

VERIZON
UP TO SPEED LIVE
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>> Jen: Hey V Team, happy Tuesday.

I hope you're all having a wonderful week so far - we've

Absolutely awesome show for you today.

I'm so excited about it that let's just jump right in.

So by now I'm sure you've all heard about our awesome Verizon innovative learning initiative, one being our Verizon Innovative Learning lab program which brings cutting-edge technology to under-resourced school districts to help expose the students to new and really exciting possibilities.

well, last week we unveiled our newest lab at the Winston Salem Preparatory Academy in North Carolina, and a newer member of our communications team, Hope Arcuri, was on site to experience the exciting grand opening.

Hope is actually here to share a little more about that grand opening and the VIL initiatives.

Before we bring her on, let's check out that grand opening.

>> Hope: A lot of people see the Verizon innovative learning work, and they say, oh, that's so amazing.

You're in a school and you're helping kids access technology.

And that's actually true.

We're doing that, but I think people miss there's, like, 100 other ways indirectly that we're affecting children.

We think about the spider web of that, of these indirect and direct impacts on these kids.

It's just unbelievable to think about.

>> I don't think I've met any student that does not like something new and innovative, and you can give them an activity to do that beyond just reading the textbook and answering questions and expose them to things that they see in the lab, then they are 100% on board with you.

>> I am from Winston Salem, North Carolina.

I grew up here, went to school here all my life.

I also went to school in North Carolina an hour and a half way for college.

My dad is a retired educator.

He was a professor and then a teacher.

My mom is a small business owner.

It's a car dealership, which is pretty unique because you don't see a lot of female dealers.

It's so surreal to be at an event in my hometown to realize, like, oh, I'm actually really getting to work on things that aren't just close to home.

They are in my home!

>> When things as big as what Verizon just did happen, it provides opportunities that you really can't see, unless you see it in real time.

>> We're building the portrait of graduate, which is that graduate once

they leave from us they can be able to really engage in real-world activities at a high level.

>> It's not just about bringing tech to kids.

It's giving them a sense of I can have a future, I matter, I can make an impact.

That confidence, you can't pay for that.

[Cheers and Applause]

>> Jen: wow, that looked like such a great day.

I just love seeing the excited looks on all those kids faces.

I mean, you can really tell we're making a difference.

All right, well, without further ado, hope, come on in.

Let's chat a little bit more about the opening.

[Cheers and Applause]

>> Hope: Thanks for having me.

So excited to be here.

>> Jen: Of course.

Thanks so much for being here.

I know this was kind of a crazy coincidence because you actually grew up in the Winston Salem area.

what was it like to have a learning lab open where you grew up.

>> Hope: Verizon innovative learning has been active in my town for five years and active in 12 school districts.

My colleague Catherine Pack who leads all the Verizon innovative learning lab work, she sent me an invitation to attend the ribbon cutting, so it's really amazing.

>> Jen: Very cool.

I know that must have been a big feat for Catherine and the people.

>> Hope: It's a ton of work.

Catherine and her team orchestrate and design these labs in over 150 schools across the country, so no small feat there.

I was really in awe to witness their work come to life.

>> Jen: Absolutely.

So, so interesting.

Very cool.

Now what can you tell us more about the VIL program.

It's such an interesting program.

So many different parts, right?

>> Hope: Yeah, the Verizon innovative learning lab program integrates emerging technology with a project-based curriculum in a custom designed state-of-the-art experiential learning lab in the schools.

The lab is made possible thanks to our partnership with the heart of America foundation, and Arizona state university, and the program, as you saw in the video, empowers schools across the country to become hubs of technology, education and opportunity for students, and it doesn't just stop with students.

It also provides training for teachers.

>> Jen: Wow.

Very, very cool.

Thank you so much for sharing all of that, and such a neat connection, right?

Very random, but very cool.

Very, very nice.

So where can folks go to learn more about Verizon innovative learning?

>> Hope: You can go to citizenVerizon.com to learn more about all of Verizon's responsible business efforts, and if you want to hear and see more about the amazing technology and curriculum that you saw in the video, you can go to Verizon.com/learning.

>> Jen: Very cool.

Before you go, really cool with your mom owning that dealership with women's month, so we love some women empowerment.

>> Hope: Yeah, she's definitely an inspiration to me.

>> Jen: Thanks for joining, hope.

>> Hope: Yeah, thank you.

[Cheers and Applause]

>> Jen: Very, very cool.

Team, be sure to check out today's story for the links hope just mentioned. You'll be able to find all of them there.

Speaking of Verizon's impact on local communities, here is another awesome way we're showing up, but this time for the Hispanic community.

