Saturday, February 20th, 2016, the West Brook High School hosted the Science Mini Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching which is a one-day Conference for Science teachers and conducted by the Science teachers. The Mini-CAST facilitates a common ground to share the ideas with fellow colleagues to make classroom education more meaningful and up to date to the students.

Keeley Townley-Smith, Mohammad Nurul Azam, Suzanne Wheeler, Claudia Marroquin, Diego Fernandez represented Stair Step to the conference with verities of science demos including Van Der graph, magnetic induction principle demonstrator kit, interference and diffraction of light phenomenon demonstrator, spectroscopy kit and Tesla coil etc.

Keeley Townley-Smith, the SPS president and an outgoing student of physics dept. said, ‘I had the chance to interact with 20 K-12 science teachers and administrators. The most notable interaction was with the Coordinator for the Children’s Science Museum in Beaumont who wanted STAIRSTEP to participate in the summer camps. I gave her STAIRSTEP’s contact info and gave her contact info to Dr. Bahrim. It would be really cool if STAIRSTEP could help with the summer program this summer. I also talked with people from Nederland High School and MacArthur Pietsch about having a physics roadshow.’

Claudia Marroquin, a Biology major student expressed her views as “This past Saturday, I met with teachers from schools all around Southeast Texas and promoted the StairStep program with many of my teammates. It was a particularly special occasion in that I saw many of my own teachers from elementary, middle school, and high school all in the same room. These teachers were the ones to inspired me to pursue a career in science, and now I can hopefully doing the same for students today.”

Diego Fernandez, the other computer science major said, “Lots of teachers and instructors were interested in setting up events with STAIRSTEP. Most of the people present were mainly interested in the physics branch of STAIRSTEP, but there were a good number of teachers who were also curious about the biology and computer science branches.”

Graduate student from EE Dept. Nurul Azam said, ‘it was a great experience to know the teaching philosophy from the people who are consciously involved with teaching profession. I think Mini CAST is a novel platform for interchanging thoughts and ideas toward making a sustainable education system. The interesting part that I observed by representing stair step is, we don’t required massive resources but need well connected community to utilize what we have and receptive mind set so that we can benefited by each other abilities.”
This meeting was also an important ground to spread words about ‘Joint Spring 2016 Meeting of the Texas Sections of APS, AAPT, and Zone 13 of SPS’. Many teachers have given their consent to join the meeting which going to take place from March 31 to April 2 in Lamar University.

Event coordinator Azam Nurul, Physics STAIRSTEP member