

# What People Say About Val Tech

## Unsolicited Parent Testimonials About The Val Tech Program

As for the Val Tech Program, I can't imagine anywhere else in the district that permits students to innovate, explore and share their interests in technology the way that Val Tech does.

Val Tech encouraged Scott's creativity and built up his confidence. And as for the college preparation Scott received from Val-Tech and Valencia...well, he's been on the Dean's List both terms he was eligible. (Harvey Mudd College only gives out Pass/Fail grades first semester Freshman year).

When you take into consideration that we never paid for any additional College Prep-type class outside of Scott's high school curriculum - Val Tech's record speaks for itself.

Scott was enrolled in different schools in the district as part of G.A.T.E and otherwise, however, it wasn't until he attended Valencia that he was recognized as an individual and encouraged to flourish.

The beauty of Valencia is that it removed all the artificial boundaries and it didn't discriminate. Just as Val Tech enriched his life, Valencia gave Scott a much larger sense of community, more than we could ever have imagined.

L. M. Almond

---

Another Proud Parent Writes:

I am very proud of my son and also very thankful for what your program has done for him. He is driven, has goals and is a hard worker (when he wants to be!), but not a straight A student. Without your program, he probably would have just muddled through at another high school and lost his focus. I appreciate the fact that Valencia took a chance on him and has encouraged him.

I tell everyone what a terrific experience he has had there and how student-friendly and achievement-oriented you are. Please don't stop admitting kids like my son who are on the cusp of achievement in middle school. Your program is terrific for them and they appreciate it because they know they have not always been treated like their higher-achieving peers.

My son bloomed late academically and would have been shut out of AP and honors at some other high schools. I know this because it happened to my older child. The son who attended Valencia is so much more confident and ready to try new experiences.

Your willingness to let kids try honors and AP courses helps these kids to see themselves as smart—maybe for the first time. My son believes in himself and I believe Valencia has had a big part in helping him get there.

Thank you-  
Val Tech Parent

---

---

We are very proud of our daughter, but think a lot of her focus and excitement comes from a good learning environment, and for that you should be proud as well! That's not easy to pull off in these times of budget challenges and what not, but a perfect attendance all four years tells me she likes it there. So, thank you for getting her excited about learning and beyond! Please also pass our thanks to all the staff, especially Mr. Stanley and countless others I don't know by name for making education exciting for our daughter.

Thanks again!  
--Val Tech Parent

---

Dear Mr. Guest and Mr. Stanley,

As you may recall, my son Alex graduated with a Val Tech diploma in June 2006, if my calculations are correct. And his brothers will start high school next fall. I find myself at a crossroads of time and space, that is look backwards and forwards at the same time.

It is not clear to me that Alex has kept you informed as to his progress since he graduated from Val Tech. As we look back on high school, five (5) classes/events stand out. Three were fundamentals and two were life changing. These were the Computer Technology lab, I think freshman year, where Alex learned to type, a skill he uses every day. Another two were the Video Production and Accounting.

There were two classes that stand out from all the rest. These are the Val Tech Internship and AP Economics. I will keep this short, but the internship is proudly placed on his resume and asked about in interviews for this summer's internship. Alex's internship was with Road Trip Nation, a TV show for PBS. I understand it is still being produced. This Val Tech Internship came through the Internship Coordinator and I want to thank you for that.

I think I might have left something out. Alex is a senior at USC in the Marshal School of Business. Actually, he is in the Leventhal School of Accounting, a whole owned subsidiary of the business school. Alex is doing the undergraduate accounting program. Alex is also working on a double major in some kind of economic analysis through the Marshal School of Business as the requisites for the two majors generally overlap. At the moment, Alex is juggling the end of the semester and internship interviews. Which is why the Val-Tech experience is front and center.

The Val Tech counselor's influence on Alex was more indirect. Alex remembers his Val Tech counselor very favorably. I think the Val Tech counselor's influence was more in the sense of how to think about the future. The Val Tech counselor's also helped Alex in feeling that he was a part of something. I think that working with the Val Tech counselor gave Alex a sense that he was part of a special group.

To get to the future part of the subject header, Alex has twin brothers entering high school next year. They are currently at Tuffree, and they will be applying to the Val Tech program next year.

Thank you,  
Val Tech Parent

---

---

Dear Mr. Guest,

As you know, two of our children have graduated with a Val Tech diploma. Our older daughter is attending Cal Poly Pomona full time and is majoring in accounting. She just added CIS so she may have another year to go. She may decide to just minor in it so she can graduate sooner, but she's doing well. Also about a year after she graduated from Valencia, the company where she did her Val Tech internship offered her a part time job in their accounting department and she works for them 3 days a week.

Our younger daughter just finished her 2nd term at Southern Oregon University and has been home for Spring Break for the last two weeks. She has made the dean's list both terms and is playing on SOU Women's soccer team and she loves it.

My husband and I are proud of them both. Thanks for asking.

Val Tech Parent

---

I have so many good things to boast about I'd be willing to meet the PYLUSD film crew before or after my travel dates if that were possible. I'd be willing to go to a different campus or their local studio if that could be an option. Please let me know if there is some way I can be of help.

