

# High School Teacher Enhances Math Curriculum With Real-Life Lessons From Engineers

By: IDS Communications

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*Joe Lentino will take the lessons he learns at SSC back to his school.*

Engaging teachers is a way to ensure that high school students stay interested in science and math. As part of Raytheon's science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) initiative, IDS Engineering is funding a teacher extern this summer at the Surveillance and Sensors Center (SSC) in Sudbury, Mass. The educator is Joe Lentino, an enthusiastic math teacher at nearby Hudson High School.

Since June 28, Lentino has been working with the Advanced Technology group, specifically their Integrated Standoff Inspection System (ISIS) program. ISIS, a non-classified program, helps the government prevent the indiscriminate spread of nuclear materials by terrorist organizations.

"They let me contribute when I can, but I'm mostly observing on the project," said Lentino, a 14-year teaching veteran. "This type of corporate setting is new to me. I'm really impressed by the level of teamwork among the engineers and the different stages

of the engineering process."

## **Trickle-Down Effect**

The plan is for Lentino to trickle the lessons he has learned down to his students, with an eye toward better explaining how math can lead directly to real-life careers. "At their age, they question how algebra or pre-calculus can help them in the future," he said. "Now I can tell them, from a personal perspective, exactly how it opens up doors in the long run."

Additionally, a number of Raytheon engineers have given Lentino ideas for math-related classroom demonstrations. "My lack of work experience limits me in this regard, so tapping into these great resources at Raytheon is truly invaluable."

When he returns to Hudson High School in September, Lentino also plans on organizing a number of field trips for his students to visit SSC.

## **A Much-Needed Lift**

Lentino was brought on board through the Leadership Initiatives for Teaching and Technology (LIFT2) program. LIFT2 is specifically designed to help STEM teachers relate classroom curriculum to relevant workplace applications.

In addition to the summer-long externship, another component of the LIFT2 program is a set of three graduate-level courses, which IDS Engineering is also funding. Once Lentino completes the courses, he will earn a graduate certificate in STEM education.

"I can't say enough about how Raytheon has supported me from day one," said Lentino. "I already feel like I can improve the way my classes are structured and inspire my students to pursue careers in engineering. I can't wait to get started."