



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



The Baytown Chamber of Commerce named ExxonMobil BTEC as the 2011 Partner of the Year for its partnership with Robert E. Lee High School. From left are John Noel, ExxonMobil Chemical vice president engineering; Bob Hoskins, chamber Partners in Education chairman; Laura Ramirez of ExxonMobil; Bruce Davis, REL principal; Susan Passmore, REL; Laura Kraus, ExxonMobil Chemical; Laura Reyes, REL; and Dave Jirrels, chamber chairman of the board.

ExxonMobil BTEC, Lee High School named partners of the year

The Baytown Chamber of Commerce announced on May 3 that ExxonMobil BTEC has been named the 2011 Partner of the Year for its outstanding partnership with Robert E. Lee High School.

Through the Partners In Education program, sponsored by the Baytown Chamber of Commerce, businesses are paired with Goose Creek CISD schools depending on resources and needs. Sponsoring organizations plan a number of activities for the students of their schools each month, ranging from tutoring and mentoring programs, to perfect-attendance incentives, to academic incentives, and lunch-buddy programs, to field trips and guest speakers. The Baytown Chamber's Partners In Education program started in 1987 with three partnerships, and has grown to 29 partnerships.

Exxon BTEC has partnered with a Goose Creek CISD school for 22 years. This is the second time ExxonMobil BTEC has been recognized as partner of the year. The first time was in 2002 with San Jacinto Elementary School.

"ExxonMobil BTEC continues to be an outstanding partner year after year," said chamber president and CEO Tracey Wheeler. "Almost every year, they are in the running for Partner of the Year."

"We have an unbelievable relationship with ExxonMobil BTEC. My two academic deans, Laura Reyes and Susan Passmore, have a great relationship with Laura Ramirez from ExxonMobil, and they are all constantly looking for innovative and positive ways to help the students and teachers of Lee High School," said Lee Principal Bruce Davis.

Wheeler noted some highlights of the ExxonMobil BTEC and Lee partnership:

- Kicked off Red Ribbon Week by donating more than 1,700 camouflage bracelets to students and faculty members bearing the inscription, "Drug Free Begins With Me."
- Provided lunch and snacks for Safe Schools Ambassadors training. Safe Schools Ambassadors involves faculty members and selected students identified to be leaders of groups on campus training to encourage others to "do the right thing."
- Delivered more than 11,000 flyers that the company staff produced to advertise REL theatre department's children's play to the elementary schools.
- Helped with the school's wish list by providing several hundred batteries for calculators and four new TI-84 calculators for use in the "in school suspension (ISS). They also provided Kiwanis apples for the school.
- Provided Lee families with gift cards to Food Town for Thanksgiving and four families with gifts from their wish lists for Christmas.

The Baytown Chamber of Commerce began giving the Partner of the Year Award in 1994.

Here is a list of winners:

1994 - Bayer and Bowie Elementary
 1995 - Amoco and Alamo Elementary
 1996 - Chevron Phillips and Crockett Elementary
 1997 - Duke Energy and Highlands Elementary
 1998 - ExxonMobil BOP and Pumphrey Elementary
 1999 - ExxonMobil BOP and Pumphrey Elementary
 2000 - Baytown State Bank and Ashbel Smith Elementary
 2001 - Rhodia and Carver Elementary
 2002 - ExxonMobil BTEC and San Jacinto Elementary
 2003 - LCY Elastomers and Harlem Elementary
 2004 - Community Resource Credit Union/Lamar Elementary
 2005 - CenterPoint Energy and Gentry Jr. School
 2006 - ExxonMobil Refinery and Travis Elementary
 2007 - Kiwanis Club of Baytown/Alamo Elementary
 2008 - Bayer and Bowie Elementary
 2009 - Exxon Research & Engineering and Cedar Bayou Jr. School
 2010 - Community Resource Credit Union and Lamar Elementary
 2011 - ExxonMobil BTEC and Lee High School

To start 2011, ExxonMobil BTEC set a goal to increase its support to the school to help accomplish student success, college and career planning, and safety, Wheeler said.

To help with student success, ExxonMobil BTEC folks provided snacks and water for students and supplied lunch for the faculty and staff during TAKS.

In an effort to reach all students with the information about college and career planning, diversity groups from the partner's company planned programs. Approximately 12 members of BEST (Black Employee Success Team) set up displays of inventions by African Americans and interacted with students in the Commons during lunch for Black History Month, providing information about educational opportunities and careers, as well as serving as positive role models for the students.

Students received a boost with making college and career decisions when a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) conference was sponsored by GOAL (Global Organization for the Advancement of Latinos) network on the school campus. ExxonMobil BTEC employees gave students information about careers involving science, technology, engineering and math, along with scholarship information. Students from all three high schools, along with many parents, attended the event held on a Saturday in February.

Another diversity group from ExxonMobil BTEC, WIN (Women's Interest Network) conducted a panel discussion in March with approximately 30 young ladies from Lee who were interested in pursuing careers involving math and science. Focusing on overcoming obstacles to be successful, the WIN group provided an interactive session and a delicious lunch.

If you are interested in becoming a Partner In Education, contact the Baytown

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