Summertime Scholars

Global Health Summit
San Diego FACES students Abdisalam Hassan, Dave Nalab, Nelva Perales and David Tu were among 12 FACES students from California chosen to go to Washington D.C. in June to attend a Global Health Youth Summit. Students were able to meet with USAID employees, in addition to workshops, discussions and tours.

Many thanks to our FACES financial supporters:

If you would like to support any of our Youth Health Scholars programs, go to https://www.radyfoundation.org/donate/presidents-fund; under comments, write the name of the program. Thank you!
Students and Janssen Employees Engaged & Learning

Bridge to Employment ended year one with students enthused, engaged and on track; and Janssen employees enthusiastically joining the team! As employees learned more about the program and met the students, there were more volunteers making the trek to Hoover High School to talk about their career paths with the students; at year-end, seven different career presentations had taken place.

The year closed out with a Poster Session at Janssen Pharmaceuticals, attended by Janssen employees, students’ parents and BTE Advisory Committee members. Students’ posters presented information about their background, ambitions and experiences with BTE so far, with students standing by to answer questions and provide additional information. Janssen employees, Advisory Team members and parents all were impressed with the quality and maturity shown.

Summer activities included a volunteer event with Janssen Pharmaceuticals at a Senior Center and teambuilding, networking and BBQ at Janssen.

A number of goals, set by the Advisory Team, are tracked throughout the year; most were met and exceeded for Year 1:

- 100% of students had school attendance of better than 90%.
- 38 of 42 students had GPAs above a 2.5, and 27 students had 3.5 or above.
- 98% of students participated in community service activities approved by BTE

Making it Happen: Spotlight on Glenda Castro

Every program needs a champion; BTE has one in Glenda! A Senior Associate Scientist with Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Glenda has been a part of the BTE team from the very earliest planning stages.

“At Janssen San Diego I’m part of the employee resource group HOLA (Hispanic Organization for Leadership and Achievement), and it was through the interest of this group to be involved in supporting high-school students that I looked into BTE for San Diego...

We truly believe that helping kids in their education can have a great impact in their community, and we are really lucky to be part of an organization like Johnson & Johnson that supports and encourages employees to make a difference in people’s lives not only through the development of new medicines, but also with programs like BTE.”

Glenda’s favorite thing about BTE is seeing the development of the students: “The maturity that they have achieved in only one year is amazing! To hear them talking about going to higher education and all the options they are exploring: they are not limiting themselves, and for me that means they will take any challenge to be what they want to be. That was my personal goal for this program.”

A career in health care was always Glenda’s goal. During high school, she volunteered with the Mexican Red Cross, and interned in the blood bank at the Mexicali General Hospital. These experiences led her to decide that the clinical laboratory was a better place for her than working with patients. She was introduced to biology research in college, and found her love! “Research gives me the opportunity of improving people’s lives.”

BTE Advisory Team:

Janssen Pharmaceuticals
Glenda Castro
Rosa Luna
Veronica Moreno
Hoover High School
Joe Austin
Ellen Hohenstein
Jeremy Martin
Andrea Munoz

CCTE
Dean Darley
UCSD School of Medicine
Dr. Ruth Covell
Dr. Lindia Willies-Jacobo
SDSU
Lillian Garcia
Cynthia Park
Melissa Naranjo

Southern California Biotechnology Center
Sandra Slivka
Grossmont Community College
Heather Peterson
Rady Children’s Hospital
Cheri Fidler
Susan Lovelace
Kristina Quezada
New programs with the FACES San Diego Alumni Liaison coordinating with the FACES Coalition in Oakland are bringing together graduates from FACES for the Future programs around the state. An August webinar, the 1st of a series, explored different pathways into the healthcare workforce that can be pursued through higher levels of education. The intent is to help alumni with decisions regarding graduate school.

Alumni are planning a “Buddy” program, linking FACES students newly attending college with upperclassmen at the same school. The idea is for every FACES college freshman to have a mentor, a FACES alumni who has already been in college for a couple of years. The older alumnus is expected to “be there” for the younger one as a sounding board for advice, direction, encouragement—things every college student needs! And as the students find their way through the college maze, the upperclassmen can help with navigating and networking through the new environment.

### Alumni Spotlight

Class of 2011 FACES graduate Wendy Mejia is a shining star of a FACES alumnus:

- Received her B.S. in Kinesiology from SDSU in 2016
- Served as a 2016 summer intern through Health Careers Connection (HCC) with the Center for Healthier Communities
- Hired at Rady Children’s Hospital to work in the Safe Routes to School program in Linda Vista beginning in fall 2016.

During her internship, Wendy spent time supporting the coordinator for Faces for the Future, Crawford. She helped by planning community rotations for Crawford FACES students, introducing new partners to the program as well as making arrangements with existing partners.

Wendy also was a group leader for the Summer Medical Academy (SMA), providing leadership and support for a group of seven high school students as they moved through the two-week intensive dive into experiencing health care careers and skills.

Says Wendy, “FACES for the Future allowed me to explore my infinite possibilities …(It) gave me the opportunity to explore my mind and passion about who I was and what I wanted to become in the future. Without FACES I feel I would not be where I am now, and for that I am eternally grateful.”

The future? “I want to pursue my master’s in Public Health (at) UCSD for their Public Health Joint Doctoral program in Behavioral Sciences.”

### FACES Alumni Scholarship 2016

Join us in congratulating 2016 FACES for the Future Scholarship winner Lina Ngo, a member of the Hoover High School Class of 2016. Lina is attending the University of California, Santa Barbara, with a major in Biology, emphasis in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; she aspires to be a bioengineer…or maybe a pediatrician. Her love for working with children, realized during job shadowing at Rady Children’s Hospital, is pulling her toward pediatrics. But her understanding of rapidly changing technology, and its interaction with medicine, sparks her interest in being part of a biomedical engineering team.

“Knowing that I was going to college was always a given to me, but I did not realize how difficult the path to college was going to be. I knew that money would play as a huge problem. My parents know little to nothing about college; although they understand the importance of it, they do not realize that it costs a large sum of money to attend… I have learned to be independent when it comes to college finances because I cannot depend on my parents (for financial support).” Lina is the 1st in her family to graduate high school or go to college.

Lina applied for and received several scholarships, as well as working part-time during her sophomore through senior years. She noted, “I am not going to let money be the reason why I am unable to attend college.”