

News Release

For Immediate Release: November 1, 2000

High Tech Professionals Commit to Mentoring High School Students

On Thursday morning, November 2, 2000 at Hewlett Packard in Cupertino, 150 professionals from high tech Silicon Valley companies will spend the morning learning how to be a mentor to high school students. These individuals have agreed to a year long assignment of coaching 150 students in the Electronics Academies at Independence, Overfelt, Silver Creek and Sequoia High Schools.

The mentoring program has been a critical element of the Academy Program and an effective way of keeping students focused and in school. The mentors hold a variety of positions, such as Product Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Procurement Coordinator, Business Development Engineer, Manager of Global Product Operations, Business Operations Manager, Financial Analyst, Buyer and Marketing Programs Manager. These professionals commit to connecting with their students at least once a week and helping them to explore career options. Many students have attributed their success in school and after graduation to their mentors. A number of the students have been able to network through the mentor and obtain summer internships or year-round jobs. A recent Independence graduate sent the following message to the district's Industry Liaison and her mentor: "Well, today is my 1 year anniversary here at HP. So I wanted to take the time to thank the two people I am very grateful to, the two people who have made such a difference in my life." She went on to describe how she's changed and how much more confident and knowledgeable she is now as a result of her experience in the Academy.

But students are not the only ones to benefit. Many of the mentors feel that this is one major way for them to give back to the community and in the process they help build a qualified work force to meet the ever-growing demands of Silicon Valley.

Companies participating in this effort include: Agilent, Alidian, Applied Materials, Arcom, Cisco, Compaq, HP, IBM, LumiLeds, Minerva, Nextel, Siemens and Sun.

The media is invited to the training session at HP on November 2, 2000 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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