STAIRSTEP Event Coordinator Report

Event Name: TACROA College Fair

Date: October 14-18, 2013

Coordinator First Name and Last Name: Ijeamaka J Okechukwu

On the week of October 14th through 18th, various high schools in the southeast Texas region near Lamar University hosted the TACROA College Fair. The goal for STAIRSTEP outreach was to talk to the students about the importance of the STEM majors, get them excited about career opportunities within these STEM majors, and tell them about the benefits of the STAIRSTEP Scholarship Program. Throughout the week, STAIRSTEP scholars visited the highs schools at their scheduled times to set up the table for this event. Scholars talked with various high school students, handed out pamphlets, answered any questions, and gathered contact information from the students who requested feedback.

I, Ijeamaka Okechukwu, am the coordinator for this event. I have compiled a report with details and feedback. I received STAIRSTEP feedback forms after this event. To date, 8 of the 16 STAIRSTEP students who visited the scheduled schools are accounted for in the feedback forms that I received. The names of the students who did send their feedback forms are Patrick Taylor, Victoria Lang, Christopher Maldonado, Audrene Edwards, Aubry Boone, Melanie Bransford, and Susan Salazar. I did not received feedback from students in Chemistry or Computer Science. We visited 11 schools and 7 are accounted for in the feedback reports that I received. The schools that are accounted for in feedback reports are Tyler County (at Warren HS), Memorial HS, Mid/South Counties (at LSC Port Arthur), Newton HS, Silsbee HS, Lumberton HS, and Bob Hope HS. The other schools visited were Kountze HS, Buna HS, Jasper HS and Beaumont ISD (at CJ Ozen HS). About 65 high school students stopped by the STAIRSTEP tables for the week. About 35 were juniors and 30 were seniors. The above statistics are estimates based on the information I received.

STAIRSTEP participants enjoyed working with the high school students and felt that this event was beneficial as a whole. Audrene Edwards said, “Most student don’t know what options are available to them…I was glad that I could enlighten them.” Victoria Lang said that inspiring the high school students gives her positive vibes. I feel that we are making a constructive impact on our youth. We realized that many high school students do not know the opportunities existing in science and math and it was great to educate the students and get them excited to lead fulfilling futures.

Generally, students seemed to lack interest in science and math in all the schools, except Lumberton HS and Newton HS. Many students that stopped by that were interested in science and math are pursuing nursing or engineering. Many students seem to already know whether or not they wanted to pursue a college degree. Students who want to go to college already know whether or not they want to attend Lamar University.
Suggestions for improvements are generally that STAIRSTEP needs a more professional look at these events. Our table was clearly different from the surrounding tables for the other colleges that participated. More relevant materials are also necessary, as well as an abundant supply.

Pictures:

Top photos: STAIRSTEP scholars at Mid/South County College Night
Bottom photos: Audrene with students at Memorial HS College Fair