

## **IISME and National Semiconductor: Improving Math and Science Education**



Aug. 6, 2008 - This summer National Semiconductor has continued to provide experiences for a group of local educators. National has collaborated with Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Education (IISME), to help improve the education system in the Bay Area in California. Partnering with IISME, National has provided 58 Summer Fellowships for local teachers since 2000.

For the past 24 years, IISME has partnered with Bay Area companies and university research labs to provide teachers with valuable experiences and tools to bring back into their classrooms. Since 1985, industry

### **Some local teachers pictured with their National mentors.**

leaders like National, have hosted 2,553 Fellowships -- reaching over 1.6 million Bay Area students over the years.

A National mentor is paired with the fellow not merely as a supervisor, but rather an experienced advisor encouraging the aspirations of the teachers while helping to set realistic goals for the projects. While each mentor has the benefit of a fresh perspective and a qualified individual to work on a project, teachers learn new skills which they can transform into updated curriculum, demonstrating to their students the value of learning science, math and technology.

Kristen Roddy, a first grade teacher at Sedgwick Elementary and a returning fellow for the Community Relations department, had the opportunity to help plan and prepare the annual volunteer recognition event, Celebration of the Stars. "Working in a corporate position is excellent exposure to a different work environment and it provides me with an opportunity to learn a different kind of professional behavior." This enables her to take the knowledge learned from National and apply it to her classroom. Kristen adds, "Being a teacher is so different than working in a big office in a cubicle. Each has its pros and cons, yet I still value and enjoy being a teacher as my main profession."

Keith Rocha, a sixth grade teacher at Jordan Middle School, working in the Government Affairs group, had the opportunity to visit Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano. With his mentors, Pam Baich and Jeanette Morgan, as well as our CEO Brian Halla, he was part of the team introducing National's SolarMagic™ technology to Governor Napolitano.



**Government Affairs Fellow Keith Rocha (center) with mentors Pam Baich (left) and Jeanette Morgan.**

By the end of the summer, the Fellows will have created new curriculum and teaching strategies to engage their students. Jennifer Bruckner, IISME's Executive Director notes, "We consistently receive very positive feedback from IISME teachers and sponsors alike - this unique professional development experience helps teachers to better understand the world they are preparing their students for, and helps them inspire more students to pursue careers in science, math and technology."

Teachers report great satisfaction with their IISME experience. Many have returned to the program year after year to build on the knowledge that they gain from their IISME sponsors. They are revitalized after the summer and return to the classroom with a new viewpoint on the subjects they teach, and as a result of their Fellowships now have "real world" experiences to incorporate into their curriculum. In addition, teachers who have held Fellowships stay in teaching and achieve National Board Certification at much higher rates than their peers.

If you are interested in learning more about IISME's Summer Fellowship Program, please contact [Fang.Truong@nsc.com](mailto:Fang.Truong@nsc.com) or visit the IISME website at [www.iisme.org](http://www.iisme.org).