On April 21, 2015, Port-Neches-Groves High School sent thirty-two students to Lamar to participate in a workshop hosted by STAIRSTEP. Undergraduates Tim Gonzales, Alexander Strong and Colin Smith who are members of the Computer Science STAIRSTEP team conducted the workshop.

Tim Gonzales led them from nine to ten that morning in a programming exercise. The students were given an overview of the basic programming fundamentals through a set of instructional slides presented. During the presentation the students proceeded to create their own game, modeling the onscreen build led by Alex Strong. Colin Smith helped the students who raised their hand with questions or that were falling behind.

The workshop was part of the ongoing research in Computer Science education that the Computer Science STAIRSTEP team is conducting. The research is led by Dr. Peggy Doerschuk and through conducting the workshops the STAIRSTEP students are able to collect data. The goal of the research is to increase knowledge and interest in Computer Science. “I had a great time teaching the students,” Gonzalez said. “I feel I was able to foster interest in computer science from the PNG students. I hope they will continue to explore the world of computer science.”