



## Nonprofit bridging education, industry

by Shannon Barry

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This summer Andrea Hutchinson, lead teacher of the Digital Business Academy at Milpitas High School, is reinforcing a concept that she tells all her students year round: "You need to be lifelong learners."

She is one of a select group of 120 Bay Area teachers, three from Milpitas, who are embarking on an eight-week paid fellowship in order to gain real world experience to enhance their curriculum back in the classroom.

On June 15, the Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Education, a nonprofit that partners with companies and universities, launched its annual Summer Fellowship Program for the 25th consecutive year. Lockheed Martin Space Systems Co., one of IISME's founding sponsors, honored the anniversary by hosting 25 teachers this summer, including Hutchinson and Catherine Thompson, a science teacher at Rancho Middle School.

Both Milpitas teachers are first-time IISME fellows who recognized early on that their summer as research associates would benefit their own studies and the students in their classrooms.

"I think this directly relates to what I teach," Hutchinson said.

During her fellowship, she has been working at Lockheed's Palo Alto location to research advanced technology, including managing SharePoint sites.

"I can take the skills that I've learned this summer and utilize them in the classroom," she said.

Thompson has been doing quite different work at the Sunnyvale site, developing curriculum for engineers to use in the classroom.

John Jacobson, Lockheed's business development senior manager, is acting as Thompson's mentor this summer. It is his second year as a mentor for IISME's summer fellows.

Of both years he said: "It's a fantastic experience ... seeing how creative these guys are. Seeing the energy they put into this, I can see how that will be translated into the classroom."

Although it was difficult to transition into a student role, Thompson explained her joy of learning is a key component to why she became a teacher.

"It's been interesting learning things I've never been exposed to," she said.

At the start of the fellowship, Lockheed offered a three-day course on understanding space.

During this time, Thompson was putting her previous basic understanding of space to a practical use.

"It's a technology view, as well as a business view, for how complex it is," Jacobson said. Overall, it was an in-depth explanation of the amount of people it takes to work together on building and launching technology.

This summer there were 27 sponsors supporting the local teachers.

Shab Kiamanesh, resource specialist at Milpitas High, is spending her second year as an IISME fellow with IBM. She contrasts her time both years.

"Last year coming in as a newbie, it was a whole new experience," she said. "Working here, I gained a lot of technical skills. When I went back to my teaching, I was able to apply some of those skills."

But this summer has been different.

Kiamanesh has had the chance to work on the same project, helping create educational materials for a product currently in production.

This has created a "meaningful link" for her, she said, between working on something for IBM but also creating a project that can be brought back to the classroom once the school year starts back up.

For her that meant creating a "department binder" Web site for special education teachers at the school.

Kiamanesh hopes to be an IISME fellow again next year, after "two years of wonderful experiences," she said. "I feel like



when I came back in September last year I was very refreshed. .  
.. It's a nice growth experience. I think it's been beneficial for  
everyone involved."