

Volunteer Match Online: A Free Tool to Increase Industry Involvement in the Classroom

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Volunteer Match Presentation

Getting industry volunteers into the classroom is important for student learning, but can be logistically difficult. To make this process easier, the CACT CTE Hub grant created a free, online tool that connects volunteers with teachers.

Implemented last year with the Silicon Valley Engineers Council volunteer program (500 teachers / volunteers, 7000 students), come find out how it works, and discover how you can download the software for your organization.

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Volunteering?

- How many of you have volunteered in a K-12 classroom (not counting your children's classroom)?
- How did you connect with the teacher to set-up this visit?
- Have any of you ever used a website to find classroom volunteer activities?

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Goals of this presentation

- 1) To give you the details of a tool that can make it easier to get industry volunteers in the classroom
- 2) To tell you how you can get a free copy of the software

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Agenda

- Intro
 - Who am I?
 - What is a Career Pathways Director?
- Why did I develop the Volunteer Match software?
- Volunteer Match online demo
- How can I start my own site?
- Questions

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Question for the audience

What would you like to
learn
today?

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Intro

- My background
 - Mechanical engineer
 - Manufacturing & design of products
 - Got interested in educating others about manufacturing & engineering, especially kids
- CACT Career Pathways Director
 - CACT = Center for Advanced Competitive Technologies

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Career Pathways Director

- SB70 / SB1133 grant
- Statewide position
- Began August 2008
- Eight other CTE Hub Directors
 1. CACT (Manufacturing & Engineering)
 2. Advanced Transportation
 3. Multimedia
 4. Biotech
 5. Workplace Learning
 6. Centers of Excellence (labor market research)
 7. Health
 8. Environmental Training

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My goal

K-14 Outreach

**Get more kids interested in
manufacturing, engineering,
and technology careers**

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Why develop the software?

- I didn't start out saying
 - "Let's develop software"
- I started out with
 - "How can I help teachers get more kids interested in manufacturing & engineering?"
- In interviews with teachers, one of the things I heard repeatedly was
 - "I'd like to get more industry speakers into the classroom"

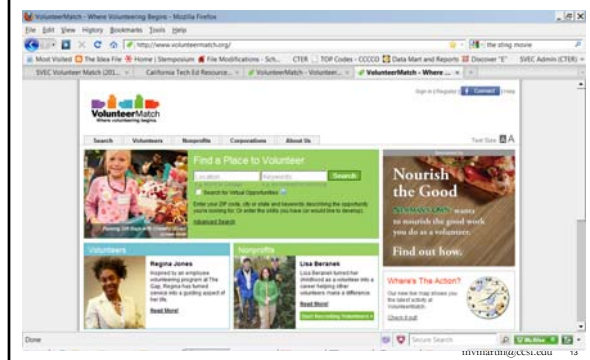
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Getting more volunteers into the classroom

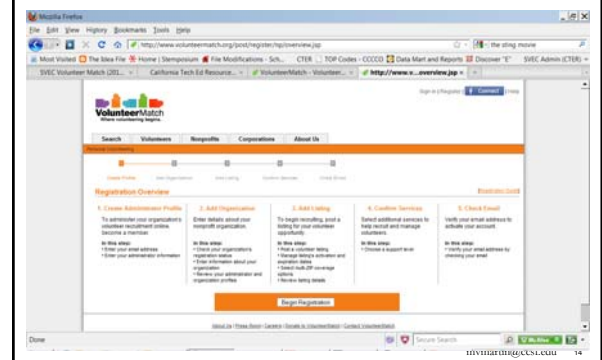
- Two approaches to this:
 - 1) Use my industry contacts to help teachers find speakers
 - 2) Find a tool that can make it easier for teachers throughout the state to connect with volunteers

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Benchmarking



Benchmarking



Benchmarking



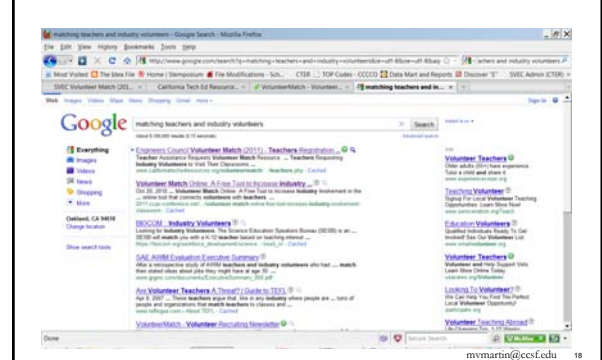
Benchmarking



Benchmarking



Benchmarking (2/28)



