STAIRSTEP

Event Name: Newton Highschool Career and College Fair

Date: October 27, 2010

Coordinator First and Last Name: Lauren Robertson

Number of STAIRSTEP participants: 2

Names of STAIRSTEP participants: Lauren Robertson and Jenny Robertson

A brief description of the event:
At Newton High School, many colleges came and set up at tables in the cafeteria to inform students about their programs. I set up the table for STAIRSTEP next to the Lamar table. Jenny joined me at the table later. The senior students were released from their classes first and came and walked around the cafeteria stopping where they pleased. Once the seniors were through the juniors were released and they walked around the cafeteria also.

This event was an attempt to reach out to area highschools and inform them about the STAIRSTEP program. Two stairstep participants, myself and Jenny represented the chemistry and earth/space science fields at Newton Highschool. Unfortunately, it did not seem to benefit STAIRSTEP. None of the students knew what STAIRSTEP was and were extremely wary about approaching the table. Any students who did approach saw the pamphlets about math and science fields and immediately walked away. None of the students seemed interested in any of the fields we had brochures for. Jenny agreed that it was not beneficial to the stairstep program, saying, "I spent more time trying to figure out where the highschool was, than actually participating in the college fair. I also believe that the highschool students were extremely disinterested in the math and science fields." I feel that with some improvement we might be able to turn this event into something that benefits the program. If we set up some sort of introductory poster to breach the subject of STAIRSTEP and what it is on a non-intimidating level we may have more success in reaching out and grabbing the students' interests. Jenny repeatedly expressed that she felt that no one was interested and as an improvement for the participants that we could get some sort of map to the place we are supposed to present at. Overall, the event was not a complete waste of time, but it was very close to becoming one.

Feedback From Participants:

Jenny: I spent more time trying to figure out where the highschool was than actually participating in the college fair. I also believe that highschool students are not interested in the sciences. No one is interested.

What can we do to improve this event?:
We could put up a poster that introduces the idea of stairstep on an easier level so the students
are not intimidated.

Jenny: We can give out correct directions to the actual event.

Number, name of participating high schools:
1, Newton High School

Number of junior/senior high school participants: Roughly 100.

Number, name of participating community colleges: 0

Number of participating CC students: 0

Number of undergrad participants: 0

Number of graduate participants: 0