

MYCALIFORNIA NOW

Mission

Our mission is to encourage youth to take an active role in determining the future of the communities they live in through a multi media educational curriculum. Building upon the rich history of California, the “**My California Now**” curriculum will inspire diverse high school and college age students to become active citizens and leaders. The curriculum will engage and empower youth. Ultimately the “**My California Now**” curriculum will guide youth to come up with community-based responses for building healthier, stronger communities.

Making a Difference

The “**My California Now**” curriculum, a web based educational tool, will provide low-income and ethnically diverse youth with a structured and meaningful opportunity to engage in issues of leadership, the environment, conservation, self-sufficiency and civic participation. We are a non-profit, non-partisan project with 501 c 3 status through the **Water Education Foundation**.

Our multi-media curriculum and workshops will appeal to a generation that expects a multi-sensory experience and will engage youth by guiding them to make a personal response that is relevant to their community. Stanford University, UC Berkeley and The Autry Museum have all expressed strong interest in permanently housing our database and our educational curriculum. To maximize the scope of our curriculum we are exploring partnerships with existing organizations. The nationwide and prestigious Coro Foundation for leadership recently articulated a desire to work together as well as the **Pat Brown Institute for Governmental Affairs**.

Background

Former Governor Edmund G. “Pat” Brown is remembered as the “Architect of the Golden State.” Today, California and states across the nation face many of the same critical issues Pat Brown did when he was Governor. As granddaughters of Pat Brown, we were inspired to create an educational curriculum and a film that would help encourage the next generation to have a positive impact in their communities. We have done extensive on camera interviews with **Governor Schwarzenegger**, former Governors **Gray Davis**, **Pete Wilson** and **Jerry Brown**; **Speaker Pelosi**, **Senator Dianne Feinstein**, **Tom Brokaw**, Ronald Reagan’s chief strategist, **Stu Spencer**, California’s lead historian, **Kevin Starr** and many other prominent leaders, discussing effective leadership during times of crisis to use in our film and our educational curriculum.

Our public school system has gone from first to worst, universities are overcrowded and in a financial crisis, unemployment is skyrocketing, freeways and roads are congested and crumbling. Water and other environmental resources are shrinking as demand increases and pollution spreads. We need inspiring stories and innovative solutions now more than ever. We are developing a community outreach plan that pairs the film, “**California State of Mind – The Legacy of Pat Brown**” with a companion educational curriculum called “**My California Now**.”

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“**My California Now**” will provide a viable template for public service and serve to connect youth to their state, their larger city, and to leaders from the past and present. Support for this project will be used for curriculum development, implementation and evaluation.

Key Points

1. Make leadership and education programs accessible to youth and communities at no cost.
2. Target low-income, underrepresented, diverse minority youth and their communities.
3. Engage and empower underrepresented youth to make a positive impact.
4. Provide a structured, meaningful and multi-sensory learning opportunity available through the Internet.
5. Create measurable outcomes.
6. Use the expertise and proven track record of success of our partner, the Water Education Foundation. WEF has extensive experience developing and implementing classroom programs. Over the past 10 years WEF has reached more than 5 million young people. The Water Education Foundation provides a network of over 5,000 teachers with quarterly updates.

“My California Now” Four Key Lesson Units

Lesson 1: Leadership: learning characteristics of successful leadership

Lesson 2: Environmentalism & Growth: building for our future with a sustainable model

Lesson 3: Civic Engagement: communities build awareness and engage in the solution through volunteerism.

Lesson 4: A Personal Response: understanding your community and your capabilities

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