On October 19th, 2013, Project Tomorrow held its fourth annual Leading the Way: Youth Leadership Summit for Math and Science, at Edwards Lifesciences Worldwide Headquarters in Irvine, California. With over 200 students, parents, and community leaders in attendance, the event provided an opportunity for high school students to explore careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields and to learn about how math and science proficiency is increasingly a critical skill for current and future jobs.

This conference-style event kicked off with a creative student presentation of Orange County business trends, followed by a panel discussion from industry leaders focused on workforce skills. Next, students attended career-specific breakout sessions of their choice led by local business and education leaders, an engineering panel discussion featuring speakers from across the field, and tabletop exhibits introducing attendees to local STEM college programs. Students enjoyed a continental breakfast and networking lunch at this free, half-day event, which concluded with a student raffle featuring gifts from regional businesses and community partners.

Project Tomorrow would like to extend a very special thank you to all of our guest speakers, volunteers, participating local colleges, sponsors, and partners for their time and generous contributions, without which this influential event would not be possible.
Why an annual summit for math and science?

As you well know, the issues of education and workforce development are intrinsically intertwined. However, you may not be aware of these current conditions for Orange County:

- Over 50% of new Orange County jobs in 2020 will require a college degree, the majority being STEM related.
- 45% of Orange County students, however, are not proficient today in math and science – per state tests results.
- 83% of Orange County students say they have ideas for how to improve education – yet, no one is listening to them!

The purpose of our annual summit is to directly address these conditions which are critical for sustaining Orange County’s regional competitiveness.

Objectives:

1. Spark student interest in local STEM career opportunities and college programs
2. Ensure that our students fully understand why a solid foundation in math and science is critical for their future
3. Provide a forum for local companies to interact and learn about their future employees (today’s high school students)

Project Tomorrow measures its accomplishments against these objectives through post-event student surveys. The preliminary evaluation data presented here can be supplemented with a formal event evaluation report by contacting our main offices at 949-609-4660 ext. 20.

What are students saying about the 2013 Summit?

“It was interesting to talk to experts in their fields and gain information about skills needed from employers.”
Future Molecular Biologist, 12th grade, Trabuco Hills High School (Mission Viejo)

“I think that this Summit was definitely beneficial. I loved getting the opportunity to network with like-minded people in the career of my choice.”
Future Pharmacist, 11th grade, Saddleback High School (Santa Ana)

“This event was fun, interactive, and gave insightful information about colleges and careers.”
Future Environmental Scientist, 11th grade, Santa Ana High School (Santa Ana)

“I thought today’s experience was really cool because I learned that I definitely want to be an engineer.”
Future Computer Engineer, 10th grade, Aliso Niguel High School (Aliso Viejo)

“I was really happy with the experience and it really opened up my mind to new ideas and careers I may want to consider.”
Undecided, 9th grade, Edison High School (Huntington Beach)

“The Youth Leadership Summit was very interesting, and was a great experience. Thank you to all the sponsors.”
Future Mathematics Teacher, 12th grade, Brea Olinda High School (Brea)
The Student Co-Chairs play a pivotal role in the structure and learning outcomes of the Summit. Our Co-Chairs are responsible for synthesizing research from the Orange County Business Council on current and recent trends in Orange County demographics and business practices, and then conveying that information in a creative and unique way to Summit participants. Co-chairs are chosen from a competitive field of high school students. This year’s Co-Chairs, Cheyenne (Trabuco Hills), Daniel (Brea Olinda), and Katherine (Woodbridge) demonstrated leadership, comfort performing in front of large audiences, and commitment—dedicating over 12 hours to plan, prepare, and practice for their roles in this year’s Summit presentation: There’s No Place Like Home: A Wizard of Oz Remix.

