



Respected Local Teacher Completes Fifth Summer Appointment

This summer, EMSL's Instrument Development Laboratory (IDL) hosted Jim Hendricks, technology instructor at Southridge High School, along with his student, Nathan Perry. Their four-week appointment illustrates how EMSL continues to contribute to the multidisciplinary education of next-generation scientists.

This year marked Hendricks' fifth summer at the IDL. Such appointments provide him the opportunity to bring laboratory experience to his students during the school year.

Under IDL staff mentorship, Hendricks honed his schematic capturing skills—where schematics are developed using Computer Aided Design tools, then tested using drafting software and turned into circuit boards—so he in turn can mentor his students in that area. In addition, Hendricks—who assigns his students each year to build sumo robots for competition—used IDL resources to simplify a complex circuit board normally used in their construction to eliminate common mistakes made by the students.

Hendricks shares his appointment each summer with one to two students from Southridge's Engineering Technology Academy who will be mentored by IDL staff during the school year—this year, Perry. To prepare Perry, the duo developed an athletic wrestling tournament timing clock that provides wireless pages to the referee once a match is completed—versus “whacking” the referee with a towel to get his attention. Battelle's Intellectual Property Office, located at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, has offered to assist with patenting the clock on a *pro bono* basis as a school-wide project.

“What I gain working at the IDL cannot be measured,” says Hendricks. “I like observing how the technicians and scientists interact to solve science problems, and learning what skills they look for when hiring staff. Through these observations, I can better train my students and share with them how you must be a good presenter, writer, and technical reader. That, to me, is really valuable.”

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