On the 29th of September, STAIRSTEP attend the Southeast Texas Youth Career Expo as presenters. We utilized two tables to show off projects from all teams. The program began at 7AM and lasted until 3PM hosting thousands of high school students from dozens of schools including Ozen, Central, Little Cypress Mauriceville, and others. The students were allowed free range of the entirety of the Ford Park Arena to view booths manned by companies, organizations and programs around the Southeast Texas Area. Entergy, Lamar University, ExxonMobil and Arceneaux Wilson & Cole were only a few of the booths available to the students. During my time at the booth, team members from the Computer Science, Physics and Biology were there. I talked with approximately 70 students over the course of a couple hours, with STAIRSTEP as a whole speaking with hundreds of students.

We encouraged them to consider STEM fields for their career and major choices, showcasing the amazing things you can do with our varying degrees. We distributed pamphlets on career choices and the STAIRSTEP program while also offering interest forms to students who expressed interest in the program. I thoroughly enjoyed attending and seeing the incoming phase of high school students’ eye light up when showcasing the Computer Science’s LEAP Motion device. I believe we made an impact in the minds of those students and hope to see several of them come to Lamar University.

Tim Gonzales