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Report:
TAME Trailblazer Trip - West Briar Middle School
May 12, 2005
Sponsored by Shell Oil Company



On Thursday, May 12, 2005, the TAME Trailblazer visited West Briar Middle School in Houston and served **106 students**, including one group of 6 special education students. Thanks to Terri Drabik-O'Reilley of Shell for her assistance and for providing us with 5 other wonderful Shell volunteers – you were all absolutely invaluable!

Originally scheduled to visit Holland Middle School, a last-minute cancellation required quick action on the part of Reagan Flowers at West Briar. Lucky for us (and for West Briar's students!), she was able to organize the tours and get it approved all in a 3-day period! We are ever grateful to her and Mr. Castro, school principal, for helping us provide the opportunity to West Briar.



Evaluation forms were distributed to the teachers and students along with a special gift provided by Shell. I received most of the completed evaluations by the end of the day, and picked up more on Friday.

I received 93 evaluations in total. Below is the actual tally for four of the questions posed:

	Absolutely!	Pretty much	Sort of	Nope
BEFORE visiting the Trailblazer, I liked science and engineering...	18	28	36	9
AFTER visiting the Trailblazer, I like science and engineering even more!	42	27	18	5
I learned something new in the Trailblazer.	58	15	10	7
I would like to visit the Trailblazer again.	70	7	9	6



Of particular interest are the responses to the first two statements. Out of 93 completed evaluations, 41 students marked a difference in their "before" answer and their "after" answer, revealing an important and very positive result. In fact, a few of the respondents who answered "nope" when asked about their feelings toward science and engineering before their trailer visit noted a marked change in their attitude toward these fields upon the tour's completion (i.e. from "nope" to "pretty much" or "absolutely" all from one visit!)

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

- ◆ “...it was very fun and interesting and now I like science.”
- ◆ “...I already liked science but this made me love it.”
- ◆ “...it’s a very great place and fun. I would love to go again.”
- ◆ “...it was interesting. I got to learn even more about things I was really interested in. Now I have a deeper knowledge about them.”
- ◆ “...it was fun and we don’t do many things like this in science.”
- ◆ “...it was fun. They had many things I [have] never seen before or known science or math could have. I will never forget this experience.”
- ◆ “...it made something boring exciting.”
- ◆ “...I think it was very fun. People would love to see it.”
- ◆ “...it made learning about science even more fun.”
- ◆ “...I got to learn new things in a fun way.”
- ◆ “...it was awesome and interesting!”
- ◆ “...because it was a hands-on experience.”



One response came from a teacher: “The TAME Trailblazer was really neat because it ties in with the areas in science that the students have learned.”

TAME’s Trailblazer program continues to prove to be an important outreach tool. Encouraging young people to equate science with fun is quite an undertaking. With our continued efforts and those of our supporters and partners such as Shell and Reagan Flowers’ C-STEM, I firmly believe we are making a difference.

Thank you for working with us!

Sincerely,

Shari Getz
Executive Director

