



College Series a Success at Jefferson Davis H.S.

By Teri Houle
 2008-2009 SHPE Outreach Chairperson

SHPE Houston hosted a 3-part series at the Davis High School to help high school seniors become knowledgeable about the transition from high school to college

Davis H.S. is a traditional low-income high school where statistically, most of the students do not continue on to graduate college. All 3 nights, over the course of 3 months in the fall, should give the students a review of what they need for college and it also gives them an opportunity to discuss it with successful Hispanic college graduates.

Dinner and drinks were provided by SHPE at these events. Flyers were put up by the college advisor in the hallway and sent out prior to the event to notify the students. For the 1st half hour there were introductions and people ate food. The first of three events was to help students think about going to college and help them chose a major. After that, the meeting started and there was a presentation that lasted about an hour, along with the professionals giving their personal stories and advice throughout the time. When the presentation was finished, the students had the opportunity to ask more questions from the professionals. The question and answer lasted for about 30 minutes.

The focus of the second event was to help students apply for colleges and financial aid. Tips for the SAT were also discussed. For the first 15 minutes, we ate food and introduced ourselves. After that, the meeting started and there was a short presentation that lasted another 15 minutes. When the presentation was finished, the SHPE members reviewed essays for the students that brought them. The students that did not bring their essays talked informally on a 1-1 or 2-1 basis with the Professional members about various college topics.

The third and final event was to help students edit essays. The focus was on tips for writing application and scholarship essay. With the final event, I think we found the most effective way to interact with the students. I think the one on one activity worked best so that they could relax and ask the questions that they wanted. I think this should try to be incorporated in all 3 sessions next year. Also, the food was pizza, soda and pumpkin empanadas. The empanadas were a big hit, we should get more next time.

I think next year the focus should be on making a large impact on a smaller amount of people rather than a small impact on a larger group of students. Maybe the students should be recruited or recommended by their teachers to participate. Another big recommendation would be to start earlier in the year, because November seemed too late to start on essays. We should try to be proactive and maybe even start in the spring with the juniors thinking about schools.



Teri Houle and Christina Tapia address students in a casual Q&A



Do you know of a High School that could benefit from a program like the Jefferson Davis HS College Series?? Please send your suggestions to Outreach@shpehouston.org



SHPE member, Jesse Herrera, prepares to present his portion of the College Prep discussion.

PREVIOUS EVENTS

GENERAL MTGs – At one of our last meetings, member Jessie Herrera, offered a discussion regarding the in's & out's of Patent Law. Jessie is a lawyer currently practicing Intellectual Property Law with Patterson & Sheridan. Since many of us are working in high tech areas, the topic seemed fitting for several members. The talk inspired some great discussion among the membership.

Noche de Ciencias – This year our chapter participated in a SHPE national effort to reach out to 100 people during Hispanic Heritage month. The NdC program was sponsored by AHTEAMS. All material was provided, it was just up to our chapter to organize and execute an event. Our event was held at Hamilton M.S. in the Houston Heights area. Hamilton is a magnet school with a science & math focus (70%+ Hispanic). The event consisted of three projects for students, and informal presentations for parents covering college preparation and financial aid. Photo's of the event are to right.



KIPP – Members served as science fair judges. The chapter awarded two students with gift cards for the most impressive projects (Photo to left).

COLLEGE SERIES – By December 2008 SHPE-Houston completed a three part college series with Jefferson Davis HS students. For a full wrap up see feature article.

CHRISTMAS DINNER – This year we had a very small group for our annual

dinner. Every year our chapter holds an annual Christmas dinner and we usually double the event as a toy drive. For 2009 we will try to promote this event to encourage more members to participate and have fun!

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Have you checked out our new chapter calendar?? Visit our website to stay update on chapter activities.

Please check our website for the date and location of the next meeting and don't forget to mark your calendars!



Araceli Fernandez works with students to build a rubber band car out of CD's and other material.

2008-2009 SHPE Houston Leadership Team

Rubi Medina, President
Mechanical Engineer, John Crane Inc.
Isaac Tapia, Vice President
Petroleum Engineer, Hess Corp.
José De La Peña, Treasurer
Civil Engineer, Klotz & Associates
Jennifer Tabullo Valencia, Secretary
Chemical Engineer
Teri Houle, Outreach
Subsea Power Engineer, Chevron
Christina Tapia, Student Affairs
Geophysicist, ExxonMobil
Lori Cano/Araceli Fernandez,
Social/Nominations
Ever Hernandez, Editor/Membership
Subsea Engineer, Chevron
Jose Garcia, Promotions
Marketing, Caterpillar
Gabriel Valencia, Webmaster
Electrical Engineer, HP



Building airplanes out of Styrofoam was a hit as Juniper Jairala and Lori Cano help students during 2008 Noche de Ciencias at Hamilton M.S.

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