From a parent's perspective, my kid had to work hard; it was no easy ride. But she had a lot of help, resources, guidance, and encouragement from genuinely caring faculty that made it fun for her. Keeping that spark alive, especially in teenagers, is Val Tech's secret sauce. Today, Amanda is a sophomore at UC Davis' College of Engineering taking electrical and mechanical engineering courses, along with math, and physics courses because she wants to be a Robotics Engineer.

A good high school education and experience has allowed her to see and now pursue this dream. From industry's perspective, Val Tech reaches out to companies within the local community to show their students what's possible and gain that very important firsthand experience. Students choosing to continue on to colleges have fantastic application discriminators while students entering the workforce have relevant, immediately productive trade skills.

Please pass this on to other families.

I wish you all the best.

Val Tech Parent

---

Mr. Guest,

As the school year draws to a close, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all your support and encouragement with my son. It is teachers like you that make a real difference. I would be glad to assist in any further endeavors that parents can be a part of, since this is very important not only for our kids, but to the overall reputation and standing of Valencia High school.

Warm Regards,  
Val Tech Parent

---

---

Thank you, Mr. Guest, for all your support and encouragement for David. We are not surprised that he did a super job. We are very proud of him and we could not be more pleased with his experience in Val Tech.

We feel that his going to Valencia for the Tech Program was the right decision for him. You have been a big part of his success and, again, we thank you for doing such a great job as a teacher and as the program director!

Val Tech Parent

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all your hard work as Val Tech Coordinator. You did a fantastic job. Both Jennifer and I are extremely happy that Ryan is concluding his high school career with something special. Whether or not he shows it, we know that he is very proud of his accomplishment. We realized that this was not an easy process, and it shouldn't have been. The Val Tech program is very demanding, but in the end, the value added is immeasurable. Ryan has matured as a person and learned so many things that he will be able to use in college. This effort has taught him that hard work does pay off in the end.

Thank you again.  
Val Tech Parent

---

I just finished reading that great article about the outstanding teachers at Valencia. That has been the case for a very long time. My two children, Scott and Rebecca, graduated from Valencia in the late seventies and their teachers were exemplary.

When we moved here friends suggested that we might want our children to go to Eldorado; but, since we were in the Valencia district and my wife taught at Rio Vista we opted for Valencia and were delighted we did. Congratulations and keep up the good work.

Valencia Parent

---

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for all the time you spent to help our son transfer mid-year into Valencia and to set up his class schedule. You were very patient and thorough in the transition process. Thank you for taking all the extra steps to give him the classes he needs and that would also allow him to be with his friends.

Our son has really enjoyed this new high school experience and is excited for school now. He is very proud to be a Tiger!

You, the principal, and all those who helped with the registration and transition process are all incredibly kind, considerate and so welcoming. Thank you for all you have done. Valencia is awesome!

---

---

A mom emailed to comment on how important the Val Tech internship could be in terms of making contacts in the business world and career networking for their future:

Mr. Guest,

My son had a similar experience at a very large school district just north of Orange County in terms of being watched. The Director of IT kept a close eye on my son. He met with my son every day before my son began work and gathered feedback from his team of programmers on my son for every evaluation. He took my son into meetings and solicited my son's opinion in the meetings. He introduced my son to other upper level managers. When my son would introduce himself in the meetings as "just an intern" the director would say, "He is not just an intern. He is someone that I want to hire." After my son's internship ended, the director contacted my son to hire him for a paid position. I am guessing that my son will remain on their watch/contact list for several years. :)

Val Tech Parent

---

Dear Mr. Stanley,

Congratulations on Academy Night! Valencia was THE rock star of the night according to the people I talked with and evidenced by the line to get into the room.

Many years ago, I went to high school at another PYLUSD high school and my wife went yet another PYLUSD high school. Back then, Valencia was frankly an afterthought in the district. To be a part of the transformation must be gratifying.

As I've seen firsthand, it is not just marketing to say that Valencia offers the classes and curriculum necessary to not only give a student the opportunity to get into any college in the country, but to be successful once they get there.

We look forward to sending our daughter to Valencia as we are confident she'll be given every opportunity to set herself up for college.

Thanks for all your help!

Valencia Parent

---

As the parent of a future Val Tech student I have to concur, my son and I are even more excited about being part of the Valencia community next year! Please convey to your students and faculty who participated in our school's Science Night how thankful we are for their time.

I'm getting tons of emails and texts from parents who attended that they were so impressed with your Valencia groups! Your students were so enthusiastic and engaging, I just know the Valencia program won over A LOT of families from our school last night!

Thanks again so much!

PYLUSD Parent

Dear Mr. Guest,

This letter and donation is long overdue. I just wanted to thank you for guiding my kids (adults now!) through the Val Tech Academy. Our daughter and son are very different and definitely each very unique, participated in the Val Tech Academy, with much different goals and definitely different skill sets. They both proudly walked in the graduation ceremony with a grey/silver gown and added the Val Tech Academy to their resume. The common theme: commitment, time management and diligence.

As an update, our son is settling in at Cal Poly, with his Engineering major, taking LOTS of Physics and Calculus classes. He was accepted into the Honors Program and is thriving in an environment with other Engineering and all other majors. Such a great program for him!

