

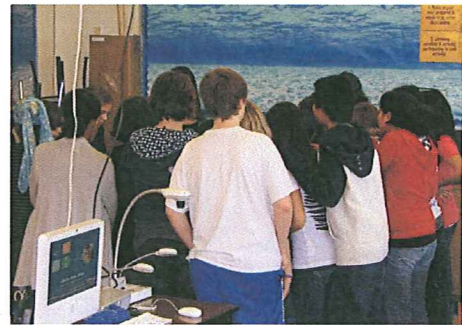
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TriQuint Scientist “Solar-gizes” Meadow Park Middle School Students!

BEAVERTON, OR—As part of National Engineers Month (February), Dr. Dorothea Gauer Lail, holder of a Ph.D. in physics and a product engineer at TriQuint Semiconductor, taught Meadow Park Middle School students in Ms. Tran-Parta’s classes how to make their own solar cells - using blackberry juice!

Dr. Lail introduced the students to Grätzel cells, which are dye-sensitized solar cells. Based on a semiconductor formed between a photo-sensitized anode and an electrolyte, these cells, invented and named by Michael Grätzel, make up a new type of inexpensive thin film solar cells.

The students gathered around Lail and their teacher, Ms. Tran-Parta, as they pieced together their solar cells. Blackberry juice provided the critical photo-chemical pump that moved the electrons to make the solar cells work.



“I really wanted to demonstrate to the students that science and engineering are easily accessible to them; science is not something to be afraid of but rather is something that everyone can understand and enjoy,” Dr. Lail said.

Dr. Lail works for TriQuint, a local semiconductor company, which designs and manufactures microchips -for mobile phones, GPS devices and the like. “We need to inspire students to continue studying math and science as our world is built by engineers; and I want to be able to retire someday!”

Dr. Lail and Ms. Tran-Parta worked closely together to prepare for the day’s activities. Participating in National Engineers Month for the third year, Tran-Parta explained, “it makes such a difference to have someone from industry, especially a female role model, come into the classroom; it really shows the kids that the things they are learning in the classroom have *relevance* for them.”

Tran-Parta was quick to express her gratitude to the engineers and scientists who take time out of their busy schedules and to their companies who sponsor their visits, “We teachers so appreciate these visitors, they really help us bring math and science to life!”



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.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, **TriQuint Semiconductor**, headquartered in Hillsboro, designs, develops and manufactures radio frequency solutions found in wireless communication devices such as mobile phones and netbook & laptop computers, and the backend infrastructure systems that deliver the signals to these devices.