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Intel Rock Stars Talk Engineering Careers at Tualatin High School

BEAVERTON, OR—As part of National Engineers Month, Tualatin High school students were recently treated with a unique opportunity to meet six senior Intel engineers, including one of the creators of the ubiquitous USB port—featured as a “rock star” in a recent Intel commercial. The engineers shared their engaging personal stories about why they became engineers.



Common for all six was their curiosity about how things work and their desire to solve problems. “When I was a kid, I needed to supply electricity to my tree house outside, so one day when my mom was out, I cut all the electrical cords for our appliances and combined them so that I could make an extension cord long enough to reach,” remembers Guy Therien with a chuckle. “My mother never left me alone at home again!”

Students were introduced to Moore’s Law, which states that the numbers of transistors that can be placed on an integrated circuit will double every two years. From just 2,000 transistors on their first chip in 1971 to 2 billion on their newest chip—the Tukwila—Intel has continued to validate the prediction of one of its original founders, Gordon Moore. Mike Rhodehammel pointed out that “if Moore’s Law was applicable to gas mileage, our cars would now be getting 1 million mpg!”



The Intel presenters emphasized the importance of combining practical, hands-on, learning with more theoretical classroom learning. They advised the students to seek out internships and other work experiences to sample a potential career. “We spend more time with our colleagues than we do with our families so it is important that you like the kind of people that you work with,” observed Ajay Bhatt, part of the group that invented the USB connector. “Engineers collaborate closely with each other so you have to be good at communicating too.”

National Engineers Month (February) is orchestrated by the **Business Education Compact**, a local non-profit organization dedicated to “make learning real” for Oregon and SW Washington students. In its 16th year, the program has enabled more than 275,000 students to have the privilege of interacting with a real engineer in their classroom.

Intel, the world leader in silicon innovation, develops technologies, products and initiatives to continually advance how people work and live. Intel believes that young people are the key to solving global challenges, and a solid math and science foundation combined with skills such as critical thinking, collaboration and digital literacy are crucial for their success.

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