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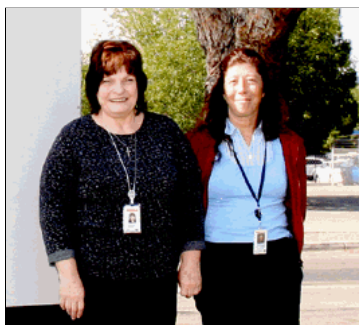
Santa Clara News

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BAE Systems hires local elementary school teacher for the summer

More Santa Clara news...



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[SAE President to visit Santa Clara site for a brown bag lunch](#)

[Graduate issue now available at mail stations](#)

[Veterans Wall will recognize employees who have served in the military](#)

IISME Fellow Gloria Harris (r) and her mentor Kathy Mullen are working hard as members of BAE Systems' Lean team.

[Submit your child's drawing in the Children's Safety Calendar contest](#)

As part of its commitment to educating the next generation of engineers, BAE Systems has been a long time supporter of the Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Education (IISME) program. IISME arranges summer fellowships for local teachers, giving them the opportunity to work for some of Silicon Valley's largest and most influential companies.

[Enter Facilities' photo contest and your photo could be displayed in café](#)

This summer, BAE Systems' fellow is Gloria Harris, a second grade teacher at Patterson Elementary School in Fremont. Although her responsibilities at BAE Systems are drastically different from elementary education, Harris is well prepared. Having a master's in education technology and two previous IISME fellowships under her belt, she is actually quite at home in the high-tech arena.

[August service awards](#)

The unique part of the IISME program is that benefits of the fellowship extend beyond the employer and employee. Harris, of course, will accomplish much and will be compensated for her time – but the benefits are much more than financial, and it is required to be so. Each IISME fellow must implement a plan to transfer knowledge acquired in their fellowships back into the classroom.

[July new hires](#)

[Bargain Hunter](#)

One might question how she will implement knowledge gained in an engineering intensive environment with eight and nine year old children, but Harris already has it planned out. Working on the Lean team at the Santa Clara site, she has found many parallels between the LeanSigma philosophies and Fremont Union School District's program of continuous improvement.

While here, Harris will use her technical knowledge as well as her ability to clearly relate information (which is vital to an elementary school teacher) to streamline processes by analyzing and eliminating waste, and encouraging others to do the same. Harris will create Microsoft Visio documents to visually demonstrate her findings. She will also have the chance to beef up her Excel proficiency as she works to revamp the continuous improvement cost savings metrics. These Excel skills directly transfer to the grading and record keeping requirements put in place by her school district.

In addition to these duties, "Gloria provides a very valuable pair of fresh eyes," said Kathy Mullen, Harris' mentor. "Examining processes with fresh eyes enables us to see things differently and paves the way to process improvement and optimization."

Harris said that learning more about the Lean methodologies has been a great opportunity for her.

"In Lean, there are several principles which align with the classroom environment," she said.

“Things like being more efficient, taking ownership, and making choices – these are all things I try to teach my students.”

She plans to teach these principles, at least at the most basic levels, to her students this year, and to combine that with character and social-values education to create well rounded students.

“America’s heritage and laws reflect a common core of personal and social values that holds the citizens of this democracy responsible for acting morally and ethically, being actively involved in school and community, resolving differences peacefully, and respecting the rights, dignity, and property of others,” she added. “If I can instill that in my students, I can make a big impact.”