On February 10, 2012 undergraduate and graduate students attended a Career Forum that featured members of the CS Industrial Advisory Board. Forum speakers included a dozen representatives from a wide variety of industries, including large companies like IBM and JPMorgan Chase, small startup companies, and a high school computer science teacher. This event allowed Lamar students to listen and ask question about the different CS careers.

Seven CS STAIRSTEP students, fourteen undergraduate and 15 graduate students attended the event. One student from Lamar State College Orange also attended and asked several questions. The majority of STAIRSTEP students agreed that this was a good event. Demetrius Taylor (CS) commented “I thought it was beneficial; it showed a wide range of CS careers.” Billy Newman (CS) said it was beneficial commenting: “Gives a great indication on what to expect during careers.” Michael Waterstreet(CS) thought the event was not beneficial: “Only one member of the board was an educator. My interest is in becoming a professor, and most of the board said ‘Learn business.’ It is helpful, but the focus is business.” Matthew Williamson (CS) said that the most important thing he learned was “The security industry looks interesting and is in high demand.”