

Helping Teachers Inspire Students

Assisting in the development of tomorrow's scientists and engineers all the while helping retain and energize vital teachers in our schools sounds like a pretty tall order, or an impossible dream in today's economic environment. But that is precisely the mission of **Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Education (IISME)** and this month the organization is celebrating many accomplishments.

A Bay Area organization founded in 1985 and under the guidance of Executive Director Jennifer Bruckner in Santa Clara, CA, IISME brings together forward leaning companies, world class technology and research organizations and selected qualified faculty (K-16) to create win-win-win's for them all.

IISME's 27th Summer Fellowship Program is currently underway with 155 teachers in 43 host organizations participating, primarily in the Bay Area. This summer for the first time however IISME is supporting six teachers in the San Diego and Los Angeles areas.

It takes teachers, host organizations and sponsoring companies to create the "real world," paid experiences for teachers over the summer, working along side scientists at leading research institutions such as Stanford, UC Berkeley and SRI International, as well as technology companies like Lockheed Martin, Cisco, HP, Intel, Synopsys and Applied Materials.

IISME assists the teachers with transferring their experiences into updated and enriched classroom instruction and powerful lessons for their students, all linked to national science, technology and math teaching standards.

What better time to encourage others to participate in this wonderful work than in the midst of IISME celebrating its successes for 2011. Merit Resource Group takes pride in helping sponsor this strategic effort each year and supporting teachers to inspire our next-generation of scientists and engineers from their hands-on experiences that also energize them in teaching.

Visit [IISME online](#) and get involved now as they plan for next year's dynamic program. Find out what you can do, how to be a sponsor or host organization. We each can have an impact on the future with the assistance of programs like the Summer Fellowship Program and IISME. Thanks to the efforts of Jennifer Bruckner and her organization they make it easy for us.

Submitted by Rod Hanna on Tue, 08/09/2011 - 13:23.

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