Event Name: Orange County College Fair  
Date: November 1, 2011  
Coordinator’s Name: Aaron Weatherford

Number of STAIRSTEP participants: (3) – Josh McBride, Crissie Vandeheof, Aaron Weatherford

The college fair was held in the Lamar State College gymnasium from 6:00-8:00PM. During this time high school seniors, juniors, and some sophomores, as well as current LSC-O students made their way around the path formed by the booths set up by the representatives of various colleges and universities. STAIRSTEP was set up two booths down from Lamar University’s booth and those who were not interested in undergraduate research in the sciences were directed to the general Lamar booth.

The number of potential students interested in STAIRSTEP and math or science majors was about the one-third of the number of students interested in other majors. The three attending STAIRSTEP members covered the disciplines of mathematics, geology, and chemistry. The majority of questions came from those interested in nursing or medical fields, and Christy from chemistry was able to encourage those students to consider a double major in biology and chemistry, and also consider joining chemistry STAIRSTEP.

The three participants thought that the 12 students who expressed interest was encouraging and surprising as we all thought the numbers would be lower. All three participants conveyed the nature of the research well, and promoted the image of Lamar as a smaller school with opportunities to participate in learning above and beyond what is covered in the classroom.

Now that all three participants have been through an outreach program, future attempts will proceed more smoothly. Perhaps bringing more displays of research results -- in addition to brochures -- to allow potential students to see exactly what happens would attract more students.

Statistics:  
Number, name of participating high schools: Open to all area high schools  
Number of junior/senior high school participants: 7  
Number, name of participating community colleges: Lamar State College-Orange  
Number of participating CC students: 5