

High tech industry and teachers benefit from summer jobs

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by [Lynn Graebner](#)

Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Education has convinced 52 Bay Area companies to hire teachers for the summer.

It's the 23rd year of the program -- which is designed to provide paid fellowships for scientific, mathematic or technical projects -- and the idea is to invigorate and update curriculum being taught in classrooms from kindergarten through college.

"They bring a fresh approach and a new way to look at things. Many have come from high tech. I'm getting really talented individuals with a strong set of skills," says Becky Roller, vice president of worldwide marketing for Milpitas-based [Solectron Corp.](#), which hired five teachers this year.

One of the most valued new employees at Solectron for the summer is a kindergarten teacher who created a two-page overview of all of the company's manufacturing operations which the sales people can use with their customers.

"The teachers can get done in eight weeks what typically would have taken us five months to do because we couldn't get someone internally to focus on it 100 percent," Roller says.

Roller also appreciates the perspective the teachers bring from the "outside world" and the skill they have in working with people from all walks of life. "They take the skills they have working with children and apply them to adults in the business world," she says.

Other companies participating in the program -- which involves 188 teachers -- include [Agilent Technologies Inc.](#) of Santa Clara, [Applied Biosystems Group](#) of Foster City, [Cadence Design Systems Inc.](#) of San Jose, [Google Inc.](#) of Mountain View, [Hewlett-Packard Co.](#) of Palo Alto, [Intel Corp.](#) of Santa Clara, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, Oracle Education Foundation of Redwood Shores, Santa Clara University and [Synopsys Inc.](#) of Mountain View.

The companies pay up to \$7,400 to each teacher for an eight-week stint. Teachers get practical experience and the hosting companies get seasoned temporary employees.