Our daughter is finishing up at California State and is working on her Business Administration degree with an emphasis in what she knows and loves: entertainment and tourism. She has completed internships with Disneyland, Anaheim Ducks and Anaheim Angels, with the biggest part of her very first resume being her participation in the Val Tech Academy.

One day, perhaps we can get the 'kids' to write a note catching you and Valencia High School up. In the meantime, enclosed is our contribution to your wonderful program and the hopes that this can and will continue.

Please continue to keep me on your donor list. I value the time that my kids spent at Valencia High School and appreciate the pride, excellence, and tradition in which they learned and thrived.

A Val Tech family

---

Hi Mr. Guest,

Our son graduated from Val Tech in 2012. He is graduating from UCSD (structural engineering) next Sunday. Yahoo!!! He was also accepted into the graduate program for structural engineering beginning in the fall. More bills, but he should have a bright future.

My husband and I are so appreciative of all you and Valencia did for him. We thought it was an outstanding program that met his needs...obviously!!! I love getting emails from you because you were always so helpful to me when I needed help. We will always continue to support Valencia because we were treated so well and just love what you guys are doing for our future leaders.

Take care,  
A Val Tech family  
Class of 2012

---

## Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District Administrators

### Unsolicited Feedback About The Val Tech Program

I must tell you that I was very impressed with the vitality of your kids. It's very encouraging to know that Valencia continues to send future professionals into the world of advanced education. So take a bow and send my heartiest "Well done" to all your students and staff members. I enjoyed my time with your kids and I look forward to next year!

PYLUSD Administrator

---

I should be thanking you for the opportunity to hear these wonderful presentations from your awesome students. I look forward to the Val Tech presentations all year. At dinner tonight I told my husband that, after spending the afternoon with a very angry special ed dad, it was an absolute delight to see four kids who are not only smart and gifted, but who clearly demonstrated they also have very strong moral character - "good on the inside!"

Thank you for letting me be a part of these presentations. Each of them mentioned you in their presentation with a great deal of respect and affection - indicative of the fact that you have made a difference in the lives of these kids that will impact them for a lifetime.

I'm already looking forward to next year! What are the future days for the presentations this year in case I can get by for more?

Thanks for your dedication!

PYLUSD Administrator

---

What an absolutely delightful experience, Mike. I really enjoy seeing the Val Tech projects. It is certainly a reminder for me of why I chose this profession! They are so blessed to have you set that foundation for them to develop skills and a passion that will serve them well for a lifetime! I hope to see you tomorrow. If I can get out of my other commitment, I'll be there.

PYLUSD Administrator

---

You have a fantastic school that I would be proud for any of my daughters to attend. Thanks again.

PYLUSD School Board Member

---

I was so impressed with the quality of the student presentations and the overall caliber of the offerings within the Val Tech program. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and learned so much. You have done an amazing job of developing an absolutely first rate program and I am so proud of the work you have accomplished. I am looking forward to coming back again. You are doing an awesome job!

PYLUSD Administrator

---

As a PLYLUSD Director, it isn't often that people like me who oversee programs and don't work directly with students on a regular basis get to see what students are doing and how they feel about their schooling. Like you, watching these students perform and listening to them explain how their high school years have changed them has been inspiring and rewarding.

I was proud of each of them. They started in different places and each moved forward farther than they thought possible. I wish every student had the opportunity and commitment to participate in Val Tech or a similar program. The feedback from the companies providing the internships has been so positive and is a testament to the benefit of the program.

THANK YOU for your leadership and dedication to this program.

PYLUSD Administrator

---

Thank you for the opportunity to take part in the Val Tech presentations. Every student did a great job in their final steps and stages of this truly outstanding program. You can personally take a great deal of pride in what you have established on the Valencia campus. I especially enjoyed our first presenter yesterday who clearly indicated that he was a student from a different Middle School who selected VHS and how it has made a tremendous impact. In addition, each student, every one, stated that it was you who initially provided them that foundation to move forward in the program. You are to be congratulated on a great job.

I want to again say thank you for including me. It was nice to come home to what I have always believed to be the finest, most caring, hardest working high school I have ever been associated with. Keep up the fine work. You are making a difference in their lives.

Former PLYLUSD Administrator & Current School District Superintendent at another district

---

I really enjoyed the Val Tech presentations. It gave me a better understanding of the Val Tech program.

Thanks for your dedication to this outstanding program.

PYLUSD Administrator

---

You, the Val Tech kids, and your teachers do a great job and I'm proud to be a part of it.

Former PLYLUSD Administrator & recently retired School District Assistant Superintendent (another district)

---

Thanks again for the opportunity to see the wonderful students that are matriculating through your program. You do a great job!

Take care,  
PLYLUSD Administrator



---

I always walk away from the Val Tech presentations with a tremendous sense of validation regarding why I chose education as my profession. Those student presentations were absolutely phenomenal - outstanding –sensational -mind-boggling!!

As I was watering my flowers late last evening, I was thinking about each individual student who presented yesterday. What struck me the most was the precious gift your teaching team has given to each of them. The gift of acceptance for who they are and for the extraordinary talents they possess. When I was in high school, the students would probably have been classified as “different” because of their brilliant minds, their individualism, and their quest for exploring their potential. Your Val Tech Program opens a whole new world for them, gives them hope in their future - confidence and pride in who they are and what they can accomplish.

