

MOUSE Squad Moments

Fall/Winter 2011



MOUSE Squad of California
Student Tech Leadership



Turlock High



Coronita Elementary



East County Boys & Girls Club

Squads in the Spotlight

MSCA Receives STEM Benchmark Award

MOUSE Squad of California (MSCA) received the inaugural 2011 STEM Benchmark Award in Technology from the Silicon Valley Education Foundation (SVEF) at the Pioneers & Purpose Gala for Education.



The SVEF awards are given in recognition of pioneering people, programs and practices that set a new "benchmark" in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education. The award recognizes programs that are truly innovative and have proven to be effective.

The \$5,000 award, sponsored by Oracle, will be used to provide MOUSE Squad Student Tech Leadership programs to underserved schools in Silicon Valley. MOUSE Squad of California (MSCA) empowers students to learn technology, problem solving, communication, and leadership skills while contributing technical support services to their sites.

Donate

Your donation continues the positive impact on nearly 2,000 students, 90+ sites, supporting 3,000 educators and 54,000 students.

Donations are tax deductible
Non-profit I.D. # 94-2442955

MSCA c/o Aspiranet,
400 Oyster Point Blvd, Suite 501,
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Or donate online at
<http://ca.mousesquad.org/partners/donate.html>

Pittsburg MOUSE Squads Flourish

This summer, youth from two middle schools became new MOUSE Squad members at the East County Boys and Girls Club (ECBGC) in Pittsburg, California. What began as a trial program flourished into an exciting summer for these Pittsburg youth and the expansion of MOUSE Squad to 10 new school sites in Pittsburg for the 2011-2012 school year!

Ebony Odunikan, the ECBGC Education and MOUSE Squad Coordinator, spoke about her experience.

"I like the fact that all activities are geared towards guided discovery. MOUSE Squad allows me as a leader to facilitate students finding information out on their own. I believe the certification process is excellent for students. In any field of expertise or interest, they must have certification to compete.

MOUSE Squad gives our students the opportunity to become student teachers at their schools, learning something they are interested in and sharing that knowledge with others. They take pride in being mentors and becoming the 'go-to' person on their campuses. MOUSE Squad allows our members to realize that they are in control of their own success."

Turlock MOUSE Squads Growing

As part of a plan to implement a technology career track in its middle and high schools, Turlock Unified School District received an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) competitive grant late last year. The district used part of the grant to fund a MOUSE Squad at Turlock High, with the Turlock T-bots squad becoming a key component of the school's Engineering Technology program. As part of a Regional Occupation Program, instructor Bob Hoskins guides over 50 students in the squad through the MOUSE Squad certification process, focusing extensively on computer repair and refurbishment at the school.

Turlock High was also recently selected by the MSCA team as a One Economy/Comcast Digital Connectors program site, becoming the first school site in the country to participate! The DigitalConnectors program is being run alongside MOUSE Squad by instructor Bill McGinnis, and both programs will help prepare students for better academic and career opportunities and become more involved in community service.

Three other Turlock schools also implemented MOUSE Squad this year as a result of the technology grant and the successes at Turlock High: Pitman High School, Dutcher Middle School, and Turlock Junior High School. All of the squads are off to a great start and the MSCA team is excited to see Turlock's dedicated teachers and students implementing MOUSE Squad!

Computer Outside the Box: Innovative Tech Teaching at Coronita Elementary

Shannon Adams and Kristen Lindsay from Coronita Elementary in Corona never let anything get in the way of effective hands-on learning with their MOUSE Squad students. With a limited number of computers available, they opted to incorporate the use of a document camera as an LCD projector, along with an interactive whiteboard to introduce new topics and modules.

Shannon and Kristen discovered their students were far more likely to be engaged in meaningful learning if they were able to use technology while they were learning about it.

In accordance with their district's safety policy, Shannon and Kristen photographed the inside of the computer without dismantling it. Students could identify and label key components as part of MOUSE Squad's Module 8: Cracking the Case, and still participate in an engaging way to keep the activity hands-on and relevant.

These instructors always think outside the box and both know that elementary students love music, so when considering how to cement their recently acquired knowledge in their students minds, they figured: why not a song? Imagine Computer Hokey Pokey ... "You put the keyboard in...you take the mouse out...." The students couldn't stop singing. Now that's innovative teaching and learning with MOUSE Squad!

Volunteers Make a Real Difference!



Oracle volunteers, Snigdha Vinjamur and Sanghoon Kwak at Sunnybrae, San Mateo



Franklin Templeton volunteer Mike Fong at Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center, SF



Lab126 volunteer Tina Dao at French American International School, SF

Where Are They Now?



Aragon High, San Mateo

Tom Vranjes from Aragon HS studies Computer Science at College of San Mateo and serves on the MSCA Advisory Council. He still comes back to Aragon to participate with the Aragon MOUSE Squad.

SoHum Squad, Miranda

Two MOUSE Squad students, Kasey Lockhart and Billy Jackson, were hired through a workforce preparedness program as summer tech support interns for South Fork High, South Humboldt (SoHum) County. Kasey now attends College of the Redwoods and plans to earn a CIS degree, to become an Information Systems Support Specialist. Billy will graduate this year and plans to major in electrical engineering in college.



French American International School (FAIS), SF

9th grader Larson Holt had so much fun in MOUSE Squad last year, that he has joined the high school squad AND volunteers to assist with the middle school squad. He wants the middle school squad to have the fun environment he had. Larson hopes to apply his love of robotics and technology as an international airline pilot one day.



Valley MOUSE, Pacifica

Last year's Vallemar School MOUSE Squad members Max Lee (Internal Systems Expert) and Clayton Rios (Sound Specialist) are giving back as part of a service learning requirement from Oceana High. Max and Clayton share the expertise they developed in MOUSE Squad as they apprentice the next Valley MOUSE experts.



Intel Sponsors IISME Fellow for MSCA



With sponsorship from Intel, Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Education (IISME) provided MSCA with a Teacher Fellow this past summer. IISME's industry-education partnership gives teachers workplace experience that equips them with new knowledge and strategies for affecting meaningful change in education, specifically in preparing tomorrow's employees in math, science and technological fields.

Teacher Fellow Elizabeth Wiemels, created a two-part Volunteer Orientation webinar to improve the efficiency of our volunteer placement process. She also wrote a 10-week unit of lesson plans for our Computer In A Box: Components and Configuration hands-on activities. It allows corporate employees to volunteer as 'TechLeaders' for a semester commitment, and incorporates a one-day commitment opportunity on Volunteer Career Spotlight Day for tech employees to speak to students about their school-to-career experiences and pathways.

Rita Holiday, Intel's Community Engagement Manager, commented on the positive impact of volunteering, "Intel and MSCA's partnership empowers corporate employees, community and Intel volunteers to transform technology learning into valuable 21st century skills by participating with MOUSE Squad students."



Summit and Recognition Reception
Wednesday, May 23, 2012
Tech Museum, San Jose

Save the Date

Find us on:



Questions or comments?
 Contact Jan Half, Program Director
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Miranda Lux Foundation

