CS Open House

**Report:** In fall 2009 STAIRSTEP CS and CS INSPIRED co-hosted a special Open House program for 21 students, two teachers, and a parent from Giddings High School. The program included a talk by the CS Department Chair about CS programs at Lamar University and a presentation by PI Doerschuk on the INSPIRED and STAIRSTEP programs and career opportunities in computing. STAIRSTEP and INSPIRED students talked to the Giddings students about why they like computing, answered questions about college, and gave demonstrations of robots that we use in computing academies for middle and high school computing academies. Pictures are shown in Figure. A graduating Giddings High School senior plans to apply to the STAIRSTEP CS program and enroll in CS at Lamar University in fall of 2010.

![Image of students and robots](image-url)

**Figure:** Giddings High School Students enjoying demonstration of robot guitar at CS STAIRSTEP/INSPIRED Open House Program Fall 2009.

**Comment:** Here is a comment from the STAIRSTEP CS student coordinator for this activity:

- "The teens that came were all in high spirits. All of them expressed an interest in the robots. They were really receptive to the info that we dished out. I believe that the event was an overall success and we probably will see them again next year or after they graduate and go to college."