Bernard Harris Science Summer Camp STAIRSTEP Event

**Report Contents**

**Event Name:** ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Camp

**Date:** June 11, 2012 – June 22, 2012

**Coordinator First Name and Last Name:** Bryan Neal

Number of STAIRSTEP participants: 2

Names of STAIRSTEP participants: Bryan Neal, Cristian Bahrim

A brief description of the event: The ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Camp was a two week summer camp for 6th-8th grade students from several local middle schools. The students participated in various small classes over science topics including the building up of a space suit and understanding the principles and applications of fiber optics. These two different projects were offered in two successive weeks and organized entirely by Dr. C. Bahrim and I.

The “space suit” project involved budgeting for and building a mock “swatch” for a space suit and then testing the materials in a competition at the end of the week. The last day was Media Day, with participation from several local TV stations, Beaumont Enterprise, and another local journal. The special guest was the NASA astronaut Dr. Bernard Harris. This project was run between June 13 and 15, and was led by Dr. C. Bahrim assisted by me and several students from Lamar and staff members from the Exxon Mobil.

The fiber optics project was run on June 20, and it was directed by me with Dr. C. Bahrim’s assistance.

How it benefited you/STAIRSTEP:

This was an event that gave STAIRSTEP further connections for potential future events and put the group in a more public light.

Bryan Neal – “I was able to experience a teaching scenario very similar to what I might see in a school lab teaching situation. The preparation and presentation of these two very different projects have enriched greatly my teaching experience.”

Feedback from participants:

“This event was a good look into what it takes to prepare lessons from a given curriculum in a way that a teacher does in a class room. I had to put together 2 hours’ worth of material and then teach it to two different groups of children. I had to take into account things like different working speeds, transition times, and safety to be able to plan for this event.” – Bryan Neal

**Statistics:**

Number, name of participating schools: Various Local Middle Schools
Number of middle school students participants: 48

Number, name of participating community colleges: N/A

Number of participating CC students: 0

Number of undergraduate participants: 0

Number of graduate participants: 0

Pictures:

Fig. 1 (a-b) Demonstrations with air tracks during the pre-lesson on June 14

Fig. 2 Dr. C. Bahrim lecturing in front of 24 students on June 14.
Fig. 3 (a-b) Media Day (June 15) with the special guest Dr. Bernard Harris.