



Editor's Note: The following commentary appeared in the Folsom Telegraph on May 28, 2014.

**Intel celebrates 30 years in Folsom
by Evert Palmer, City Manager**

Last week I had the honor of attending Intel's 30th anniversary celebration on the Folsom campus. It was a lively, fun-filled event marking a very significant milestone for Intel, its employees, and our community as a whole.

While I was not working in Folsom when Intel first arrived, I have witnessed first-hand the positive impact the Santa Clara-based technology leader has had on our community during the past two decades. In 1984, Folsom was a small rural community. Today, it is an affluent high tech town with a mean household income of \$108,878 and 70 percent of households owning homes.

Intel led the charge and now we are seeing a mini version of Silicon Valley here in the Silicon Foothills. As Intel's campus and highly educated workforce expanded, other companies followed, helping us build a stable economic future.

The local campus is one of Intel's largest sites, with seven buildings totaling over 1.5 million square feet of space. It is a research and development center where employees create, test and validate the next generation of chips and chipsets, including desktop, mobile and server processor products. The USB, which is used to transfer data between electronic devices, was developed on the Folsom campus, as was the microchip used in digital cameras.

With more than 6,000 local employees, Intel is our community's largest employer, and is one of the largest private employers in the entire Sacramento region. The global corporation's solid base of relatively stable jobs is one of the primary reasons Folsom's unemployment rate is just 3.4 percent, one of the lowest in the region.

Intel's employees represent more than 60 nations. Many have post-graduate degrees in engineering, math, physics and computer science. Intel is a company that attracts some of the best talent in the world, bringing a remarkable level of cultural diversity to our community.

Many Intel employees choose to live in Folsom. Their children attend local schools and the families contribute to our economy. They are also actively engaged in our community, which is not surprising given that Intel is well known for corporate philanthropy.

Employees volunteer to mentor students, get involved at science fairs at local schools, and assist at nonprofit organizations. When employees donate hours, Intel commits dollars. For every hour an Intel employee volunteers in local schools or nonprofits, the company donates \$10 through its Matching Grant Program. Over the years, those generous donations helped purchase much needed equipment, and supported important programs that benefitted students and other segments of our community. Intel also steps up to provide corporate underwriting for local events and programs, including the recent Amgen Tour of California Time Trial. We greatly appreciate that spirit of partnership and giving.

Please join me in congratulating Intel on its 30th anniversary. If you have friends or neighbors who work for Intel, let them know that you appreciate all they, and their employer, do for our community.