



Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering
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Report: TAME Trailblazer Trip – Houston and vicinity
April 3-7, 2006
Funded by ConocoPhillips, Shell Oil Company, TTOI



Thanks to funding received from ConocoPhillips, Shell Oil Company and TTOI, **nearly 800 students** in the Houston and Beaumont area were given the opportunity to experience the Trailblazer, our 40 foot mobile science and engineering exhibit trailer.



We began our 5-day trip at Hodges Bend Middle School in west Houston. Sponsored by our friends at

ConocoPhillips, employee volunteers came out to help introduce students to the wonders of science and engineering. The school was very appreciative of the visit and had only one comment – stay longer next time! We will do our best, Hodges Bend!



Next stop–Revere Middle School where several of our local Houston alliance members (GCTAME) stopped by to join in the fun. Again, ConocoPhillips employees helped out by acting as tour guides and interacting with the students.

Wednesday, we were thrilled to be able to visit Attucks Middle School for our 2nd year in a row, thanks to TTOI! Wanda Porter and her Vista volunteer, Pam, were only too

happy to show the many eager students through the Trailblazer.



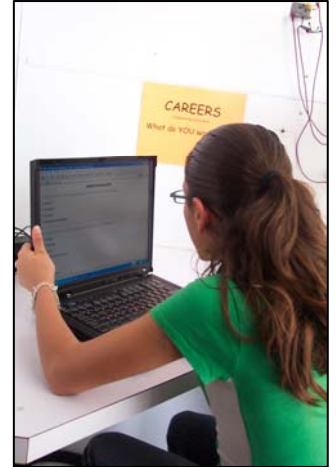
Thursday, it was off to nearby Woodson Middle School. Again, our friends at TTOI were on hand to work with students at this school we had had the good fortune to visit the year before.



Shell Oil Company was responsible for providing the funding necessary to get the Trailblazer to the Port Arthur area for the first time ever! Shell employees were on-site, and even provided giveaway items to each visitor. The teachers and students at Port Arthur's Travis Elementary were very grateful. We even received several beautiful thank-you notes saying so! Annie Carter, Chair of TAME's Golden Triangle alliance, helped coordinate the event with the school and volunteered. Everyone worked really hard to make the experience memorable!



We would be remiss to neglect thanking our hardworking board members, Emanuel Guidry and Michael Nevels, both of whom provided their honed driving skills to help TAME with the complex logistics involved in the 5-day adventure. Some of the parking areas were a bit on the crowded side, so believe me when I say, it took skill!



Evaluation forms were distributed to the teachers and students. Of the near 800 who toured, we received 388 completed evaluations. Of the 388 responses, 49% stated they liked science before visiting the Trailblazer. That number jumped to a whopping 89% when asked how they felt about science AFTER visiting the Trailblazer! And 91% hope to have the opportunity to tour the Trailblazer again. Clearly a success!



When asked to complete the sentence “I enjoyed visiting the TAME Trailblazer because...” several students provided an answer. Some comments of interest include:

- “...I learned I want to be an architectural engineer”
- “...it was very informative and I think I want to be an engineer”
- “...there were so many things I didn’t know about”
- “...I want to be a scientist when I grow up and the Trailblazer teaches me the way of science”

TAME’s Trailblazer program continues to be an important outreach tool. Encouraging young people to equate science with fun is a challenge, but one we seem to be meeting every time TAME and the passionate supporters it attracts dedicate time to our most important natural resource – our children. Together with the continued efforts of our longtime supporters and active partners such as Shell Oil Company, ConocoPhillips, TTOI, Dow Chemical Company, University of Texas at Austin, Halliburton, IBM, and many others, it is truly amazing what an impact we can have on our students – and future engineers!



Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Shari Getz
Executive Director

