

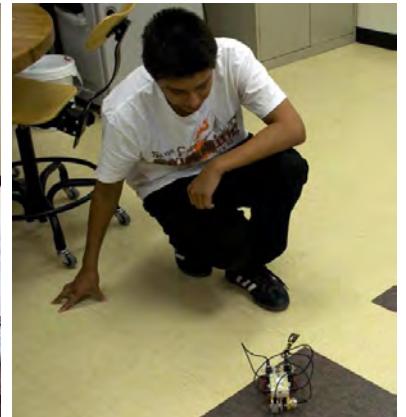
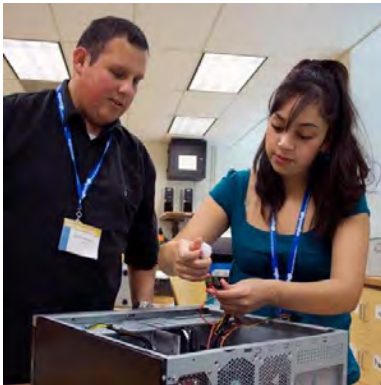


With the support of the NSF, we have established the *Hispanic Computer Brigade* (HCB) initiative. Two local high schools, Silver Creek High School and Mount Pleasant High School in the East Side Union School District, are our partners in this project. During the AY 2009-2010 academic year, students will learn computer and programming skills and processes in weekly meetings with the help of advisors and mentors. The high school student teams will work on service learning projects in computing that will directly benefit their local community.

### **Project Goals**

The goals of this project are to:

- Links service learning to student interests in the computing disciplines
- Develops and/or increases students' positive attitudes towards computing
- Increases students' knowledge of opportunities in computing disciplines
- Exposes students to role models in computing with whom they can identify
- Increases parental awareness of career opportunities in computing fields



The first segment of the HCB program was the residential Silicon Valley Computer Camp (SVCC) held in June 2009. Some features of the SVCC were:

- 23 students attended the SVCC; thirteen boys and nine girls. Three students were African-American and nineteen were Hispanic. The average age of the SVCC participant was fifteen years old.
- Each student in the SVCC built a computer to take home and completed learning activities using ALICE and PicoCrickets robots.
- An important aspect of our summer camp was the inclusion of student mentors. We divided the student mentors into three categories to provide different interactions with the high school students: (1) computing mentors, (2) residential leaders, and (3) social mentors.
- After dinner each night, corporate representatives were invited to speak to the students about careers in computers, which included high tech companies such as Google, IBM, Microsoft, and AnyBot

**Project Team:** Belle Wei, Patricia Backer, Julio Garcia, Weider Yu, and James Lee. For more information, please contact Pat Backer at [pat.backer@sjsu.edu](mailto:pat.backer@sjsu.edu); (408) 924-3214 (work). For more information, please go to our Project website at <http://www.engr.sjsu.edu/hcb/>