

# Intel Oregon volunteers make a difference

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By Kelly Vanderzanden, Oregon Public Affairs

Introducing, Darshan Patra, Intel Oregon volunteer.

Darshan, a long-time supporter of public education, has worked at Intel for nine years, and is a senior research staff engineer for TMG's CAD labs. In November 2003, he learned that Stoller Middle School in Beaverton was unable to provide advanced mathematics coaching for students, so he stepped up to coach students there for the national Matchcounts competition.

After three months of holding weekly classes with nearly 50 motivated students, called Mathletes, students were chosen to represent Stoller at the regional Mathcounts competition.

Darshan coached these students on math in all areas twice a week, including weekends. The top students chosen to represent Stoller, "Team competition", were two 8th grade girls and two 7th grade boys. At the regional competition in 2004,, the team earned first place in the regional team as well as the individual competitions. This resulted in an invitation to the State-level championship at Oregon State University where "Team competition" finished 3rd.

For the 2004-2005 Mathcounts season, one girl and three boys from Stoller placed in the top four and the team finished 2nd in the regional competition. Later at the state-level competition, Darshan's students beat out the team that had beaten them at the regional competition, making them second place finishers.

The one girl from Stoller was selected as one of four students to represent Oregon at the final championship, which will take place in May, 2005 at the General Motors Headquarters in Detroit. "Each of the two years I've been involved in the program, a girl on my team finished the best in the final competition," Darshan says with pride.

What does Darshan like best about volunteering with the program? "The pure joy of coaching and mentoring kids for achieving excellence," he says.



**Darshan Patra**

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