Thank you doesn't seem adequate, but please know it comes from the heart! Believe me, the pleasure was ALL mine!

PYLUSD Administrator

---

I recently walked into one of the Val Tech classrooms unannounced and I observed outstanding instruction being done by the teacher. Clearly this type of teaching happens on a regular basis. I was totally impressed with the level of quality instruction that the students receive and the amount of technology used to help students learn.

Val Tech is not just for a certain type of student. Academically, Val Tech is open to a wide range of kids. But the common factor is that they have a common interest in technology and computer related fields. A huge number of Val Tech graduates matriculate to the University of California, Irvine where they major in Compute Science. The popularity of the Val Tech program continues to grow—and rightfully so—because that is where so many jobs in the future are going to be found.

PYLUSD School Site Administrator

---

Your students were AMAZING at last night's Science Night. The Science Olympiad team had a packed house all night. It was so fun watching the student's amazement at the various experiments and demonstrations. The Valencia team enthralled our young scientists. The Val Tech computer programmers had an equally packed house. Students absolutely LOVED figuring out code. And what a description the winning Robotics team gave me of how they designed their robot to shoot Frisbees distances greater than the field. It made my heart happy hearing their enthusiasm for learning.

Please let your advisors, teachers, and students know how appreciative the students were for their contribution to last night's fun. The compliments from parents were frequent and glowing. Last night was PYLUSD core values!

A Big Valencia Fan,  
PYLUSD Site Administrator

# What Internship Hosts/Mentors Say About Val Tech

## Unsolicited Testimonials About The Val Tech Program

John Kremer, former internship coordinator at The Boeing Company, says this about the Val Tech internship program:

Year after year Boeing welcomes energetic, qualified Val Tech interns, who are willing to work and willing to learn. They get hands-on experience in a tech job, and we get to mentor the next generation of engineers. The Val Tech internship program is a win-win.

---

An Engineering host/mentor writes:

My Val Tech student was a terrific Intern. He has a level of maturity of someone older. He is extraordinarily conscientious and focused. He has the attitude of someone who wants to learn. He did everything I asked him to very well, and in a timely manner. He picked up on Systems Engineering really well. A lot of times he surprised me by how quickly he understood and did things. I invited him to several of my team meetings, including telecons with the customer, where we discussed technical issues and he listened attentively and followed as much as he could. I think he has potential to succeed in anything he decides to do in his career path.

Just thought I would share my impressions. I enjoyed having him.

Thanks

Val Tech Internship Host, Ph.D., P.E.  
Associate Technical Fellow &  
Senior Systems Engineer  
The Boeing Company

---

Boeing sponsors and hosts Val Tech students throughout the summer through our High School Engineering Internship Program. Students come and learn how math and science can be applied in the workplace. The Val Tech students that come through our internship program have the leadership skills, teaming skills, and the interpersonal skills that Boeing really looks at.

Nancy Diaz  
Past Internship Coordinator  
The Boeing Company

---

Students in the Val Tech program have a practical application to what they are learning in school. And, they will be able to go out and use that knowledge.

Curt Apduhan  
Emmy® Award Winning Filmmaker

---

Val Tech students learn life skills—not just “content”. Students learn planning, problem solving, and how to be collaborative workers. Students learn how to be better prepared to be citizens of society.  
Val Tech Host/Mentor

---

I wanted to take the opportunity to acknowledge the Val Tech Intern's contribution to Raytheon work during his internship last summer.

1. As part of preparing a proposal for a \$50 million proposal for toll roads in another state, the Val Tech Intern examined roadway drawings and prepared a "Tolling Schematic" using Microsoft Visio. That diagram was included in our written technical proposal and served as a basis for toll site quantities in our cost proposal. The Val Tech Intern learned how to use Visio "on the job" and his rapid learning skills were impressive.
2. In addition, the Val Tech Intern prepared a "List of Sites" in Microsoft Excel. This involved poring through road construction drawings to determine the width of the roadway, number of lanes and number of instrumented roadway shoulders at each of our toll points. This work was necessary to produce our cost proposal. The Val Tech Intern's Excel skills were very good and he demonstrated the ability to quickly expand them on the job.
3. The Val Tech Intern supported various technical discussions among engineers that were focused on determining our technical approach to several system requirements. He impressed me with his knowledge and verbal communication skills. It took a lot of courage to speak up in this group of experienced engineers and the Val Tech Intern found the right way to do that and add value. He certainly worked as one who had several years of professional experience, which is quite impressive for a high schooler.
4. The Val Tech Intern also assisted us in building a temporary image collection equipment set that we deployed on the Capital Beltway (I-495) in the Washington DC area. He demonstrated mechanical abilities to terminate wires, assemble components and help us make it all work. He also demonstrated an excellent work ethic. He came to work and he got it done.

These are just a few of the things the Val Tech Intern did during his internship. The Val Tech Intern certainly has a strong future in the engineering field. College admission examiners should look favorably on his application, in that he will improve the reputation of whatever school he attends.

As he continues his professional career, I hope that Raytheon will have opportunity to hire him and I hope that I will have opportunity to work with him again.

