

[Global Technology Services home](#)[AXP Account home](#)[About the account](#)[News & information](#)[Executive communications](#)[Tools and resources](#)[Continuous Improvement Program](#)[Going Global! Award](#)[Joining the account](#)[Community corner](#)

6 Aug 2007

[IBM Global Technology Services home](#) > [Americas home](#) > [American Express](#) > [News & information](#)

## Phoenix e-Mentoring Program targets elementary students

**Volunteers mentor 40 students, focusing on math and science**

Ryan Calkins and Anita Mikus work with two of the students they mentor.

The Phoenix e-Mentoring Program, part of [IBM MentorPlace](#) which helps promote and direct elementary students toward science and math, began last spring. It was sponsored by the Phoenix IBM Volunteer Council and Ray Johnson, Phoenix corporate citizenship and corporate affairs manager.

A group of 40 IBM volunteers, including 16 on the IBM at American Express team, volunteered to serve as mentors to young students. The new twist on this mentoring program was that nearly all the contact between students and mentors was via the Internet. IBM purchased two computers for each class on which the students did their online activities.

The volunteers were assigned to 10 fourth and fifth grade classes at [Simonton Elementary School](#) in the [J. O. Combs School District](#). Each IBMer had between six and eight students with whom they participated in online activities every week or every other week.

Topics for discussion were:

- Math in the workplace of the future
- Math and the mentor's job
- The student's dreams and wishes
- The mentor's and student's hobbies



Chris Hermosillo lunches with a student he mentors.

[Ryan Calkins](#), service delivery manager, [Chris Hermosillo](#), systems programmer, and [Anita Mikus](#), manager, project services delivery, lunched with their students. [Monique Galligan](#), manager, program services, also visited the students she was mentoring. The social occasions were a plus for students and mentors after having only virtual contact with each another.

"It was rewarding and fun to interact with children using a somewhat nontraditional approach," said Anita.

Ryan agreed. "The program was great, especially the online structure, which made it easy to balance other time demands."

The council plans to continue the program in the 2007-2008 school year with a new group of volunteers. Learn about the [e-Mentoring Program](#) in your community.

For answers to questions about the e-Mentoring Program in Phoenix, please contact [Ryan Calkins \(rcalkin@us.ibm.com\)](mailto:rcalkin@us.ibm.com). For answers to questions about this article, please contact [Nancy Schubert \(xdschub@us.ibm.com\)](mailto:xdschub@us.ibm.com)

[\[News & information\]](#)[Print this article](#)[Terms of use](#)

### IBM at American Express team participants

Andy Aiyer  
 Lisa Alpert  
 Ryan Calkins  
 Delight Cotton  
 Monique Galligan  
 Eleda Greenfield  
 Chris Hermosillo  
 Mose Higgins Jr.  
 Ray Lopez  
 William McAllister  
 Audrey McMiller  
 Anita Mikus  
 Petra Montaven  
 Robert Rosen  
 Rohini Sud  
 Peter Townsend

### Related information

[What is MentorPlace?](#)  
[IBM e-Mentoring Program](#)  
[MentorPlace gets ready for 'back-to-school'](#)  
[Mentor students](#)  
[Simonton Elementary School](#)  
[J. O. Combs School District](#)

### Experts on this topic



[Ryan Calkins](#)  
Service delivery manager



[Ray Johnson](#)  
Corporate citizenship & corporate affairs manager