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**Contact:**  
**Amber Taylor**  
[703-201-4893](tel:703-201-4893)  
[amber@taylored-communications.com](mailto:amber@taylored-communications.com)



## **Orange County Principal, Teacher and Student Win *Innovation in Education Awards***

Annual Awards Recognize New Approaches to Preparing Students for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Lives and Careers

**Irvine, Calif.** – Foothill High School, a teacher from Aliso Niguel High School and a 10<sup>th</sup> grader from Oxford Academy Cypress won the 2015 [Innovation in Education Awards](#) presented by Project Tomorrow and the OC Tech Alliance. The awards are given to schools, educators and high school students who are charting new paths in education.

[Project Tomorrow](#), the nation's leading nonprofit group focused on science, math and technology education, and the [OC Tech Alliance](#) have been recognizing outstanding education programs, educators and students for their innovative uses of science, math and technology with this award since 2006.

The 2015 award winners are:

**Innovative Schoolwide Program of the Year in Science, Math & Technology** – honoring the strong leadership of a school principal in driving innovation in education with an outstanding, results-based school wide program

- **Foothill High School, Tustin Unified School District**  
Program: Foothill Engineering and Technology (FEAT)

**High Impact Teacher of the Year in Science, Math & Technology** – acknowledging the influence of a great teacher in his/her use of science, math or technology to significantly impact student academic achievement

- **Dwynn Famalette, Aliso Niguel High School, 10th-12th Grade Science Teacher**

**Emerging Student Innovator of the Year in Science, Math & Technology** – recognizing eighth grade, freshman, sophomore, or junior high school students who are creatively using science, math and technology resources to solve a school or community problem

- **Anna Lou, Oxford Academy, 10th Grade (rising junior)**

The 2015 Innovation in Education Awards were presented at the 22nd Annual High-Tech Innovation Awards Dinner on Thursday, October 8th, 2015 in Costa Mesa. This year's event represents the 10th annual education focused awards segment, a partnership between Project Tomorrow and corporate sponsors, Microsemi, Astronics, Avago Technologies, Orange County Department of Education and Haworth & IOS Inc.

Julie Evans, CEO of Project Tomorrow, reports, "This year's competition was the strongest yet, and we are thrilled to be able to recognize and reward the strong work each of the finalists is doing to advance STEM education in Orange County. We couldn't do this without the support of our sponsors or our partners at the OC Tech Alliance, so I want to express our gratitude to them as well."

More about the Awards, including this year's finalists and past recipients, can be found online: <http://www.tomorrow.org/programs/innovationawards.html>

Nominations for the 2015 Project Tomorrow *Innovation in Education Awards* could be self- submitted or submitted by a district and/or school staff person. Organizations such as a PTA unit, parent advisory committee, or any youth based organization(s) were also eligible to nominate. An independent review panel of local education and business leaders selected the award recipients. The annual Innovation in Education Awards are open to all public and private schools in Orange County.

### **About Project Tomorrow**

Project Tomorrow ([www.tomorrow.org](http://www.tomorrow.org)), a national education nonprofit organization headquartered in Irvine, California, supports the innovative uses of research-based science, math and technology resources to develop critical thinking, problem solving and creativity in K-12 students. Project Tomorrow addresses the challenges of developing schools for the 21st century through national research projects, community and school-based programs, online tools and resources, and advocacy efforts to ensure that all students are prepared to be tomorrow's leaders, innovators and engaged citizens of the world.

### **About Orange County Technology Alliance**

Orange County Technology Alliance is a 501(c)6 nonprofit trade association committed to fast-forwarding the local innovation economy. It is the only technology association addressing the needs of technology companies of all sizes, from small privately held enterprises to large publicly traded entities, based in Orange County, Calif. The alliance serves members through local networking, professional development, state and federal advocacy, savings on business services and industry recognition. To learn more about OC Tech Alliance visit [www.octechalliance.com](http://www.octechalliance.com) or email [Brenda@octechalliance.com](mailto:Brenda@octechalliance.com). Follow alliance activities on Twitter at [twitter.com/octechalliance](https://twitter.com/octechalliance).