



San Diego, CA

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# Quick facts

- Began in 2000 as single charter school launched by San Diego business leaders
- Roots in “New Urban High School Project” (1996-1999)
- Student body mirrors ethnic and socioeconomic diversity of community
- Now eight schools K-12 with approx. 2500 students and 300 employees
- 100% of graduates accepted to college
- Operating budget of \$23 million

# Three “Design Principles”

## 1. Personalization

- Advisory
- Small-group learning
- Students pursue own interests in projects
- “Personal digital portfolio”



# Three “Design Principles”

## 2. Adult World Connection

- Internship in community required of all students
- Community service & job shadows
- Skills preparation for workplace
- Project-based learning & student exhibitions
- “Workplace” feel



# Three “Design Principles”

## 3. Common Intellectual Mission

- No tracking
- All students prepared for workplace and/or college (fulfills U.C. requirements)
- Performance-based assessment
- Integrated curriculum
- Teacher teams have time!



# Facility

The facilities reflect three ideals:

- Flexibility
- Ownership
- Originality



# “A Transparent, High-Performance Work Environment”

- Windowed seminar rooms
- Small-group learning
- High-tech labs
- Student work on display
- Learning is “visible”
- “Non-institutional”



# Key “Take-Aways”

- Direct connection between school and adult world
- Sense of ownership, creativity, integration
- “Visible” learning
- Common, coherent mission

