

Outreach Activity Report, November-December 2015

At-A-Glance

Events:	4
Event participants:	~200
Number of schools visited:	3
Student tour visits:	3

Events

During the reporting period, I participated in or coordinated (*) 4 events.

- 2 Discovery Days *
- James Clemens High School STEM Career Day *
- Palmetto Scholars Academy Visit

School Visits

The number of high schools visited during this reporting time compared to last year was less than half (3 this year versus 7 last year). This decrease was primarily due to an increase in events and a decrease in the number of APPLE labs.

I coordinated a STEM Career Day for James Clemens High School at the request of their teachers. Pre-Professional Advising, the College of Engineering, and the College of Science advisors all participated. However, student interest in the hour-long event was limited; and this type of event will not be a model for future outreach activities.

Other Recruitment and Outreach Activities

The College hosted 2 Discovery Days during November. Both were successfully set up and run, despite confusion over the scheduling for the day and when our guests would arrive. In addition, I provided a presentation and tour for a group of 25 STEM-focused high school students visiting from South Carolina.

I created an outreach plan and calendar for Spring 2016 to include writing grants to expand our outreach to underrepresented minorities and first-generation college students. In addition, Marketing & Communications has completed their brochure templates so brochures should be completed by March 2016.

Student Retention

I completed my certification as a Certified Peer Support Specialist, and I reviewed with our advisors how best to serve students experiencing addiction and/or mental health issues (with a focus on local resources). I continued to work with BioSoc to increase their activities, which have included a Halloween fundraiser, a tour of HudsonAlpha, and a tour of the CDC. I continue to push for support in setting the Computer Science Club back up.

In order to better serve our students, I have begun reviewing our advising materials and website. As registration has been moved up a month earlier this semester (and as our orientation numbers have increased,), I will expand my advising role in the college, focusing on training students to self-advise. One major goal in this regard is to establish academic advising FAQ pages for each major.

Next Period Goals

My focus on the period of January-March 2016 will include:

- Complete brochures
- Update website to include updated advising resources and a gaming program site
- Increase academic advising competencies
- Uncover grant and funding opportunities for the college's outreach activities, including working with the UAH Proposal Development group
- Coordinate the college's activities in the 2016 North Alabama Science Olympiad and a Charger Preview
- Assist the college in their accreditation review activities