

Internships help teachers hone their skills

By Neil Gonzales

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About a dozen San Mateo County educators are honing their teaching skills at research centers this summer.

They are among 120 instructors in the Bay Area who are interning at companies or universities through the nonprofit Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Education.

The Santa Clara-based organization is celebrating 25 years of teaming

with businesses and higher-education institutions to improve teaching and learning in science and math.

The teachers are holding fellowships in such places as research-and-development company SRI International in Menlo Park and software firm Openwave in Redwood City.

First-time fellow Antoinette Villarín, a South San Francisco middle-school math teacher, recognized early on that her summer as a research asso-

ciate at SRI would benefit the company and students in her classroom.

"I am fortunate to be working with researchers on several different projects related to curriculum and data analysis," she said.

Organizers said the fellowships give teachers knowledge and strategies to take back to the classrooms, and participants provide companies and universities with skilled summer employees.