FACES for the Future, as I believe it's incredibly important to connect the youth--especially the underserved youth--to careers in healthcare. This past summer I was lucky enough to intern at UCLA for their Pre-Medical Enrichment Program (PREP) and Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP). These programs focus on immersing scholars in their respective fields (medicine, dentistry, or nursing), offering workshops, career counseling, and exploration into health disparities affecting underserved communities. This experience meant everything to me, not only because it taught me a lot about my career in nursing, but because it gave me faith in the future of healthcare. Something I really value about HCC is their dedication to ensuring that this field remains accessible to everyone, which in turn creates a safer, more understanding, and more equitable system. I'm so grateful for all I've learned through them!"

Mia

"Hello, my name is Mia, and I am a Business Economics major with a minor in Accounting at UC San Diego. I am a College Corps intern, a statewide program that connects college students with meaningful service opportunities while supporting leadership development and community impact. Through UC San Diego, College Corps focuses on K-12 education, climate action, food insecurity, and public health. I currently serve as a FACES intern, a role I was especially drawn to because it allows me to combine my passion for working with students with the skills I've developed through my business education. I enjoy helping high school students explore healthcare pathways and understand their options by using tools like presentations, marketing, analytical thinking, and mentorship. Supporting students as they build confidence, ask questions, and take steps toward their future is incredibly rewarding, and I love being part of a program that empowers students to make informed decisions about their goals."





ALUMNI EVENTS



Event Recap

Our annual senior and alumni event at Johnson and Johnson Pharmaceuticals in La Jolla on October 24th, 2025 was an evening to remember! It was truly a joy to see new and old connections being formed in such a beautiful outdoor venue, accompanied by good food and weather! This event highlights internal and external partnerships and had representatives from Rady Children's Health, Rady Children's Health Team Resource Groups, Reality Changers, Comfort Keepers, Laura Rodriguez Medical Academy Institute, County of San Diego, California Medicine Scholars Program, Nile Sisters Development Initiative, and UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy to table. We could not have pictured a better experience, so a huge thank you to all the partners, alumni, and students who were able to attend.



Save the date for our next in-person alumni event at Rady Children's Hospital. This event will be held Saturday, May 30th, from 10am-12:30pm. It will focus on internal and external healthcare organizations that are hiring or have active opportunities for FACES alumni. More updates will be announced from our social media and email accounts as the event date gets closer!

Summer Medical Academy Mentors

Applications are now open to become a volunteer group mentor for the Summer Medical Academy Programs at Rady Children's Health. 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 related to healthcare or education. Check out our [website](#) to apply- applications close February 27th at 3PM PST!



OPPORTUNITIES



- The San Diego Foundation Common Scholarship Application opened on January 14, 2026. Last year, over 1,400 students received scholarships from this application! The deadline to apply is March 6, 2026; review the requirements and learn how to apply [here](#).
- The 2026 MESA STEM & Pre-Health Conference on March 28 is a chance to connect with STEM and health professionals while exploring education and career opportunities. Registration is currently open [online](#)!
- Scripps Research offers the Student Research Internship Program, which is a 10-week summer program designed for high school, undergraduate, graduate and professional students. Applications are due by April 30, 2026; [apply here](#).
- The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is looking for student interns to contribute to the Digital Inclusion Program, which supports digital skill development for refugees, newcomers, and low-income families. The deadline to [apply online](#) is February 2, 2026.

STAY CONNECTED

Don't forget to visit the [alumni tab](#) on our website which will be updated regularly with upcoming events and has important resources like [resume](#) and [cover letter](#) examples to help you succeed in your professional development.

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



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