Sincerely,

Val Tech Internship Host, PE  
Senior Principal Systems Engineer  
Raytheon Highway Transportation Management Systems  
Raytheon Corporation  
[www.raytheon.com](http://www.raytheon.com)

---

Dear Mr. Guest,

This summer we had the benefit of hosting a Val Tech student as a summer intern at Boeing. It is a pleasure to inform you that he performed his assignments with distinction.

Our department was initially reluctant to accept high school interns. Our technical activities involve graduate level concepts, and it was unclear how well high school students would adapt. The Val Tech intern proved these concerns were unfounded. Working with a fellow intern, he mastered his assignments and completed them with minimal supervision and oversight.

The Val Tech intern and his partner embraced a difficult problem we posed. With only a brief introduction he and his partner were able to model an optical communication problem on a state-of-the-art analysis and simulation tool. Your intern was very quickly able to show that the problem we initially posed could be more efficiently addressed outside the stated constraints. We were surprised how quickly he and his partner produced results.

The Val Tech intern showed an impressive ability to operate independently and to engage in multiple activities simultaneously. He figured how to configure email, gain access to publication search engines, and to perform focused and accurate literature searches. On several occasions we found the Val Tech intern accessing university publications on various aspects of the problem we had posed. This fearless curiosity is a rare and cherished attribute--a quality we find in our most valued engineers and scientists. In addition, the Val Tech student assisted other intern teams with their activities and independently began learning MATLAB, thereby meeting all of the goals we had established for the interns.

The Val Tech intern's performance is the bellwether by which our department will gauge future interns. You should be proud of his abilities and accomplishments. His future is bright, and he will, no doubt, make valuable contributions in whatever field he chooses.

Boeing Mentor/Host  
Associate Technical Fellow  
The Boeing Company

---

The greatest benefit of having a Val Tech intern participate in the internship program at Boeing were his good ideas and positive attitude. Your Val Tech student generated good ideas at every stage of the project. Furthermore, his positive attitude energized team members even when they had to deal with complex and challenging problems.

Boeing Mentor/Host  
The Boeing Company

---

---

Dear Mr. Guest,

Your Val Tech intern has been a highly capable and competent intern—one of the best that I've ever had the pleasure to work with. He learned his assignments very quickly, and he follows directions very well. He presents himself with confidence and professionalism. It's hard for those who've been working with him to believe that he's still in high school.

Val Tech doesn't have to improve anything if it can continue to send us interns who are as bright, mature, and capable as the one you provided us this year.

Raytheon Mentor/Host  
Engineer-Manager  
Thales Raytheon Systems Co. LLC

---

An email received by Mrs. Guest from a long-time family friend.

Hello Mrs. Guest, John here (surprise!)

Hope all is going well. Please pass on to Mr. Guest that a very recent student of his is interning in my engineering firm's office! He is a sophomore at the University of California in engineering and is doing great work for us while he goes to college. I talked with him today about Thanksgiving plans. (It is that season!)

So where did you grow up? *Placentia*

Really? Where did you go to high school? *Valencia*

Wow! My mother in law grew up there and was in one of the first graduating classes in 1938!

Hey - I know a teacher there - he teaches technology and such. *Oh - you mean Mr. Guest? Val Tech was instrumental in me getting involved in internships....*

What a small world! Tell Mr. Guest hello and that **the Val Tech Program is still having a good influence on students...**

Engineering Mentor to a Val Tech Alumnus

---

The program runs well. I didn't know how effortless it would be.

Val Tech Internship Host

---

---

Thank you, Val Tech Coordinator,

Both of the Val Tech interns this summer were just the sweetest and such sharp kids.

I do know now why you require students to complete their internships be onsite.

At first, one intern would not look people in the eyes and not smile when they met a client. So I made sure they learned how to greet a person. They picked up that skill so fast. They shook my client's hand the next time and such a nice smile looking her right in the eyes. A+ I said to that intern!

I feel the program is great for any young student.

Thank you for the honor of having them this summer.

I will miss them immensely and am teary thinking they will not be here Monday.

Thanks again,  
Val Tech Internship Host

---

Hi Mr. and Mrs. Guest,

We feel very fortunate to have been chosen for the Val Tech Internship Program this year, and our research organization would like to continue supporting VTIP summertime internship program. We also believe that programs like the VTIP can help foster students to gain new skills and see how technology based organizations functions in the private sector. Your intern was such a pleasure to have in the lab working well within our team and making many contributions to our projects.

Best Regards,  
Senior Research Scientist

---

## What Students and Alumni Say About Val Tech

### Unsolicited Testimonials About The Val Tech Program

Hello Mr. Guest!

What a pleasure it was to visit with you during the school day a couple weeks ago! The last time we spoke, I had not yet found a summer job, but recently I have started working for my uncle in his office doing odd jobs around his office. One of the projects given to me was to make a power point presentation for someone going on a business trip to Florida soon (the main reason for her traveling is to give her presentation, so it's pretty important). Over the past few days, I have been working with the notes she gave me to create an awesome presentation. When I showed her all the cool effects I added, she was amazed and expressed her gratitude for my hard work and thorough understanding of the Microsoft program to be able to come up with such a professional, aesthetic, and easy-to-read presentation. I just wanted to tell you about this since it was in your Computer Technology class that I learned to do these things. You should let your students know that the programs they're learning about now may earn them a hefty paycheck in the future! :)

Thanks for letting me share my story. I hope you are doing well and finishing up the school year with a smile.