2013 Program

8:15 – 9:00am Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 – 9:30am Welcome
Julie Evans, Project Tomorrow, and Katrina Headle, Edwards Lifesciences
9:30 – 10:00am Student Co-Chair Presentation: There’s No Place Like Home
Nicholas Johnson, PIMCO
James Head, Southern California Edison, Transmission
Patrick Gough, Orange County Transportation Authority
Vivian Khalil, Edwards Lifesciences
Michelle Patterson, Women Network Foundation
10:00 – 10:50am Industry Leader Panel Discussion
Nicholas Johnson, PIMCO
James Head, Southern California Edison, Transmission
Patrick Gough, Orange County Transportation Authority
Vivian Khalil, Edwards Lifesciences
Michelle Patterson, Women Network Foundation
11:00 – 11:55am Career Exploration Breakout Sessions
(Tracks 1 and 2: each 25 minutes)
Nicholas Johnson, PIMCO
Chris Kemp, PIMCO
Susan Medley, MSN, NP, UCI
Kelsey Reynolds, Macias Gini & O’Connell
Kent Yamaguchi, Santa Ana Zoo
12:00 – 12:40pm Lunch and Networking Time
Cal State Fullerton, Concordia University, Fullerton College, Irvine Valley College,
Loyola Marymount University, Santa Ana College, Santiago Canyon College,
University of California Irvine, Cal Teach
12:45 – 1:40pm Career Exploration Breakout Sessions
(Tracks 3 and 4: each 25 minutes)
John Chamberlain, Emulex
Catherine Clark, PhD, Chapman University
Dr. Himmet Dajee, CalOptima
Matthew Hannus, Sleepy Giant Entertainment
Dave Miller, The Walt Disney Company
Catherine Nolan, San Juan Hills High School
Michelle Patterson, Women Network Foundation
1:45 – 2:00pm Closing Remarks, Evaluation, and Raffle of Prizes

Meet This Year’s Student Co-Chairs

This year’s Co-Chairs, Cheyenne (Trabuco Hills), Daniel (Brea Olinda), and Katherine (Woodbridge) demonstrated leadership, comfort performing in front of large audiences, and commitment—dedicating over 12 hours to plan, prepare, and practice for their roles in this year’s Summit presentation: There’s No Place Like Home: A Wizard of Oz Remix.
Call for 2014 Summit Speakers

We are currently looking for business leaders and professionals from the following industries:

- Medicine
- Mechanical Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Automotive Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Biotech Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Programming
- Software Development
- Aerospace
- Veterinary Medicine
- Design Model Making & Prototyping
- Architecture
- Culinary Arts
- Fashion Design
- Media Production (Animation, Audio)
- Dietician/Nutritionists
- Accounting/Finance

How can you participate?

Speak  All careers involve the use of math or science in some capacity, and students love hearing how! Your story, as well as information about the work you do, will help engage them in their career exploration adventure. Help create the next generation of Orange County STEM innovators by volunteering now to be a guest panelist or break-out session leader. For more information contact Meredith Kohl at mkohl@tomorrow.org.

Sponsor  Make a difference now by becoming a financial sponsor of the 2014 Youth Leadership Summit for Math and Science. Your contribution will have a life-changing impact on the Orange County Community by helping to provide over 150 high school students with valuable STEM career guidance and leadership. For more information about sponsorship levels and benefits, contact Marianne Miller, Grants Manager at mmiller@tomorrow.org.

Donate  Food, printing, photography (video and still), student Summit backpacks, note pads, pens, and raffle items are just a few of the items that can be donated to offset our event costs. If you own a business that can provide a product or service donation, please contact Marianne Miller at mmiller@tomorrow.org.

Thanks to our 2013 Summit sponsors...

...and contributors...

Adventure City
Angel’s Baseball
Aquarium of the Pacific
Bagels & Brew, Inc.
BCU (servicing Edwards Lifesciences)
Bowers Museum
Discovery Science Center
In-N-Out Burger
Knott’s Berry Farm
Luna Grill
Microsoft
Oakley
Princeton Review
San Diego Zoo Global
Santa Ana Zoo at Prentice Park
Stonefire Grill