On June 23, 2012, STAIRSTEP members worked at a booth during one of Lamar’s New Student Orientations. The members in attendance were Allison Perdue (Chemistry), Karla Obregon (Chemistry), Christine Gartner (Geology), and Bryan Neal (Physics). The purpose of our participation in the event was to provide interested students with information on the STAIRSTEP program.

As students passed the booth, they were invited to talk and look at the information sheets about the branches of STAIRSTEP. Each branch had several different pages offering information on jobs in that particular field, reasons to study that subject, and so on.

The most beneficial part of this event was the ability of the members to “spread the word about STAIRSTEP to incoming freshman.” By talking to these students, the program is able to encourage students to “pursue degrees and careers in STEM studies.” Our participation in this event was successful because we were able to provide students with information about career paths that they might not have originally considered. One way to improve future outreach opportunities such as this is to have more visual aids available to help draw students in to the booth and initially spark their interest.

A total of four STAIRSTEP students were present at the booth. We spoke to approximately ten students about the benefits of the program. By the end of the morning, two incoming students had given us their contact information to receive further information about possibly joining STAIRSTEP.

-Allison Perdue
STAIRSTEP-Chemistry