Best Wishes,

Val Tech Alumni

---

Dear Mr. Guest,

Throughout my high school career, you were one of the most helpful and influential teachers I had the pleasure of working with. Under your guidance, I was able to excel in the Val Tech program, which I feel was an excellent stepping-stone for college and the working world. I am grateful for the countless hours you spent organizing such a prestigious program and the dedication with which you executed your vision.

When it came time to apply to universities, I am thankful that you directed me to your alma mater, UC Irvine, which has been an excellent experience for me thus far. The business program, although new, has allowed me to take many interesting and informative classes that will assist me after I graduate and move into the workplace. Without a Val Tech diploma and my business internship, I doubt I would have been accepted into such a new and exciting program in the midst of such fierce competition.

Even as I continue my education at UCI, you still make the effort to remain involved in my life via email, and you always take time to visit when I occasionally visit Valencia. Over my extended scholastic career and of the numerous teachers and professors who have instructed me, you are undoubtedly one of the

most professional and genuine teachers that I have had the pleasure to encounter. I have a tremendous amount of respect for you and appreciate everything you have done for me. For that, I thank you Mr. Guest, and I hope that you will remain an influence in my life for years to come.

Sincerely,  
Val Tech Alumni

---

Hi, Mr. Guest,

I hope the Val Tech program is doing well :) My CIS class in college right now seems like the Computer Technology class at VHS all over again. Since I took the course as a Val Tech student, I think it will just make it that much nicer of a class. It really seems so much like your class we had to take as freshman. It's all of Microsoft Office and such, resume writing, and so on.

So, that's something to tell your current students, especially the Val Tech students :)

Sincerely,  
Val Tech Alumni

---

Dear Mr. Guest,

I am just checking in, I know you said you like it when your amazing Val-tech students email you and tell you how they are doing. So here I am. School at Cal State Fullerton is great. My classes aren't really that hard because I am used to the high expectation that VHS has.

You still continue making my day even after high school. Honestly I am extremely flattered that you still talk about me, even if it's just to Dennis. It is nice to know what I left a part of me at Valencia and the Val Tech Program. Anyways, enough about me. How are you Mr. Guest? How are these bratty freshmen and big bad seniors?

Sincerely your one of your favorite Val Tech Students!  
Val Tech Alumni

---

Being part of Val Tech is a completely different experience where students interact with computers on a daily basis.  
Val Tech Alumni

---

I graduated from the Val Tech program back in 2008 and just wanted to reach out to you to hear from you and the progress in the program! I obtained my undergrad degree at Cal Poly Pomona last June in Business Administration with an emphasis in Computer Information Systems and now working at Slalom Consulting headquartered in Seattle, WA as a Software Engineer/Consultant focusing in



Microsoft SharePoint and Salesforce/Dynamics CRM development work. Initially, I was working in Los Angeles, but due to business process, I relocated up to Seattle for more opportunities just this week.

I found the 150 hour high school internship at Boeing to be very fulfilling during the time. It has actually provided great opportunity for resume building and has helped me further develop my career path. Please let me know if there are available dates where I could come back to provide mentorship and support for the Val Tech program and the students.

Val Tech Alumni

---

It has been a very long time since I last spoke to anyone from the Val Tech program let along Valencia High School. I am extremely thankful for the knowledge and experience received under this program. It truly shaped and paved the way for my success in life. I currently work for CB Richard Ellis.

After Val Tech I went to Cal State Fullerton and graduated with a BS in Computer Science. I am currently a Masters Project away from completing my MS in Computer Science at Cal State Fullerton. I got a great position as a Microsoft Dynamics CRM Consultant for a local company named Streamline Solutions. From there I got hired by the largest commercial real estate company. At CBRE I hold a Senior Application Developer where I work a lot with .NET Framework and code primarily in C#.

I will keep my eye out on future opportunities and pass along any chance I get to help brighten a young minds future to the Val Tech program.

Hope all is well,  
Val Tech Alumni

---

Hey, Mr. Guest!

How are you? It's been a long time since I graduated VHS and I thought I would check in again. I am not sure if you remember me, but I was in the graduating class of 2009.

How is the Val Tech Program doing? I remember enjoying the 150 hour internship and the presentation!

As for me, I signed on with CSU Sacramento and currently in my final year majoring in Mechanical Engineering. There is a LOT to learn and the labs are usually pretty exciting as well! I recently joined the FSAE Club (Formula SAE) here on campus. We are responsible for building a formula one car from the ground up (frame, drive-train, wings, etc.) and then competing in several events (autocross, endurance, acceleration etc.) against an international host of colleges! I am also studying for the Engineer in Training (EIT) exam which I plan to take come October.

I would just like to take a moment to thank you for training us in the technical aspects of the working world. I use the information from my 9th grade computer course (under Val Tech) everyday! And I feel so much more at ease when doing PPT presentations knowing that Val-Tech prepared us very well.

Thank you Mr. Guest!  
Val Tech Alumni  
Class of 2009

---

Hi Mr. Guest,

I hope you are enjoying your summer. I am more than happy to report that my Excel expertise is being put to good use thanks to your class. I am currently enrolled at UCI and I am also working as a research assistant in the Cognitive Development Lab. At the lab we work with Excel constantly. They were more than pleased that I knew what I was doing with regards to formulas on Excel. My binder from Comp Tech rests on one of their shelves!

