

Outreach Activity Report, August-October 2015

At-A-Glance

Events:	12
Event participants:	~2100
Number of schools visited:	14
Student tour visits:	9

Events

During the reporting period, I participated in or coordinated (*) 12 events plus 1 orientation session.

- Oak Ridge Graduate Student Fair
- Jackson County STEM Teachers Visit
- Week of Welcome CoSmic Beginning Bash*
- RCEU Open House
- APPLE Student Training
- Madison County Guidance Counselors Breakfast
- Madison County College Fair
- Birmingham NACAC
- Charger Preview
- Rocket City Weather Fest
- Girls' Science & Engineering Day
- College of Science Picnic*

School Visits

I doubled the number of high school visits from this reporting period last year. I established a training session for the HudsonAlpha APPLE high school outreach program, and we have solid participation from our students this year (although decreased from our high number of volunteers last year).

School visits have included talking to classrooms, meeting with guidance counselors, and speaking at a meeting of science teachers (James Clemens High School). I have developed a presentation style for classroom talks that brings value to the teachers and students, and it has been very well received. I will continue to evolve and expand these presentations.

Other Recruitment and Outreach Activities

I continue to coordinate with the local STEM outreach community group, and I am a member of the UAH's new outreach working group.

I volunteered and worked the Girls' Science and Engineering Day, which provided me with several ideas and lessons for the next Science Olympiad.

The brochures are still not completed due to delays.

Student Retention

The primary focus of my student retention work this period was increasing participation in departmental student groups. To this end, I provided sign-up sheets at our Week of Welcome event, which resulted in increased interest among incoming students and the departments. I took on the role of staff advisor for the Biology club, which is now very active after 1.5 years of inactivity. In addition, the Student Chapter of the American Chemical Society is also active after several years of inactivity. Starting up a new Computer Science club will be the next step.

I have uncovered an opportunity to be certified as a Peer Support Specialist, which will provide the college and the university with additional support and a resource for students who are having difficulties with mental illness and/or addiction. I will be certified at the end of October.

Next Period Goals

My focus on the period of November-December will include:

- Complete brochures
- Update website to include media log, gaming program site, and updated advising resources
- Coordinate 2 UAH Discovery Days (formerly Open House)
- Develop focused outreach and communication plan that brings value to the college
- Continue increased level of high school visits focusing on successful presentation model developed for science classes
- Produce grant proposals for science student retention and programming
- Develop better office communication strategy to increase productivity and issue resolution
- Uncover professional deficiencies and request additional training and development