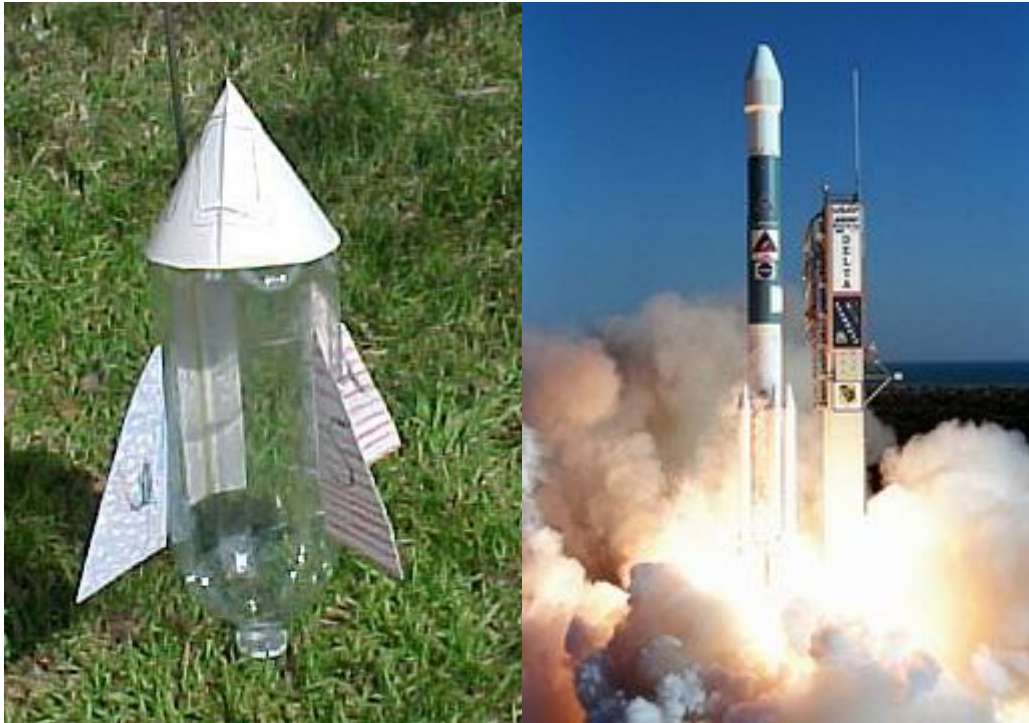


## Helping teachers take a field trip



### **MORE VALLEY COMPANIES SHOULD LINE UP TO OFFER REAL-WORLD TRAINING INTERNSHIPS FOR EDUCATORS**

Mercury News Editorial

Teachers are feeling under siege; budgets for training and professional development are being slashed.

Silicon Valley companies have a chance to provide vital help through a program called Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Education.

IISME is a summer internship program sponsored by the Silicon Valley Leadership Group. For eight weeks, classroom teachers, mainly in science and math, are immersed in corporate culture, doing projects and observing cutting-edge research.

They take with them ways to relate classroom materials to the real world and the global economy, along with practical knowledge of computer programs and business practices. They also get a \$7,000 stipend -- a big morale boost and an incentive for teachers in areas of high demand to stay in the profession.

For 20 years, IISME has provided more than 1,800 fellowships. Companies, led by Intel, Applied Materials, Lockheed Martin, New United Motor Manufacturing Inc., IBM and Solectron, have pledged a record 162 so far for this summer. But even that meets a fraction of the 400 teachers who apply.

Any company, not just a Silicon Valley Leadership Group member, can participate. Now is the time for companies to step forward.

**IF YOU'RE INTERESTED**

Contact Jennifer Bruckner, executive director of IISME, at (408) 553-2249 or [jbruckner@iisme.org](mailto:jbruckner@iisme.org), or visit [www.iisme.org](http://www.iisme.org).