Thank you so much for everything that you have taught me throughout my four years at Valencia. To be honest, I sometimes questioned if I would really be faced with challenges such as writing a formula for a spreadsheet. In the end it all paid off and I just wanted to take the time and thank you for being so patient and helpful.

Have a great (rest of your) summer,

Val Tech Alumni  
Class of 2012

---

Dear Mr. Guest,

As college application deadlines are approaching, I am writing to ask if you would be willing to write a letter of recommendation for me. With the help of Val Tech, I have found a solid career path to follow: Business. Val Tech has given me the opportunity to explore different technology paths within the business world and the world of technology.

Val Tech has changed me throughout high school. As a result, it was the best decision I have ever made. Through Val Tech I was able to learn many technological functions and I was able to meet new people and make new friends. I am proud to represent Val Tech wherever I may go. The one hundred fifty hour internship was the biggest reality check that I received.

Because of Val Tech I have an advantage from my peers and a preview of my future. Val Tech has stretched my horizons and has given me many career options.

Sincerely,

Val Tech Student  
Class of 2014

---

Hello Mr. Guest,

I'm writing to let you know that I have accepted a job at Northrop Grumman working on the Space Based Infrared System. It's an exciting opportunity and I look forward to starting in July. I want to thank you for your help and guidance. I value the internship experience I got while working at Boeing as a Val Tech high school student. And, in retrospect, I wish I had placed more emphasis on internships during my time in college and in graduate school at two different major universities.

Sincerely,  
Val Tech Student  
Class of 2007

---

Hello Mr. Guest,

I hope you are doing well. I want to thank you again for the opportunity that Val Tech has given me. The work experience and major relevant courses that the program enabled me to take has already led to companies calling me back for internship opportunities now that I'm a college student at UC San Diego.

Would it be possible for me to use you as a reference?

Warmest Regards,  
Val Tech Student  
Class of 2014

**Two months later:**

Hi Mr. Guest,

This email is pretty late, actually about two months late. I really do apologize, but I've busy with a couple things, which luckily includes the college internship that I got—thanks in part to the Val Tech Program.

I want to thank you again for your kindness and the opportunity that you have given me. The college internship is absolutely wonderful, I'm actually learning more from working than from actually going to classes. The pay is great and I'm surrounded by incredibly kind and helpful people. This is what the Val Tech Program can lead to!

Warmest Regards,  
Val Tech Student  
Class of 2014

---

Hi Mr. Guest!

I was just about to send you an email about how I was doing, and wanted to thank you for running the Val Tech program. **The opportunities that it provides are invaluable.**

As you always told us in class while I was in high school, it is a small world! Funny that you happen to know someone at the company where I'm currently working.

Hope all has been well with you. I'll follow up with another email shortly!

Thanks,  
Val Tech Student  
Class of 2014

---

Dear Mr. Guest

I would like to share some very exciting news with you. One of the directors of the Boys and Girls club has been very pleased with how we are developing the Stempowerment program for our Val Tech internship. He has enjoyed it so much that the Boys and Girls club has given us a \$10,000 grant! They want to build is our own private classroom and further out program! I wanted to share this amazing news with you!

Val Tech Student  
Class of 2015

---

Hi Mr. Guest!

I hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Things have been hectic because finals week is next week!

I'm currently a second year civil engineering student at the University of California, and it's hard to believe that it's already been 2 years since I was in high school! Things have been going well, and I'm very thankful for all of the experiences and opportunities that the Val Tech program provided.

As you may or may not remember, my 150-hour internship was an engineering firm based out of the City of Industry. It is extremely difficult for any 17 year old to get an internship at a professional company. One would not yet have the necessary education or skill set to be profitable. However, thanks to the Val Tech program, this prerequisite is disregarded. Companies are more willing to allow you to intern for them because it is for educational purposes. It's a win-win situation because they get free labor, and you get your internship (Yay!).

During these 150 hours, I gave my best effort and learned as much as I possibly could from each of the engineers. They noticed, and did their best to return the favor by teaching me what they could. The most important skill that they taught me was how to use computer-aided design software that is used by engineers around the world. The most important thing I practiced however, was how to network. Networking is powerful, and it makes a difference to invest in each and every person that you encounter in the professional world.

After I put in my time, I was able to leave knowing that I made a good impression of myself and the Val Tech program. Because of this, I contacted them a few months before the following summer and asked if they would allow me to intern again. I offered to work for free because the experience that I would gain would be priceless. After a few days, I received an email back saying that they would be glad to bring me on, and would like to pay me \$15 an hour for my services. Not too bad for my first job! I interned for over 300 hours that summer. I was not even in college yet, and I already had two summer's worth of experience under my belt thanks to the Val Tech program.

My supervisor was moved by my effort, willingness to learn, and ability to learn quickly. He landed a huge position at a larger engineering firm, and asked me to tag along with him. That's how I am at the company that I am at today. I am working for the largest engineering consulting firm in the U.S. that is solely focused on one important aspect of engineering. I am a part-time employee and I'm considered an Engineering Aide/CAD designer. I started working here February (around 9 months ago!).

