**By Christina LaRusso**
*News Staff Writer*

# Students Net Skills at Technology Center



High School senior **Simon Ford** knew this summer was set when he landed an internship at Palos Verdes on the Net Computer Technologies Center.

Where else could he earn credit for fiddling with the latest computers and fancy cameras? Schools typically don't have high-end equipment, and teachers sometimes find it hard to keep pace with changes in technology.

"There is no other place that has this," said Ford, who attends Palos Verdes Peninsula High School. "Usually people are hesitant to let kids work with it."

About 50 South Bay students have spent the past few months at the center's office, near Rancho Palos Verdes City Hall, taking in from all they can from director and owner **Ted Vegvari**. The center is open every day, some days from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Students likely would likely be there even of the hours were longer, organizers say.

They can use professional editing equipment Vegvari says is similar to what was used in the movie "Titanic."

Among other projects, students are producing 3D & 2D animations, videos or cable television segments for Rancho Palos Verdes' 25th anniversary, the Norris Theatre and the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club.

"Everything we do here is a community service," Vegvari said. "We don't give them pointless excercises."

"We have the greatest bunch of interns that you'd ever want to meet," Vegvari said.

Since it opened in January 1997, PV on the NET has had 9,000 visitors and offered 300 internships. The center maintains free Web site for South Bay cities and non profit community groups.

"PV on the NET is a forward facing, nonprofit organization that is already providing hands-on training using the latest in digital technology and staff by a highly motivated crew of talented volunteers," said Christopher Dierdoff, digital supervisor for Buena Vista Imaging Digital Service for the Walt Disney Co.

"PV on the NET is already ahead of the curve by beginning to train the new technologists we need for the future,"



Elyse Lluncor, who took internship to learn about new software, stops in at least three times a week.

"I'm getting experience with the computer and learning about jobs that deal with the computer," says Lluncor, 16, a junior at Peninsula High. "It's really like a job."

Palos Verdes on the NET
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