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Generation Go! announced at Gathering of Excellence

Hector Hernandez Jr. Nov 15, 2018



Indian Springs High School manufacturing students Andrew Teran, Luis Bustamante and Lizzette Mora demonstrate a scanner they use in class to manufacture prosthetics in class, led by teacher Ron Delmonte.

hector hernandez

San Bernardino City Unified School District (SBCUSD) further affirmed its commitment to preparing its students for college and career on Thursday, Nov. 8, by announcing the new student internship program Generation Go! launched in partnership with the county Workforce Development Board.

The announcement was made at the district's seventh Gathering of Excellence, held annually at National Orange Show in San Bernardino since Dale Marsden has been superintendent.

In that time the Board of Education has led the district in a transformation from being the "poster child for poor performance" to "becoming a lighthouse district for this state," Marsden said speaking before hundreds of educators, community leaders and students.



He applauded the "power of high quality leadership" and having a school board and cabinet that work in harmony.

"The event gives a great opportunity to check the pulse of what we're doing in our schools," said SBCUSD Trustee Gwen Rodgers. "We're thriving because of our collective work at putting children on the path to prosperity."

Marsden started in 2012 when the district had a graduation rate of 66.8 percent, among the lowest in California's large urban districts, and a college eligible rate of 17 percent. Today the graduation rate is 89.1 percent and the college ready rate is at 31 percent and projected to be at 38 percent next year.

"Our district now out performs all local, comparable districts save for Redlands and Riverside," Marsden said.

Part of the district's aim to prepare its students for success is a large and growing career pathway program offering students career-oriented instruction in 51 fields districtwide.

Many of those pathways were showcased at the event with students demonstrating their programs and new skills.

The latest development is the Generation Go! program piloted at two high schools this year.

In partnership with the county Workforce Development Board, the district created a program that first teaches students the soft skills most desired by employers through a summer Work Readiness course and then places them in internships at local businesses.

Marsden said the goal is to get every student involved in a career pathway internship experience before graduation.

Students who go through the program will graduate with valuable soft skills, a high school diploma and four community college credits, according to MaryAnn Johnson of the Workforce Development Board.

"We don't want it to be a choice between college and career, we want it to be both," Marsden said.

The program was piloted with medical pathway students from Cajon High School interning at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center and San Andreas High School students interning at Garner Holt Productions. Based on this year's success the district and the Workforce Development Board plans to expand the program with cooperation from more businesses.

Marsden added that having students ready for careers right out of high school can eliminate the college debt crisis, which could be vital to uplifting a community dealing with poverty. Preparing students for college also prepares them for careers as in today's job market adaptability and the ability to re-skill are key as job demands rapidly change.

"Excellence is a journey," Marsden reminded the district. "It doesn't happen over night. We never achieve excellence it's a constant effort."

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