

Milpitas teachers learn skills through fellowships,

by Ali Abdollahi

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Nine teachers from Milpitas schools are participating in the Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Education Summer Fellowship Program. The fellowships place Bay Area teachers from kindergarten through university level into high-performance work sites for the summer. Now in its 23rd year, the program has provided more than 2,300 fellowship opportunities for more than 1,300 local teachers.

Teachers complete a project for their sponsor-company, and are paid \$8,200 for their work. The sponsors also allow teachers time to focus on ways to transfer their fellowship experiences back to their students and colleagues.

"Some teachers find a really direct connection between what they learn in their fellowship and what they teach in their classrooms," IISME Executive Director Jennifer Bruckner said. "Science teachers can learn new technical skills, for example. And subjects that are being taught in an abstract way in the classroom, teachers can get a sense of the direct application of the subject in the real world."

Jonathan Mulcock, a science teacher at Thomas Russell Middle School, is a fellow at Applied Materials, the Santa Clara-based nanomanufacturing technology company. Mulcock, who is in his fourth year as an IISME fellow, is helping to develop content for an intranet site at the company focused on ecological sustainability and assisting with editorial calendar development.

"This will help me as I'm teaching sustainability lessons to my students," said Mulcock.

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classroom subject matter could still be of great assistance for the teachers.

"The teachers can still come away with a better idea of the skills necessary in the work place," she said. "Such as working in groups with others, communicating with others, and working collaboratively to find creative solutions to problems. Teachers can ask themselves, 'Am I setting up my classroom in a way that gives students the skills they need to be successful?'"

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"Past fellowships

I've done in water treatment have helped my chemistry and density lessons, and my fellowship at Lockheed Martin helped me in my astronomy and physics lessons."

Bruckner said that fellowships that don't apply directly to