

# Teachers become students at Stevens

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Reena Rose Sibayan / Hoboken Now

Stevens instructor Greg Bartus, left, shows Saddle Brook Middle School teachers Theresa Dodd, right, and Gayle Dunlap how to use Excel spreadsheets as a tool to graph data, during a training for teachers at Stevens Institute, Wednesday, July 9, 2008 in Hoboken.

Twenty-one Hudson County middle school teachers gave up a week of their summers to learn how to make science more interesting to their students.

They join 19 other teachers from across the state at the Honeywell Teachers for the 21st Century Program at Stevens Institute for five days of "real-world" experiments that they can bring back to their classrooms.

Twenty students participated this week and a second group of 20 will come next week.

Activities you might see in a Middle School classroom near you this fall include:

- **International Boiling Point Project:** Students participate in a global experiment to determine which variable has the greatest impact on the temperature at which water boils.
- **Human Genetics:** Students gather data from their own classrooms and community, then compare it with thousands of data points to understand dominant and recessive genetic traits, and their prevalence in the population.

- **Musical Plates:** Students use real-time earthquake and volcano data from dynamic databases such as the U.S. Geological Survey to explore the relationship among earthquakes, plate tectonics, and volcanoes.

- **Weather Scope:** Students design and build instruments that meteorologists use and create a weather learning log to record their findings.

Honeywell hopes to get some budding scientists and engineers out of the program a few years down the line, and, besides that warm fuzzy feeling of improving their skills, teachers receive a \$750 stipend, resource materials for their classroom, 30 hours of professional development credit, and coaching and support from the Stevens Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education throughout the next year.

The **Stevens Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education** developed the program.

"This program will demonstrate that science and engineering are critical competencies for citizens of the 21st century and that they are intrinsically relevant, engaging and accessible to all students," said Beth McGrath, the center's director.

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