On October 24th, 2015, Project Tomorrow held its 6th annual Leading the Way: Youth Leadership for Math and Science, at Edwards Lifesciences Worldwide Headquarters in Irvine, California. With over 250 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 began with an opening welcome from Project Tomorrow and Edwards Lifesciences followed by a panel discussion with local STEM professionals. Next, students attended career specific breakout sessions of their choice led by local business and education leaders. Breakout sessions included engineering panel discussions featuring speakers from across the field as well as individual professional presentations. The 2015 Summit also included the first ever student-led breakout session where young innovators showcased their projects and shared their experiences with other students.

Students enjoyed a continental breakfast and networking lunch where they had the opportunity to visit tabletop exhibits, which highlighted local STEM college programs and clubs. This free, half-day event concluded with a student raffle featuring gifts from regional businesses and community partners. Project Tomorrow would like to extend a 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 have been possible.
What are the students saying about the 2015 Summit?

“I learned more about the job of an engineer and the path to become one. I was able to grasp a better understanding about the future I want to pursue” – 10th grade, Beckman High School, Future Neuroengineer

“The chemistry session was really helpful in clearing misconceptions about working in a lab setting. It was also very helpful in teaching what courses to take.” – 11th grade, Samueili Academy, Future Pathologist

“I came to hear the advice and facts about these careers ... to better understand what I want to do in the future. My goals were exceeded in this summit.” – 11th grade, Aliso Niguel High School, Future Metallurgical Engineer

“I’m really glad that I came. It was really interesting and the speakers were awesome.” – 9th grade Woodbridge High School, Future Engineer

98% of students will recommend the Summit to a friend

100% of seniors recommend that other students attend next year

95% of 9th-11th graders hope to return next year

Thank you to our 2015 sponsors and contributors!

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