Benchmarking results

- I was mainly looking for freeware, but also looked at purchased software
- I couldn't find any software that met our needs
- So I decided to have some software written

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Software

- Online tool
- Cost
 - approximately \$3500 for programmer
 - Plus my time
- Silicon Valley Engineers Council was beta client
 - They had existing volunteer program, but did matches via email, spreadsheets, and physical visits to company sites (IBM, Lockheed, etc.)
 - Feedback from teachers and volunteers

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Silicon Valley Engineers' Council (SVEC)



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- Why did I develop the Volunteer Match software?
- **Volunteer Match online demo**
- How can I start my own site?
- Questions

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Volunteer Match Online Demo

Test Site:

<http://www.californiatechresources.org/volunteermatch/test/>

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The USER Process

- 1) Organization interested in connecting teachers and volunteers installs the software
- 2) Organization lets teachers know about the site
- 3) Teachers visit site
 - i. Register using email address
 - ii. Input their "Teacher Assistance Request (TAR)"
- 4) Organization notifies volunteers about site
- 5) Volunteers visit site
 - i. Register using email address
 - ii. Browse TAR's
- 6) Once volunteer finds a request that fits their background, they email the teacher. After that, it's up to the volunteer and teacher to complete the visit.
- 7) Teacher can go to site and mark visit complete and rank the volunteer if they wish.

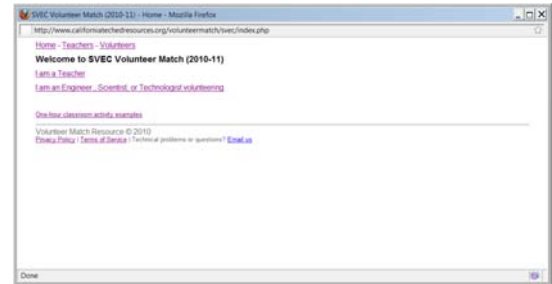
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Teacher-centric

- Teachers post their needs
- Volunteers search for teachers and contact them
- In the future, we may add ability for teachers to search volunteers bios and contact them.

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Welcome Screen

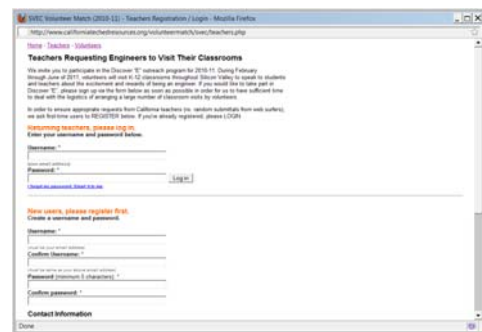


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What the TEACHER sees

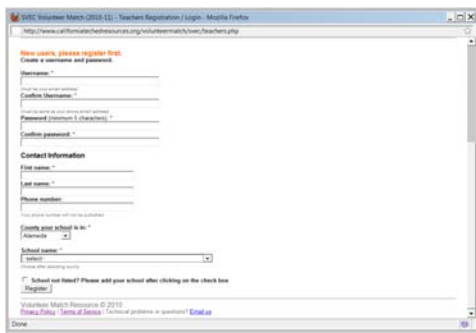
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Teacher Login



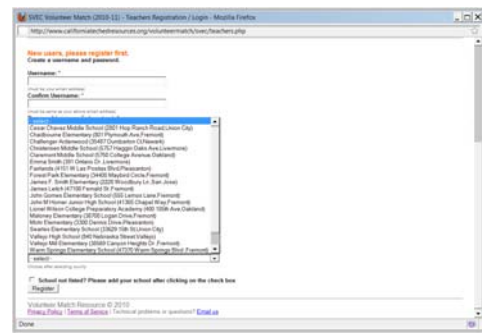
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Teacher Registration



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Choose School



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Pending Requests

Teacher Assistance Requests

View Completed

Date Submitted	Category of Request	Subject Taught	Details	Timeframe	Volunteer	Date Completed	Rating	Update
2010-10-01	Classroom	General	Grade 5 Test	Any Month	Any Month	2010-10-01	5	Update
2010-10-01	Classroom	General	Grade 5 Test	Any Month	Any Month	2010-10-01	5	Update

Last 10 Completed Requests

Teacher Assistance Request

Subject Taught *

Number of students in class *

Desired Monthing *

Done

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Add New Request

Teacher Assistance Request

Subject Taught *

Number of students in class *

Desired Monthing *

Classroom ☐ Lab ☐

Submit & Add

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What the VOLUNTEER sees

Volunteer Login

Volunteers to Visit Classrooms

Returning volunteers, please log in:

Username *

Password *

Log In

New volunteers, please register first:

Register

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Volunteer Profile

Contact Information

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

Phone *

Address

Background Information & Experience

Education & Experience

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Teacher Assistance Requests (TAR's)

Browsing of Teacher Assistance Requests

View Completed

Date Submitted	Category of Request	Subject Taught	Details	Timeframe	Volunteer	Date Completed	Rating	Update
2010-10-01	Classroom	General	Grade 5 Test	Any Month	Any Month	2010-10-01	5	Update
2010-10-01	Classroom	General	Grade 5 Test	Any Month	Any Month	2010-10-01	5	Update

Teacher Assistance Request

Subject Taught *

Number of students in class *

Desired Monthing *

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Searching TAR's

- city, zip code, teacher, keyword, etc.



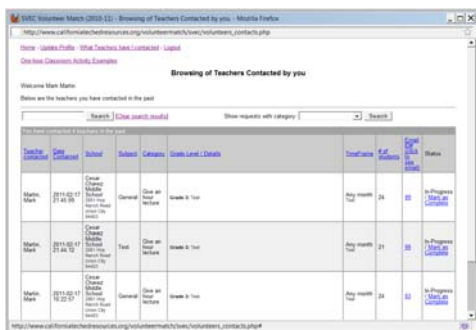
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Contacting the Teacher



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Who have I contacted?



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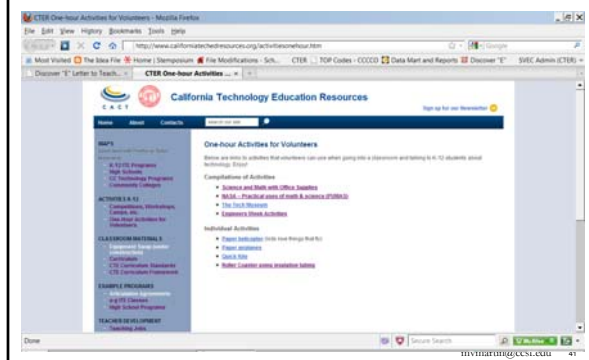
Who have I contacted?

- (view the email)



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What do I talk about?!

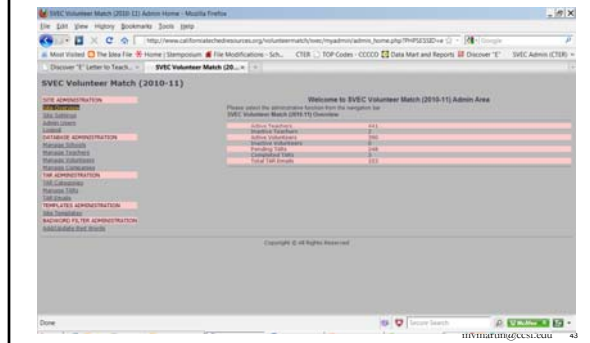


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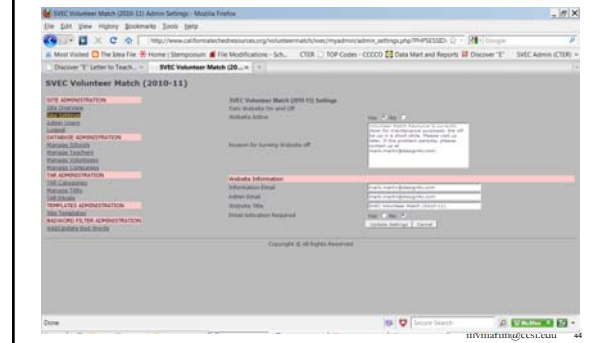
What the ADMINSTRATOR sees

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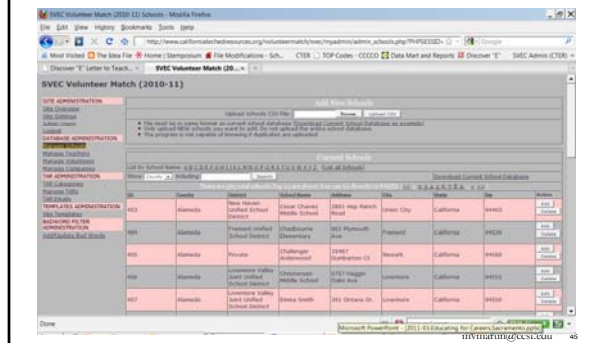
Admin Welcome Screen



