



vital link *Newsletter*

Monthly News and Updates From Vital Link

Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

As we wrap up an incredible year filled with career exhibit days, college and career fairs, our student leadership summit, advisory boards, workshops, tours, and our summer academies, we are thrilled to share our latest updates with you. Your participation and support have been essential to our success, and we can't wait to reveal what's next for Vital Link and our amazing students in the coming months. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey this school year. **We look forward to seeing you all again soon!**

A Future Empowered: Summer Academies Recap



N.E.X.T Academy

This summer, community college students from Golden West College and high school students from Irvine Unified School District participated in our N.E.X.T Academy. N.E.X.T is a week long summer program designed for students to explore their strengths and career interests, develop their professionalism and networking skills, and learn more about the career resources and opportunities available to them. Students from our N.E.X.T Academy also had the opportunity to get their professional headshot taken by local teacher and professional photographer, Daniel Meza, of Easy OC Photos. Visit this [website](#) to view Daniel's work.

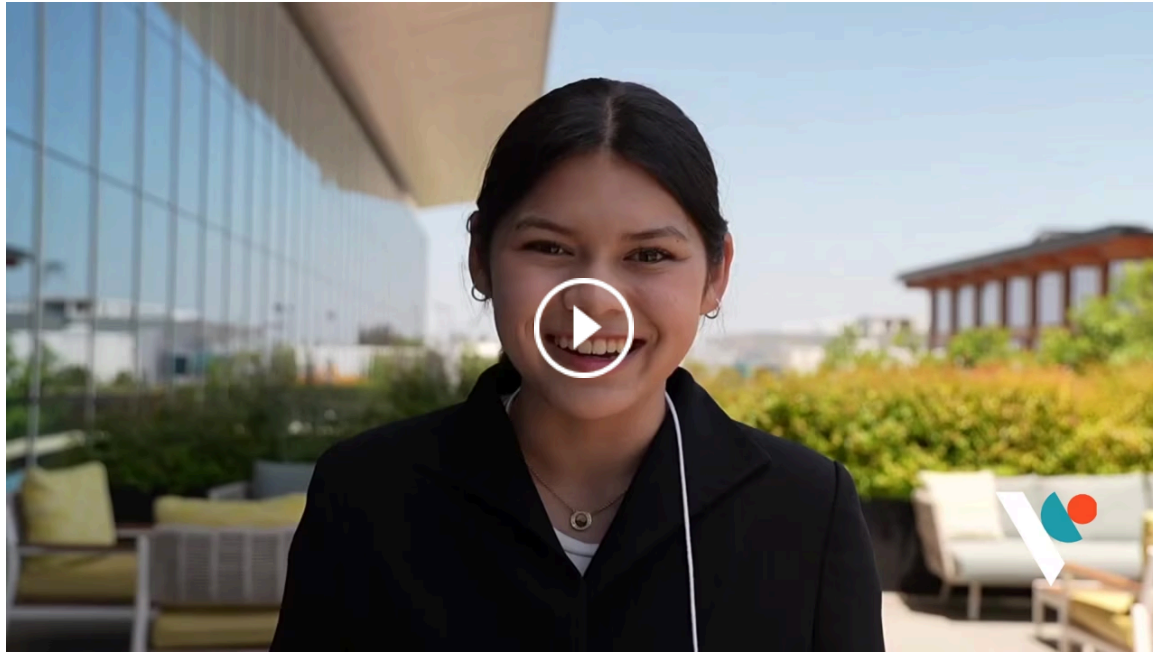
At the end of the week-long program filled with workshops and tours, students sat down and networked with industry professionals from a diverse range of careers, roles, and industries, where they learned valuable insights into developing yourself professionally and working towards your future careers.

"At N.E.X.T, we recognize the invaluable role played by industry professionals," said April Barnes, President at Vital Link. "Our aim is to connect students with industry professionals across various sectors, providing them with the real-world insights and hands-on experiences.

Their collaboration is essential to our mission.



Listen to Joelle's thoughts about the N.E.X.T Academy's impact



Bionics Academy

Our Bionics Academy is led by college professors and offers our students hands-on experience in building bionic kits, aimed at developing their engineering skills. During this two-day program, students worked together to build a bionics kit, tested their creations, learned about the various career opportunities in bionics and engineering, and all the programs that Cypress and Santa Ana College have to offer.



Ways you can celebrate our 30th year anniversary

Empowering Futures

**Misha Houser Work
Experience Fund**

Host an Apprentice

Join us for an unforgettable evening honoring champions of career education and exploration. Celebrate with us and see our students shine as they take on roles as presenters, photographers, musicians, DJs, decorators, and more. Get ready to be inspired and amazed by their passion and creativity!

[Learn more](#)

Your support allows Vital Link to provide stipends for work experience for students who are placed in internships or apprenticeships. By donating, you contribute to the development of a skilled and knowledgeable workforce.

[Donate](#)

Through apprenticeships, we support students in gaining employment and empower them to excel, bridging crucial workforce gaps and fostering a skilled, resilient workforce. Hosting an apprentice allows you to tailor training programs to align with your business needs and industry requirements.

[Apprentice Interest Form](#)

A Special Thanks to our Partners and Sponsors



Meridian Prep

Meridian Prep offers students and families decades of experience in college counseling and admissions. They value time and individualized care, so you can take a breath, take your time, and gain the insights you need to get into the college of your dreams. Thank you Meridian Prep for your sponsorship and for mentoring our students through mentor roundtables and resume-building workshops!

[Learn more](#)



Perdition Security

Perdition Security stands at the forefront of cybersecurity and IT operations solutions, serving as a trusted partner for organizations of all sizes, including some of the world's most expansive enterprises. Perdition Security offers an academy with a diverse range of cybersecurity courses, including basics of cybersecurity, advanced threat management, network security, data protection, and customized training programs for specific industries. Each course is designed to cater to different skill levels, from beginners to advanced practitioners.

[Learn more](#)

Thank you Bank of America for your support!

BANK OF AMERICA 



We are thrilled to announce that we received a grant from Bank of America! Bank of America has been a steadfast partner in Orange County, collaborating with nonprofit organizations, local groups, business and civic leaders, and more to foster Responsible Growth.

With this recent investment, we will be able to provide essential career exploration and skills development programs for our community, including financial literacy and career mapping workshops. As first-time recipients of this grant, we are deeply grateful for Bank of America's support and commitment to our mission. We look forward to continued collaboration and are excited about the positive impact this partnership will have on our community.

A special thank you goes to **Bank of America volunteers Elizabet Gomez and Lora Hebda**, who have been instrumental in leading our Financial Literacy workshops. Their dedication was evident at our

Student Leadership Summit in December and most recently at our IUSD N.E.X.T Academy at Edwards Lifesciences.

Your Support in Action



With the school year over, we want to extend a huge thank you to our dedicated volunteers. Your commitment, from mentoring and leading workshops to judging competitions and attending events, has been invaluable. **Your support is crucial to delivering high-quality career exploration programs to our students.** Thank you for all your time, effort, dedication, and support to our programs!

[See our event photos](#)

[Volunteer Interest Form](#)



Vital Link is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to preparing students for their future careers through experiential learning opportunities. We offer programs that introduce students to the world of robotics, engineering, manufacturing, healthcare and medical, computer programming, digital media arts, automotive technology and more. **Through these hands-on programs, we inspire students to feel confident and excited to pursue a fulfilling career.**

{{Disclaimer}}

Vital Link

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