The world is so large, but everything is connected in unique ways. There is opportunity everywhere, and all we have to do is open our eyes and chase after it. The Val Tech program is an excellent program that offers this. Without it, it would've been substantially more difficult to have the motivation and chance to pursue an internship at such a young age.

Thank you, for all that you do. Thank you for running the program, and for making a difference in the lives of your students.

Val Tech Student  
Class of 2014

---

---

It's been almost a decade since I completed the Val Tech program. Here's a brief recap since graduation:

Class: 2007

Education:

Harvey Mudd College (2011) Bachelor of Science in Engineering with Honors.

University of Texas, Austin (2013) Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering.

Current Occupation:

I am an Aerospace Systems Engineer at Northrop Grumman. Northrop encourages me to step outside my comfort zone and exposes me to a diverse work environment. Currently, one of my key areas of focus is Internal Research and Development where I design and test a device called a microwave radiometer to make sensitive measurements of black body radiation emitted by the Earth. The atmospheric phenomenology data collected by this instrument allows climatologists to create weather models which are used to make forecasts such as those seen on the evening news.

Statement:

With my 2 million minutes in Val Tech I developed vital experience in several areas. Having honed my math skills in my calculus classes, I was prepared for the higher level math courses that I encountered in college. The Computer Programming curriculum and Computer Technology's (Comp Tech) Microsoft fundamentals course were instrumental in giving me a competitive edge over my colleagues. My Language Arts teacher helped me to gain self-confidence in English. This was my first exposure to effective communication which is the corner stone of any engineering career. Volunteering in the library allowed me to develop social skills by interacting with the larger student body community. I developed a breadth of skills and important fundamental tools during my time at Val Tech necessary for the Aerospace Systems Engineering path I have followed. Val Tech provided me with a flexible skill set crucial for dealing with engineering problems. Thank you to all the teachers involved, I truly appreciate the time, effort and patience everyone has put forth to make this a meaningful I just wanted to give you an update on my first year of college. I remember you reading emails of previous students to us in Computer Technology and how encouraging it was to hear how Val Tech had helped them after high school. I just wanted to let you know that Val Tech has done exactly that for me this past year.

---

Hi, Mr. Guest,

I just finished my freshman year at Whitworth University in Spokane, WA and have absolutely LOVED it! I am an accounting major and a theology minor and my goal is to become a CPA at a major accounting firm. I went into college knowing I wanted to pursue accounting because of the accounting class I took while at Valencia and the finance internship I did for Val Tech. Val Tech gave me a starting point for what major and career I want to pursue. Not only that, through the Computer Technology class required for all Val Tech students, I gained the necessary computer skills to get me a job as a Student Data Assistant on the first week of school. They said it was my skill in Excel that propelled them to choose me for the job.

In addition to all of this, my desire and eagerness to pursue accounting, which I gained because of Val Tech, aided me in getting chosen for an accounting trek through Whitworth in Seattle. I was one of three freshman chosen to attend the trek and I can't help but attribute that to my experience in Val Tech. I was able to visit five major accounting firms in Seattle, including three of the four Big 4 accounting firms. I was able to gain so much insight from this trip and meet so many people that want to help me find a career that I love.

All this being said, I just wanted to thank you for everything you and all the Val Tech teachers taught me throughout my four years at Valencia. Thank you for inspiring me and encouraging me to be the best I can be.

Val Tech Student  
Class of 2015

---

---

Hi Mr. Guest,

I just finished my second year at a large East Coast University. I am enrolled in the Co-op program, so that means that I have been going through interviews for the past few weeks. I will be on Co-op during my Fall and Winter terms.

During one of the interviews I had yesterday, they asked me about how I got one of my previous internships—which was through the Val Tech program. The CEO of the company was absolutely amazed when I began to explain the program to him, and I could even notice him taking notes about it on my resume during the interview.

Usually, companies only want to talk about professional experience and hear about the activities and coursework students are completing in college—they never really want to hear much about high school, but this made me realize that the Val Tech program is something which really stood out to them and probably stands out to several other employers!

He sent me a follow-up email today saying I am a very strong candidate, so I think I may have gotten the Co-op position! We don't find out which positions were offered to us until June 29th, but I'm hoping for the best!

I thought I'd share it with you and that you may want to share it with your students. :)

Regards,

Current Marketing Student  
Val Tech Alumna  
Class of 2015

---

Hi Mr. Guest!

How are you? I hope you're doing well; I know it's been awhile since you've heard from me, but I just felt like I should email you to thank you. I didn't realize that learning about Excel (in your Comp Tech class) was such an uncommon thing in other high schools.

As I'm going through my fall quarter as a second year at UCLA, I've had to use Excel a couple of times for some of my Chemistry and math classes. Of course I had no trouble navigating Excel but I was really surprised to find that everyone I've met here at UCLA has never used or has had very limited exposure to Excel before. My classes had to have an Excel Workshop during discussion section to teach people how to do the assignment.

Just looking back on it, I'm really grateful for my experience in Val Tech. I also use Access every day in the job that I have here and I would have never had any experience with Access if it wasn't for your class and my internship at Boeing. So thank you for everything, it's always nice to have any sort of edge at a competitive school like UCLA.

Val Tech Student  
Class of 2015

---