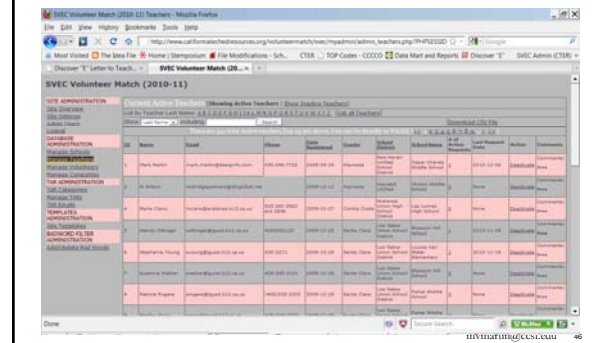
Site Settings



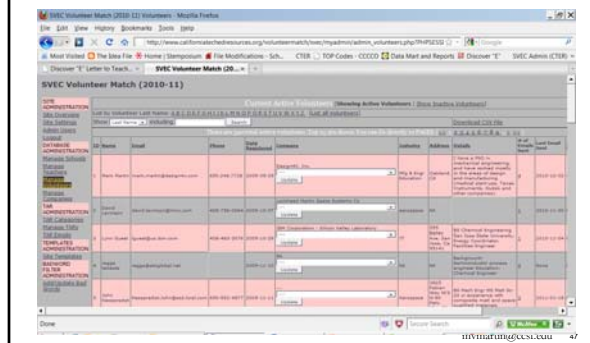
Manage Schools



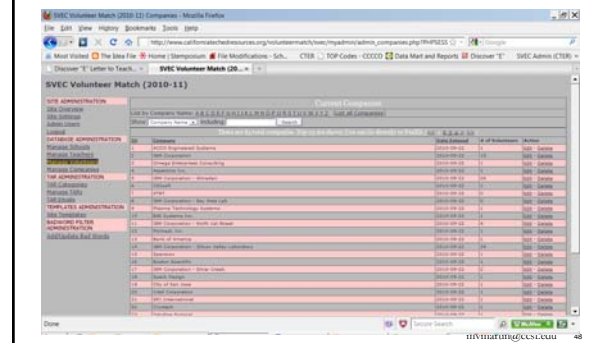
Manage Teachers



Manage Volunteers



Manage Companies



[illegible]

Manage TAR's

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.carlsonfedresources.com/volunteer/match/bsa/match.php?MPID=11>. The page title is "SVEIC Volunteer Match 2010-11: Table Entry - Mozilla Firefox". The page content includes a navigation bar with links like "Home", "Home | Dashboard", "File Modifications", "Sch.", "CTER", "TOP Codes", "CEZEDD", "Data Map and Reports", and "Discover". Below the navigation bar, there is a section titled "SVEIC Volunteer Match (2010-11)". The main content area displays a table of volunteer matches. The table has columns for "ID", "Email", "Name", "Date", "Status", and "Description". The table lists several matches, including one for "SVEIC Volunteer Match 2010-11" and another for "SVEIC Volunteer Match 2010-11".

ID	Email	Name	Date	Status	Description
1	bsa@carlsonfedresources.com	BSA	2010-11-11	Open	BSA is looking for volunteers to help with the BSA program. The program is a volunteer-based program that provides a variety of services to the community. The program is open to all ages and is a great way to get involved in your community.
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How can I start my own site?

1. Get files
 - Email mvmartin@ccsf.edu
2. Upload to your website
 - Host server needs MySQL 5.x, PHP 5.x, Apache 2.x, SMTP or Sendmail for email functionality (this is all freeware and most hosting providers have this installed).
 - I can host engr/mfg pathways on the CTER website
3. Create SQL database on website
 - Easy, but you have to know how. SQL setup file is included
4. Update 3 config files to include your sites username, password, DB name, etc.
5. Upload list/address of schools you are serving (can typically get these from the school district).
6. Publicize site! (well, test first)

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Challenges with starting your own site

- The VM **tool** is there to make your life easier, but it doesn't guarantee that your program will be a success.
- **Marketing** (getting the word out) is very important!
 - Reaching teachers is relatively easy (contact the district). They're eager to have speakers.
 - Finding the volunteers is more of a challenge.
- One key is to be **geographically centralized**.
 - If most of your volunteers are in Silicon Valley / Simi Valley), but teachers are in Oakland / Hawthorne, it makes volunteering difficult.

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Finding the Volunteers

- Connect with a local industry group in your sector for access to people who might volunteer
 - We recently started a site with the San Fernando Valley Engineers Council
- Mfg. / Engr. Organizations
 - Society of Manufacturing Engrs. (SME)
 - Am. Soc. Of Mech Engr. (ASME)
 - IEEE
 - Silicon Valley Engineers Council

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Questions?

Please spread the word about
Volunteer Match Online

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