



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Lee High School student attends summer program in geosciences at Texas A&M



Madison Toles attended GeoX, a week-long program that introduces students to the academic subjects and career options in geosciences.

Madison Toles was one of 20 high school students who attended GeoX, a week-long program to introduce promising students to the academic subjects and career options in geosciences. This was the first year for GeoX, and it follows the highly rated iGeo experience, which is a long weekend in the fall, which also introduce interested students to the College of Geosciences at Texas A&M.

"GeoX is designed to give the participants their first step to a successful college experience and a long and productive career in the geosciences," said Dr. Sonia Garcia, director of recruitment for the College of Geosciences.

Individual and corporate donations provided the funds to cover room, board, field trips, and student counselors. Faculty and staff volunteered their time. The students were from schools ranging from Baytown, Bellville and Galveston to San Antonio, Laredo and Houston.

"Minorities and women are historically underrepresented in the geosciences," said Dr. Kate Miller, dean. "One of the college's goals is to ensure that our graduates not only contribute to the future workforce of Texas but also reflect its population and diversity."

In addition to being introduced to geology, geophysics, meteorology, geography, oceanography and environmental programs, the students also took to the road. They learned the characteristics of a meandering river and measured its velocity and discharge.

They visited the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center in Baytown and sampled wave currents in Galveston. In Houston, they toured BP headquarters and learned about geoscience careers from industry executives.

When not on the road, students stayed in Aston Residence Hall and ate meals on campus and at popular Aggie dining spots around town. "We gave them the full Aggie treatment," Garcia said, adding that the students also had time at the recreation center, swimming pool and around campus.

Students also learned what steps to take to become an Aggie, with representatives from admissions, the honors program, financial aid, study abroad and Fish Camp to help them make the transition.

More than 20 professors and graduate students were on hand to show the students the many facets of geosciences, from launching a weather balloon to visiting the Gulf Coast Repository at the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program. Geography professor Chris Houser led the academic program.

GeoX is the newest component in Geosciences' pipeline program, an initiative that identifies promising students in junior high and high schools and mentors them throughout their academic career. "Many—if not most—are the first in their families to attend college," Garcia notes. "It can be difficult to navigate the admissions process. We want to help students enter a top-rate university like Texas A&M and to be successful."

Contributions from BP America, Houston; James Benham '01, president, JB Knowledge Technologies, Bryan; Timothy Bryan '72, CEO of Bank & Trust, Bryan; Chris Dailey '93, CEO of Dailey Electric, Bryan; Eddie V. Gray, president, Gray Enterprises, Baytown; and Guy Matthews, Guy Matthews and Associates, Houston, funded the all-expenses-paid program.

For information about next summer's GeoX 2012, this fall's iGeo 2011 or other recruitment opportunities, contact [Dr. Sonia Garcia](#) (979 845 3651).

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