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**Report: TAME Trailblazer Trip – Alief Middle School**  
**November 7, 2006**  
*Funded by Shell Oil Company*

Thanks to funding received from Shell Oil Company, **168 students** from Alief Middle School in Houston were given the unique opportunity to experience the TAME Trailblazer, a 40-foot mobile science and engineering exhibit trailer.



Thanks to the willingness of area Shell employees, volunteers came out in force to help introduce students to the wonders of science and engineering. Shell employees Danette Zdansky &



Terri Drabik-O'Reilley helped arrange for the event and Terri brought giveaway items for each appreciative student and teacher, and food and beverages for each grateful volunteer!

Incorporating volunteers from sponsor companies allows the opportunity for the students to interact with engineers and other professionals currently working in fields they may wish to explore. Providing exposure to career opportunities is an important outcome of the trailer program experience. Equally valuable is the experience volunteers get from interacting with and encouraging each student. Volunteers often tell me how much they appreciate having the chance to inspire so many young people and make a direct connection that may one day result in the pursuit of a science or engineering-related career.



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

*“...I learned new things without getting bored.”*

*“...it was fun and I shocked a lot of people.”*

*“...I got to learn more about science and it was fun!”*

*“...it makes engineering accessible and fun.” - Teacher*

TAME’s Trailblazer program continues to be an important outreach tool, encouraging excitement about science and engineering. TAME and the passionate supporters it attracts devote time and energy 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, Texas Education Agency, 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

