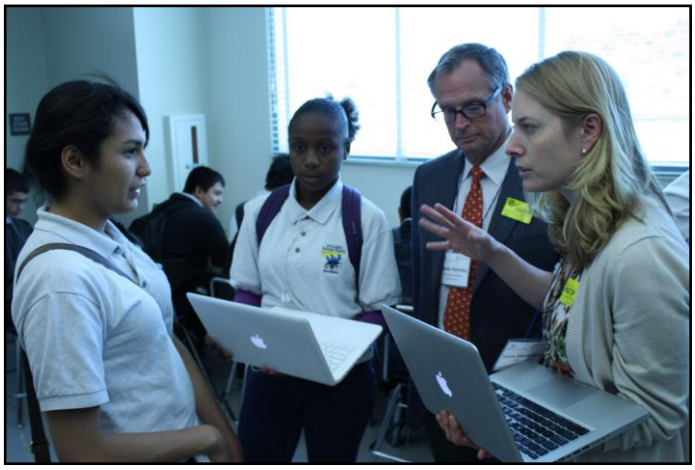
JUNE 2012 VOL 2 ISSUE 2

The TRF Newsletter

Summer Time!

Even as students and teachers get ready to start vacation, TRF is still working hard to help schools acquire the resources they need for students to succeed.



Above: Attendees of the May 16th conference, *Mission Schools: Catholic Education and the Future of Los Angeles*, visit ATAMS High School and speak with current students about blended learning.

Second Teacher Networking Event Set for June 23rd at the ESPN Zone at LA LIVE

Following the success of our December EdTech Networking Event for teachers, TRF will once again host past grantees at the ESPN Zone at LA Live to celebrate the start of summer with food, fun, and discovery. Teachers from different schools around Los Angeles will come together on Saturday, June 23rd from 1:00-3:00pm to share how they use technology in their classrooms and learn from colleagues.

To inspire attendees' creativity and challenge them to leave their comfort zones, Enrique Legaspi will give a short presentation. A teacher for eight years, Mr. Legaspi has been featured on CNN for his pioneering use of Twitter and other social media in the classroom. He posits that engagement does not come solely from the technology, but from how teachers and students can use it to create and tell stories.

The afternoon promises to be full of good company, great dialogue, and fun giveaways. If you are a past grantee of TRF and wish to attend, please contact the office at (310) 472-2020 by Thursday, June 21st. We hope to see you there!

Summer 2012 Calendar

June 23rd: Teacher Networking Event at the ESPN Zone at LA Live

July 4th: Mayor Riordan to be honored at Palos Verdes July 4th Celebration

August: 2013 Grant info announced. (See website for details)

The Riordan Foundation

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Catholic Schools Conference Hopes to Spark Innovation

On Wednesday, May 16th, TRF and partner organization, Philanthropy Roundtable, convened a collective of Los Angeles funders at the California Club for *Mission Schools: Catholic Education and the Future of Los Angeles*. This conference was put together to serve as a springboard for candid discussion about philanthropy's role in Catholic schools and the current challenges facing the community.

To set the stage, the dean of LMU's School of Education, Shane Martin briefed the group on national and local trends in Catholic Education. Next was a panel discussion about current innovative solutions to revive Catholic schools nationwide. Panelists included Mayor Riordan, Mark Gleason of the Philadelphia School Partnership, Stephanie Saroki de Garcia of Seton Education Partners, and Joe Womac of the Fulcrum Foundation. A second Panel focused specifically on Catholic schools' potential to lead the way in using technology to transform education. This panel included Jeanne Allen, Ambassador Frank Baxter, Scott Hamilton, and Anthony Kim of Education Elements. After each panel, conference participants had the opportunity to ask questions of the speakers.

At the end of the day, event goers traveled to Alliance Technology and Math Science (ATAMS) High School to get a glimpse of the BLAST model of blended learning, a model which has the potential to transform innovative Catholic schools.

TRF hopes that this conference will be the first of many for the Los Angeles funding community. We believe that with more communication and cooperation, our limited resources will have a greater effect in inspiring positive change and innovation. We are very grateful to Philanthropy Roundtable for their assistance in hosting the event as well as to the speakers and attendees. Thank you for a great day!

SMART Showcase School

Grantee Schools Partner to Improve Use of SMART Boards at Both Institutions

Cienega Elementary and Wilshire Park Elementary, two former SMART Classroom Technology grantees located in the mid-city area, have partnered to create a flourishing community of SMART users in their neighborhood. Spearheaded by two forward-thinking coordinators, Elizabeth Lehmann and Gene Benda, the partnership allows teachers at the two schools to visit each other's classrooms to see how their colleagues integrate technology into the curriculum.

Though the schools received a number of SMART Boards through Rx for Reading grants, both have continued to acquire the technology for additional classrooms on their own. More importantly, they have continued to provide professional development for new and veteran users alike. Cienega even held a sharing session to bring together teachers from additional schools and a number of Wilshire Park teachers became certified SMART trainers themselves.

TRF is extremely excited by the partnership of these two model schools and will continue to support their collaboration. We would also like to congratulate Wilshire Park on becoming a SMART Technologies "Showcase School," the first in Los Angeles. Way to go!

The Riordan Foundation