STAIRSTEP Event Coordinator Report

Event Name: Academic Open House

Date: October 13, 2012

Coordinator First Name and Last Name: Sara-jeanne E. Vogler

Number of STAIRSTEP participants: 6

Names of STAIRSTEP participants: Sara-jeanne Vogler, Crissie Vandehoef, Judson D. Ward, Billy Newman, Brittany Cashi, Cody Worth

Number of INSPIRED participants: 0

Names of INSPIRED participants: N/A

A brief description of the event (who, what, why, when, where), including:

- DESCRIPTION: This event was organized by Lamar University to allow high school juniors and seniors ranking in the top 15 percent of their class and those with SAT scores of 1100 or greater the opportunity to meet the members of departments and learn about the programs and scholarship opportunities available. The future cardinals all met in the University theater and after a short introduction were sent to the departments they would be interested in pursuing a degree within. STAIRSTEP was present in the Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science, and Chemistry departments to welcome them and demonstrate some of the interesting aspects of each field.

- BENIFITS: Because of the nature of the attendees, high achieving high school students, the groups included students that would be uniquely receptive to participation in the STAIRSTEP program when they come to Lamar.

- FEEDBACK: The six participants were visited by a different number of students. Most found that the visitors were very receptive and many were interested in getting more information and placing Lamar and STAIRSTEP on the list of options for life after high school. The participants felt they were given a hands on opportunity to recruit new members and they learned how important recruiting is to the survival of any program and that in recruiting you communicate in a different way than in other situations. The participants gave the visitors information on the programs offered at Lamar and shared a sense of what life is like at college. Participants also experienced the "behind the scenes" work involved in setting up demonstrations for visitors.

- IMPROVEMENTS: Most of the participants felt there was not sufficient communication between the STAIRSTEP program and our departments and the coordinators for the Academic Open House. At least one participant felt that STAIRSTEP should be given more involvement in the planning of the event. The visitors were sent to individual departments and so only experienced one possible program offered at Lamar. A "county fair" setup was suggested as more beneficial to the visitors. Another participant was concerned about her knowledge of the programs she was trying to show the visitors. More documentation in advance would be appreciated.

Statistics:
Number, name of participating high schools: Unknown

Number of junior/senior high school participants: Greater than 4

Number, name of participating community colleges: 0

Number of participating CC students: 0

Number of undergraduate participants: 0

Number of graduate participants: 0

Pictures:

No images were submitted from participants so I have included images of the computer Science, Physics, and Mathematics building that I found on the university website.