



NEWS RELEASE

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Huntsville Center reaches more than 1,000 students in one-week through outreach

By Jo Anita Miley

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.--In just two outreach events in March, Huntsville Center professionals reached more than 1,000 local students with the message that careers in science, technology, engineering and math are exciting.

The Center visited two schools to provide career information to students.

The National Stem Awareness Program creates a climate for improving educational opportunities for all students, and encourages an increased awareness and interest in science, technology, engineering and math. The Huntsville Center sent speakers to the schools to inspire students toward STEM careers.

Eight Huntsville Center professionals participated in a Career Day hosted by Sparkman Middle School March 10 in Toney, Ala. Speakers led classroom discussions on career exploration, education and training, and their roles on various programs at the Center for the 850 sixth through eighth grade students who attended. Speakers at the event were **Atidya Williams**, Business Management Office; **Lillian Fox** and **Melody Hinkle**, Center Contracting Directorate; **Patrick Haas**, chief of Chemical Demilitarization Directorate; **Neil "Todd" DuVernay** and **Jelani Ingram**, Engineering Directorate; **Jo Anita Miley**, Public Affairs Office; **Darrell "Audwin" Davis**, Resource Management Office and **William Eggleston**, Safety Office.

Shana Winter, school counselor at Sparkman Middle School, who also organized the event, said the event was a huge success. Career Day is designed to help students open their minds to making career choices.

"We are very pleased with Huntsville Centers' participation in today's event. We are grateful that your organization filled eight of the 30 slots available to speakers - this was definitely a plus for our school," Winter said. "The speakers did an excellent job showcasing the various careers at the Corps, and the students learned about jobs that are available at the Huntsville Center location."

In another event, nine Engineering Directorate employees at the Center helped more than 173 students at the First Baptist Child Development Center and Academy celebrate Science Week. March 14-18.

Tony Torres, chief of Systems Cost Division, was the keynote speaker for the kick-off event March 14. Torres spoke to students about why we need more scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians, challenging the students to take more math and science courses to prepare for STEM careers.

“How many of you have heard of astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson? I like to think of him as one of the great heroes of our time -- scientists should be our heroes too,” Torres said. “If you want to be a scientist like him, you have to know how to understand our physical world. You’ll have to take many science and math classes as you prepare for your career. If you choose a STEM career, you can work hard to provide a better way of living for everyone.”

Weeklong activities at the school ended with a Science Fair March 17, where Center employees judged more than 65 individual and group science projects. **April Rafael-Adams, Ryan Bower, Dr. Michelle Crull, Lynn Helms, Eldric Jefferson, Michael Lanier, John Nevels, Marilyn Scott and Jacqueline White**, all of Engineering Directorate judged the projects.

In April, Center employees will participate in two educational outreach opportunities at Moore County High School April 15 in Lynchburg, Tenn., and University Place Elementary School in Huntsville, April 20.

If you are interested in participating in future outreach events, please contact Jo Anita Miley at 256-895-1585.