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Summary of High School Mentoring

Teachers at more than eight high schools in California were approached about initiating a mentoring program. More than thirteen teachers expressed an interest in developing a relationship with a mentor.

Significant challenges were encountered in identifying industry mentors and connecting those mentors with schools and teachers. Over ten industry organizations were contacted to provide mentors for the interested schools, but only thirteen mentors from four employers actually supported the high school mentoring effort. In order to supplement the supply of industry mentors, Stanford personnel would perform the role of mentor in some of the sessions/workshops held with high schools.

Three of the more successful high school mentoring efforts were conducted with Fremont High School, Bloomington High School, and Saratoga High School.

- Through the efforts of the WIRED grant, Fremont High School has started a mechatronics-type which has become part of their regular curriculum. The effort has mentored over 15 students utilizing 6 industry mentors. (See appreciation letter from Tracy Fritz, a teacher at Fremont High School: Fritz_FHS_Cudos-ltr.pdf)
- In support of the WIRED grant, Stanford conducted a hands-on electronics workshop at Bloomington High School. This four day workshop was successful in engaging over 100 students. (See summary report from the workshop: Bloomington HS Workshop.pdf)
- Two mentors supported the efforts of five Saratoga High School students in the development of a payload for the Garvey/CSULB P12A launch conducted in October 2008. The payload was successful in gathering data on the flight. All of their recorders for acceleration, temperature, humidity and GPS worked and stored data in flash memory sticks attached to their data logging computer.



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