This Thursday, March 29, Verizon will be a presenting sponsor at the greater Washington Hispanic chamber of commerce business Expo.

I caught up with Mario Acosta-Velez who works in our local engagement corporate social responsibility and public policy team.

He shared why our presence at this Expo is so important, and what folks can expect.

>> We are so -- communities, remains steadfast.

We understand that supporting small businesses is the key to supporting growth of our local communities.

That is why we are so excited to be a part of the Hispanic chamber of commerce business Expo.

We will have a primary exhibit right in the middle of the exhibit hall. Provide information about our program and several Verizon business and consumer team representatives will be available to connect with business owners and offer information with products and solutions to help grow businesses.

The business Expo is open to the general public and people can learn more about it and register by going to the chamber's website.

[Spanish]

>> Jen: Very cool.

Again, that's Thursday, March 28.

Super, super cool.

Muchas gracias, Mario. V Team,

we'll have the link to register for the expo in today's story.

please share it with anyone who could benefit.

There's going to be some really important conversations that's happening at that Expo, and it's our responsibility.

Es nuestra responsabilidad

ayudar a informar a nuestra comunidad to help inform our community.

Speaking of valuable conversations, just last week Semaform hosted their global summit where they discussed gallop's 2024 world happiness report.

This report spent a lot of time exploring why human connection is so critical to our well-being and our consumer group CEO Sampath actually spoke with Semaform's Justin Smith about our commitment to providing excellent connectivity through our stellar network.

Here's how they are related.

>> We as human beings are wired to be social creatures.

Solitude is not a good thing.

Solitude is often linked to depression, so we are wired to spend time with each other, and the magical thing about our networks is our primary mission is to connect people and connect things, so every call you have with your kid or with your spouse or with your teacher, we enable and make those connections.

We commissioned this report, the happiness consumer connections report when we started tracking things, and it's been fascinating for us because we feel a more connected society tends to be a more happy society.

It enriches people's lives well, so we are in the business of making connections.

>> Jen: Couldn't agree more with Sampath.

Every time I use our network to FaceTime my abuela in Colombia, I'm amazed by the power of technology.

I feel so grateful to spend that quality time with her, even though we're so far apart.

Sampath shares more regarding consumer trends and happiness statistics. It's a pretty fascinating conversation.

To listen to the entire thing, can you head over to today's story where

we will have a link.

>>> Speaking of our powerful network, over the weekend it was put to amazing use at the 39th edition to the baker to Vegas challenge cup relay.

They went out to remote desert areas in California and Nevada to support people with the communication tools they needed to keep officers from around the globe safe throughout the nearly, get this, 24-hour length race. And by the way, it's no small feat.

Every year baker to Vegas draws more than 9,000 people.

The team delivered five satellite Picocells on trailers, two rapid response connectivity units, cellular and Wi-Fi capabilities and many other Verizon front-line solutions.

>>> All right, keeping with the theme of all this exciting news going, this week we reached a couple of important milestones for stock together awards, and just to give you a quick recap, stock together is our equity award program that creates an opportunity for all of us to share in the success of Verizon, the value we create, with a discretionary award of restricted stock units.

These awards vest over a three-year period subject to our continued employment with the company.

Today the proceeds associated with the vesting of the first third of the 2023 stock together awards were deposited into your fidelity brokerage account.

You can request a check, do an electronic funds transfer, or you can reinvest that money in your fidelity brokerage account by going to netbenefits.com/verizon.

On Thursday, your 2024 stock together award will appear in your fidelity account.

You heard it here, folks.

Don't wait.

Head over to your account and take charge of your awards.

>>> All right, well, we're just close to the end of the show, but before we go, I've got to ask you a question.

Everybody watching, do you ever find yourself struggling to stay on top of all the news that's happening across the company?

Because if you do, you're not alone, but the good news is we have a solution, and it's called the rewind.

Every Friday be sure to look for an email that looks like the one you see on your screen right now.

It will be coming from my fellow up to speed host Raquel Wilson with the subject line, you get this, the rewind.

You'll find a quick rewind from the stories of up to speed and inside Verizon about news that impacts your work days, your wallet and hopefully stories that will inspire you too.

Plus we throw in sneak previews of important things you'll want to keep an eye out for.

Check it out and let us know what you think of the rewind in today's comments section of the story.

We appreciate your feedback.

Speaking of valuable feedback, just last week Raquel and I made our way to two of our retail stories.

we had a wonderful time getting to know the V teamers at both location, and we just knew we wanted to give them the spotlight of closing out this week's show, so without further ado, here's our Hoboken team with our signature sign-off.

>> Until next time, you're up to speed!