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A Season of Growth and Opportunity at Project Next

As another school year comes to a close, we are taking a moment to reflect on the incredible impact made possible through our students, partners, volunteers, and supporters. This year was one of

growth, innovation, and expanded opportunities for students across North County. From career exploration events and internships to new partnerships and future center expansion, we are proud of what we accomplished together and excited about what lies ahead.

Lisa Stort

Project Next Welcomes Tiffany English & Jaely Cevallos to the Board of Directors



Tiffany English

Senior Director of Architecture,
Qualcomm

[Meet Tiffany](#)



Jaely Cevallos

Project Next Alumni Board
Member

[Meet Jaely](#)



Connect to Careers Brings Students and Professionals Together

This spring, Project Next hosted our annual Connect to Careers event, bringing together more than 150 students and 150 professionals representing a wide variety of industries. Students participated in meaningful conversations about career pathways, education requirements, workplace expectations, and personal journeys to success.

For many students, Connect to Careers provided their first opportunity to sit down with professionals and explore careers they had never previously considered. The event continues to be one of our most impactful experiences, helping students build confidence, expand their networks, and gain clarity about their future options.

Second Annual First Job Hiring Event Connects



Students to Opportunity

In April, Project Next partnered with the San Diego North Economic Development Council, the San Diego Workforce Partnership, and the City of San Marcos to host the Second Annual First Job Hiring Event. The event brought together nearly 200 young job seekers and 19 employers from

across North County, including the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, YMCA of San Diego County, Hollandia Dairy, San Diego Humane Society, and LEGOLAND California.

More than just a hiring event, students had the opportunity to practice professional networking, meet employers face-to-face, and build confidence navigating the workforce. Experiences like these help students develop the skills, connections, and opportunities needed to successfully launch their careers while strengthening North County's future workforce.

Students Help Design the Future Center at A Step Beyond

This spring, students played an important role in helping design Project Next's newest Future Center, which will be located at A Step Beyond. Through collaborative design sessions led by Tiffany English (Qualcomm), Sneha Savla (Cultura) and Aaron Rigg (DPR Construction), students shared their ideas and perspectives on creating a space that feels welcoming, inspiring, and functional.

Their input, along with the input of ASB staff, will directly influence the look and feel of the center, ensuring it reflects the needs and aspirations of the staff and students who will use it. We look forward to celebrating the grand opening later this year.



Expanding Opportunities Through the CAPS Network

Project Next continues to strengthen its partnership with the [CAPS Network](#), creating new opportunities for students to engage in Profession-Based Learning (Pro-BL). Through these experiences, students collaborate with industry professionals to solve real-world challenges, apply

technical and durable skills, and develop solutions that have authentic value beyond the classroom.

As we expand these opportunities, we are seeking business and community partners willing to bring real projects, challenges, and expertise to students. Whether it's helping students develop a marketing strategy, tackle a business challenge, provide industry feedback, or explore a workplace, your involvement can help students connect their interests to future careers while developing the skills employers value most. If your organization is interested in partnering with Project Next to create a Profession-Based Learning experience, we'd love to start a conversation.

[Sign Me Up!](#)





Recognizing Excellence: Classrooms for the Future Award

We were honored to receive the Community Team Award at the Classroom of the Future Foundation's Innovation in Education Awards, a reflection of our commitment to helping students prepare for life after high school. This recognition highlights the innovative partnerships, career readiness programming, and student-centered approach that continue to drive our work.

Awards like this serve as a reminder that when schools, businesses, and community organizations work together, students benefit.

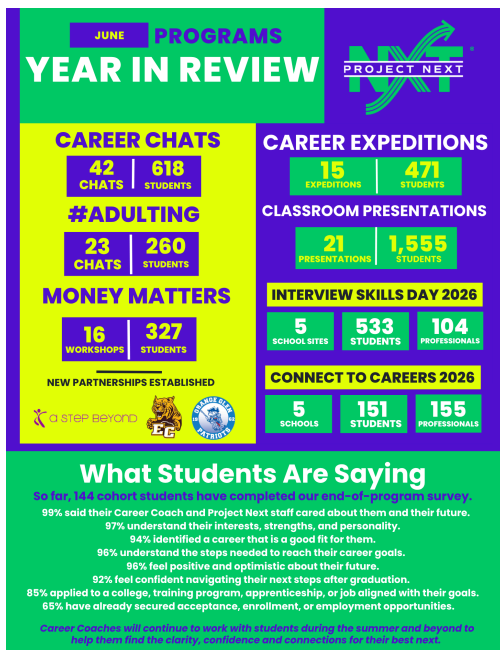


Celebrating Our Community at the Heart of Project Next Event

This spring, we hosted our inaugural Heart of Project Next recognition event, celebrating the volunteers, educators, business partners, and community champions whose dedication helps students build brighter futures.

What made the event especially meaningful was that the awards were presented by current Project Next students and alumni. Through heartfelt remarks, students shared personal stories about the impact these individuals had on their lives. Their sincerity, gratitude, and exceptional public speaking skills left a lasting impression on everyone in attendance. Many recipients were visibly moved as they heard firsthand how their investment of time, expertise, and encouragement had influenced a student's journey.

The evening served as a powerful reminder that behind every successful student is a community of caring adults willing to show up, share their experiences, and help young people see what is possible.



Year End Program Highlights

The 2025–2026 school year was one of our most successful yet. Across our partner campuses, students participated in career exploration presentations, workplace visits, networking events, financial literacy workshops, college and career

planning sessions, and individualized coaching.

Our Future Centers remained vibrant hubs of activity where students received personalized guidance and support as they explored their next steps after high school. Whether students were planning for college, entering the workforce, pursuing a trade, or

exploring military service, Project Next was there to help them navigate the journey.



Neighborhood Healthcare Internship Program

Building upon the success of last summer, nine students are embarking on a three week internship program with Neighborhood Healthcare. The experience provides students with hands-on exposure to healthcare careers while allowing them to work alongside professionals in a real healthcare setting.

Students are gaining valuable workplace experience, building professional skills, and learning about the many career pathways available within the healthcare industry. We are grateful to Neighborhood Healthcare for investing in the next generation of healthcare professionals and providing such a meaningful opportunity for our students



Thank You to our Partners

Every gift is a seed planted in a student's future—a gift that grows into clarity, confidence, and the courage to build something extraordinary.

With your partnership, we're able to expand opportunities, create transformative programs, and ensure that

every student has access to the resources they need to thrive.

[Donate Now](#)

Project Next

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