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As part of its ongoing effort to enrich technological education in schools, Lockheed Martin arranged for 25 experienced math and science teachers from the Bay Area-based Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Education (IISME) to receive a tour of NASA's Ames Research Center. Lockheed Martin is hosting the teachers as part of a Summer Fellows Program, which exposes qualified teachers to local companies and research labs for an eight-week learning experience. This opportunity is one of many Lockheed Martin initiatives aimed at enhancing educator knowledge of careers in math and science.

This industry-education partnership is a primary component to the IISME model, which focuses middle and high-school teacher fellows on technical challenges and teaching modules associated with space-based programs under development at Lockheed Martin's Sunnyvale and Palo Alto facilities. Each teacher develops an Education Transfer Plan to map out how they will apply their real-world experience to most effectively inspire students in the classroom.

At NASA's Ames Research Center, fellows participated in a tour highlighting NASA's current research programs, with visits to various test and simulation facilities, interactive exhibits, and a newly renovated high definition projection system displaying 3D imagery from live spacecraft. An education specialist also spoke about additional learning and outreach opportunities at Ames.

"This tour is an ideal complement to the fellows' overall learning experience, as they are continuously being exposed to what it is like to be a professional in a technical field," said Kevin Bilger, Lockheed Martin vice president & general manager and member of the IISME Senior Advisory Council. "Giving teachers the tools they need to encourage math and science education is a top priority for Lockheed Martin and we are pleased with NASA's support of this important initiative."

Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company is IISME's largest sponsor in 2009 and has provided all 25 teachers with a fellowship in honor of the organization's 25th anniversary.

"The real world lessons that I am able to apply in the classroom constantly keep my students stimulated and excited about a possible future in science and technology," said Brian Dong, a returning Lockheed Martin IISME fellow. "It is really inspiring."

IISME was founded in 1985 by a consortium of San Francisco Bay Area companies including Lockheed Martin, in partnership with the Lawrence Hall of Science at the University of California at Berkeley and seeks to transform teaching and learning through industry-education partnerships.

Ames Research Center Silicon Valley enables exploration through selected development, innovative technologies, and interdisciplinary scientific discovery. Ames provides leadership in

astrobiology; robotic lunar exploration; technologies for CEV, CLV, and HLV; the search for habitable planets; supercomputing; intelligent/adaptive systems; advanced thermal protection; and airborne astronomy. Ames develops tools for a safer, more efficient national airspace and unique partnerships benefiting NASA's mission.

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