STAIRSTEP Event Coordinator Report

Report Contents

Event Name: John Reagan High School Visit

Date: January 19, 2012

Coordinator First Name and Last Name: Bryan Neal

Number of STAIRSTEP participants: 2

Names of STAIRSTEP participants: Bryan Neal, William Ware

A brief description of the event:

Students from John Reagan High School were invited to the Lamar University Campus (in the Price Auditorium of John Gray Center) for a campus tour and presentations from the Admissions Department and four of the STAIRSTEP programs: Computer Science, Earth and Space Science, Physics, and Mathematics. The Admissions department gave a presentation providing general information about Lamar University, available programs of study, and information about applying to our university. The group of 37 students was led on a campus tour and then returned to the Price Auditorium for the STAIRSTEP session. The three STAIRSTEP faculty leaders from Computer Science (Dr. Peggy Doerschuk), Earth and Space Science (Dr. Joe Kruger), and Physics (Dr. Cristian Bahrim) gave short Power Point presentations about the STAIRSTEP program and specific activities and benefits of our program, followed by technical presentations given by two Physics STAIRSTEP students, Bryan Neal and William Ware. The day ended with several physics demos set up by the PH STAIRSTEP students Bryan Neal and William Ware, and Dr. Cristian Bahrim.

● How it benefited you/STAIRSTEP

One of the visiting students asked: “What actually is Physics?” We were able to provide her and her fellow students with the requested information through physics demos and discussions. Hopefully we helped our guests to become better informed about Sciences and made them to take a future interest in pursuing Science disciplines. The participating STAIRSTEP students learned about the importance of communication and organization.

● Feedback from participants:

Bryan Neal – “It would have been nice to have STAIRSTEP students from all of the 5 groups if it were possible.”

William Ware – “We should spicce up the presentations a little bit.”

● How it can be improved:

Participation from all of the groups of STAIRSTEP students would have given the presentations a better variety. It might be a good idea to do the demonstrations between or
during the Power Point presentations to help break them up. It is possible that the visiting students may lose interest if too many oral presentations are given in a row.

**Statistics:**

Number, name of participating high schools: 1 – John Reagan Hugh School

Number of junior/senior high school participants: 37

Number, name of participating community colleges: none

Number of participating CC students: 0

Number of undergraduate participants: 0

Number of graduate participants: 0

**Pictures:**

Fig. 1  Bryan Neal talking about job opportunities for graduates holding a BS in physics.

Fig. 2  William Ware presenting the research done in the mathematics.
Fig. 3  The attendees in open dialog with STAIRSTEP representatives.