On April 20, 2015, members of the Computer Science, Mathematics, and Physics Department in Lamar’s STAIRSTEP program participated in the Second Annual Undergraduate Research Expo held at Lamar University. The participants presented their research to judges either through poster presentations or oral presentation.

The Undergraduate Research Expo hosted by Lamar University included many presentations by Lamar students choosing to present their research in various academic fields. Speeches by Dr. Kumer Das, President. Kenneth Evans, and Provost Stephen Doblin and a full lunch also were included at the expo.

Computer Science STAIRSTEP was represented at the Expo by Hannah Leleux, Timothy Holcombe, Alexander Strong, Greg Year, Colin Smith, Timothy Gonzolas, and Logan Smith, presenting such presentations as: Improving the Radial Basis Function Neural Network, Machine Learning in Robotics, and Programming is a SNAP! Increasing Knowledge an Interest in Computer Science. From 12:30 to 1:30, various professors and judges were browsed the posters, hearing them presented by the students in order to gain information and ask questions about the research.

The overall event was a large success, giving many students the opportunity to present their works. The judges and professors seemed to show varying interest in each project, overall being a very positive response. After talking with about five different professors, the students were able to concisely explain our research to a level that was accepted and praised. In total, there were twenty-two posters and eighteen oral presentations, and about fifteen professors to review the work. Roughly 100 people attended. These Expos help students to gain knowledge on how to present research to academic peers and get feedback to help them with further research.