

# BRIGHT FUTURES NEWS



MC*GIVES!*

Story on page 2

## UPCOMING EVENT

### LEADERS FORUM

### ENSURING A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR ALL MONTEREY COUNTY CHILDREN

“The Leaders Forum plays a crucial role in gathering community feedback and insights for successful cradle-to-career initiatives,” says Michael Applegate, Bright Futures Data Consultant. By bringing together leaders from education, government, nonprofits, business, and community organizations, the forum fosters shared ownership of local educational outcomes.

Past Leaders Forums have proven valuable by helping to establish the shared seven educational goal areas for Bright Futures and supporting the development of measurable

**BRIGHT FUTURES**  
**Leaders Forum**  
 Inviting all Monterey County partners to collaborate and ensure every child in Monterey County has the support to succeed from cradle-to-career, encouraging collaboration, and breaking barriers for brighter futures.  
 7 February 2025  
 8:30 - 11:30 AM  
 For questions or if you are interested in attending, please reach out to dsilva@hartnell.edu

indicators to track improvement in each goal. The forum provides a platform for open dialogue and critical reflection on the broader educational landscape, as well as the progress and challenges of Bright Futures.

Through this ongoing engagement, leaders ensure that the initiative remains aligned with the community’s priorities by identifying key systemic barriers, advocating for equitable resource allocation, and celebrating shared successes. This collective work is essential for achieving sustainable and equitable outcomes for children and families.

## COMING SOON

### BRIGHT FUTURES’ REVAMPED WEBSITE!

The Bright Futures team is excited to announce the launch of our updated website! We’re introducing a modern design that better highlights our work and showcases the partnerships driving our cradle-to-career initiatives. Learn more of the seven goal areas that guide our mission and see how we’re working to create brighter futures for Monterey County. Stay tuned and visit us soon to check out our fresh new look!



# BRIGHT FUTURES NEWS

## 2025 January Newsletter

### STEERING PARTNER FEATURE STORY



**Margaret D'Arrigo**  
Salinas City Councilmember

As an original Steering Partner for Bright Futures, I've represented agriculture and business for over 10 years.

When I first started, seeing Monterey County rank 51st in student proficiency, and realizing that approximately 2 out of every 10 students who enter kindergarten in our County were predicted to complete a college degree, was shocking. Too many children are slipping through the cracks, and we must act urgently to fix these leaks in our education pipeline.

Bright Futures thrives because of the diversity and dedication of its Steering Partners. At our first meeting,

we were asked to share the voices we represent. I speak as a parent, a leader, and a volunteer. Despite our different backgrounds, we share a deep commitment to ensuring every child has access to quality education and opportunities. With StriveTogether's endorsement, we've extended our work to a 15-year plan. Programs like CalKIDS showcase the power of collaboration to drive change and build a brighter future for our community.



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### MC GIVES UPDATE BRIGHT FUTURES RAISES \$14,675

It is a huge honor that Bright Futures raised \$14,675 through Monterey County Gives! These funds will help us reach more children and families across Monterey County, strengthening our mission to ensure that every child is prepared for school, succeeds in and out of school, completes a post-high school credential, and enters a promising career.

With your support, we are making progress in closing equity gaps and enhancing educational opportunities for our local community. The funding will strengthen our outreach for CalKIDS. In Monterey County, over \$33 million has been allocated to provide college and

career savings accounts for 71,000 children. Thanks to collaborative efforts, over 9,700 local students have already claimed their accounts, giving them a stronger foundation for future success and economic mobility.

With our partnerships we are working to increase enrollment and awareness, helping families access these resources and invest in their children's futures. Thank you for your generous contributions, keeping our efforts and talents here for the future of Monterey County!



THANK YOU  
DONORS AND  
SUPPORTERS



HARTNELL COLLEGE  
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### CONTACT US

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