



Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering
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2009 Statewide Math & Science Competition Event Report

Host/Sponsor: Lockheed Martin

Primary Sponsor: Shell Oil Company

Major funding provided by: ConocoPhillips, ABB Inc.



On Friday April 17th, 2009, 284 middle and high school students from ten statewide TAME alliances eagerly arrived in Fort Worth for the Statewide Math & Science Competition. Alliances represented include Amarillo, Dallas, Lubbock, Odessa, San Antonio, Gulf Coast (Houston area), Golden Triangle/Beaumont, Capital Area (Austin), Fort Worth, and Midland. With more than 60 alliance chaperones and dozens of Lockheed Martin volunteers, over 400 people participated in this year's event.

The groups met Friday night at the Lockheed Martin Recreational Facility's River Park Pavilion. Upon their arrival the groups received event t-shirts designed by the winner of TAME's 2009 T-Shirt Design Contest, Gene Burton.

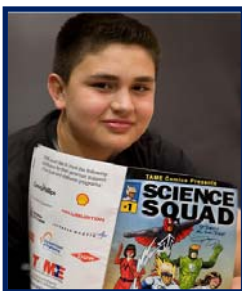


Students were welcomed with a fajita dinner and participated in dance contests and games hosted by DJs of Distinction. Marc McConnell, retired Shell engineer and our key note speaker,, was also present.



Students lined up to sit in the driver's seat of the "WOW" Mobile – the official car of the nationally-recognized "Wipe Out Waste" campaign.

The competition began on Saturday with a welcome address from Lockheed Martin's Bridget Lauderdale, Vice President, F-22 Product Development. The students then took individual math and science exams while a session focusing on "Micro Messaging" was presented for the adults. Directly following the tests and adult session, all the participants had lunch and toured the facility. The students were thrilled to learn how Lockheed Martin manufactures aircraft.



TAME's newest statewide program, TAME Comics, was officially launched during this year's Math and Science Competition. The students and volunteers were first to be introduced to the Science Squad, five diverse TAME students who become superheroes to defeat the villain du' jour. These high school students use their math and science skills to overcome challenges throughout the story with the help of their mentor, a time traveling professor. In the afternoon, students were able to meet Science Squad's writer, Alan Porter, and receive personally signed copies of the premiere issue.



This year the Team Design Challenge was designed and facilitated by volunteers Andy Deck and Daryl Ellis of National Instruments. Contestants were placed in teams and tasked with constructing an aircraft using limited materials. The planes were propelled by a rubber band launcher. The objective was to carry the most units of freight (golf ball sized wiffle balls) a distance of at least 10 feet. The winning team devised an aircraft that carried an astounding 32 balls. An additional prize was awarded to the middle and high school teams with the most creative design. The teams exhibited a great deal of imagination along with problem solving and engineering skills to complete the assignment.

After the Team Design Challenge entries were judged, it was time for the Awards Ceremony. Marc McConnell inspired the group by highlighting the amazing contributions that engineers have made to our world. He shared stories about many of the interesting projects he has been involved with as an engineer and several of the places he has travelled to throughout his career.



During the award ceremony the ever popular raffle drawings were held. Our friends at National Instruments, IBM, ConocoPhillips, Shell Oil Company, and Lockheed Martin donated giveaway items, allowing more than 15 lucky door-prize ticket holders to leave with cool items like backpacks, hats, even a \$50 gift card. Contest winners were announced and received trophies and medals. When the ceremony ended, students received commemorative goody bags.

Data collected from event evaluations showed 96% of the participants rated this year's contest "Excellent" or "Good" and 95% of students hope to participate again next year. When asked to complete the sentence, "I'll tell my friends about..." students had this to say:

"...how fun the team challenge was and the inspiring spirit of the adult engineers." –middle school student

"...the tour. I've never been to Lockheed Martin and this has introduced me to the wonders of aerospace engineering." –high school student

"...the community of students and sponsors was wonderful. I appreciate the sponsors taking their time for us." –high school student

"...this was a life-changing experience." –middle school student



For over thirty years, TAME has made a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of K-12 students across the state, encouraging their interest in math and science and engaging them with quality programs and events like TAME's Statewide Math and Science Contest.

This event would not have been possible without the funding, volunteers and services provided by TAME's wonderful partners at Lockheed Martin and Shell Oil Company, along with major funding from ConocoPhillips and ABB Inc, and additional support from ADDC Foundation, Cockrell School of Engineering at UT Austin, Dow Chemical Company, National Instruments, and Enterprise Rent-a-Car Foundation. We appreciate all the support! Together, we provided an experience our participants will not soon forget.

A list of winners can be found on TAME's website at www.tame.org.

Sincerely,

Shari Getz
Executive Director