Tech Academy Re-Launching Middle School STEM Program

When I was only seven years old, my father taught me how to sew leather and repair shoes…before long I was putting new soles and heels on (my siblings') shoes. As I worked with my hands, I automatically coordinated the work with my head. And hands and head are a winning combination in any endeavor."

- - Eddie Rickenbacker - Eastern Air Lines CEO, aviation innovator, race champion

There are as many paths to inspiring a young person to become a scientist or engineer as there are professionals in these careers. The Silicon Valley Tech Academy was founded to provide inspiration to young students through hands-on projects modeling real-world challenges.

The late Dean of SJSU College of Engineering, Dr. Jay Pinson, developed the original program in 2006, partnering with the Silicon Valley Engineering Council, Santa Clara County Office of Education, San Jose State and Santa Clara Universities. Dr. Pinson wanted to introduce younger students to problem-solving and hands-on projects. He believed middle school students, having had algebra and some science, would be inspired to STEM subjects and would be drawn to engineering undergraduate work. In its nine years the Tech Academy experience benefited nearly 2000 students, and won a Silicon Valley Education Foundation STEM award in 2013. The two-week course features:

High Technology & Space

• Build a Mars (egg) Lander
• Deconstruct a Cell Phone
• Build a Simple E-Device (soldering

Water

• Design & Build an Aqueduct
• Design & Building Bridges
• Build a Simple Robot

Energy

• Design & Build a Solar Cooker
• Build a Basic Electric Motor
• Build & Race a Solar Model Car

The Tech Academy will re-launch with five Tech I classes of 20 students each, June 14-25 & July 5-16, 2021. Classes will be held at **Trinity Church on Leigh Avenue**, and at **Downtown College Prep Alum Rock High School, both in San Jose.**

Registration for the two-week Tech I course is $500/student. Some scholarships are available for financially disadvantaged families. As SVTA grows, future advanced courses will use hands-on techniques to teach such topics as three-dimensional design and printing, digital electronics, robotics and bioengineering.

For more information on the Silicon Valley Tech Academy: http://techacademysv.com/