Career Day at Ozen High School

Date: March 23, 2011

Coordinator: Christine Gartner

On March 23, 2011, STAIRSTEP event coordinator, Christine Gartner, attended Ozen High School’s career day. Only one participant attended from STAIRSTEP, Christine Gartner, who also was the coordinator.

The event was located at Ozen High School, on Fannett Rd, in Beaumont Texas. The goal of this event is for local individuals who have different jobs in a variety of fields present information about the career that they chose in order to help junior and senior level high school students begin thinking about possible directions to pursue at the college level. Christine Gartner represented Lamar University’s Earth and Space Science department, as well as STAIRSTEP. There were two sessions, each fifty-five minute sessions composed of roughly 30 students, about 55 all together. All students were either junior of senior level, and most were placed into this category, it was not one of their choices of interest.

This event was a great benefit because it allowed me a chance to talk to the students at Ozen High School about the benefits of my degree program. It also gave me practice applying geology terminology while giving a presentation. I talked about STAIRSTEP to the students and explained that it is a grant program to help reinforce the skills that are being taught in the classroom. Most of the participants were semi-interested, several who asked questions. Most students either had no idea what they wanted to be, or were interested in other sciences such as biology (namely marine biology.) Only one student fell asleep, which I felt was a pretty good accomplishment.

This event could be improved by bringing minerals, fossils, or tools to show to the students. I believe that this would present something more tangible to the students, and help them to understand how relevant a degree in Earth and Space Science actually is.