

Groundhog Student Job-Shadowing Day Best Practice – 2005 North Texas Tech Prep

A best practice in the North Texas Region which has been ongoing for nine years is Groundhog Job Shadowing Day and it has been very successful. For the ninth year, Punxsutawney Phil as well as employers in the North Texas Region saw their shadow. On February 2, 2005, students and employers from all walks of life spent one day shadowing scientists, firefighters, graphic designers, mechanics, doctors, architects, teachers, government employees, and workers from hundreds of other professions in order to experience the workplace firsthand.

“Groundhog Job Shadowing Day provides the unique opportunity to make the world of work come alive for young people” stated Romona Vaughan, Tech Prep Director. “Students get to see how academic and technical skills are applied in the workplace and are inspired and motivated by successful adults.”

Groundhog Job Shadowing Day shows young people that adults care about their future. It is a great opportunity for adults to demonstrate the link between school and the workplace, and really give students hands-on experience of what it takes to succeed in a profession or industry.

Over 700 students shadowed from 25 schools this year. Schools participating were: Archer City, Bowie, Byers, Burkburnett, Chillicothe, City View, Electra, Holiday, Iowa Park, Midway, Newcastle, Northside, Olney, Paducah, Petrolia, Prairie Valley, Quanah, Saint Jo, Throckmorton, Vernon, Windthorst, and Wichita Christian School. Wichita Falls high schools participating were : Hirschi, Rider, and Wichita Falls High School. Sheppard Air Force Base had 63 students shadowing 43 people learning more on careers available in the military.

“Spending a day with a professional on the job showed the students what it takes to succeed. It is one thing to say, I want to be a Physical Therapist. It is another to make the connection that working hard in school is the first step toward achieving that goal”, said Peggy Knaup, Assistant Tech Prep Director. “Groundhog Job Shadowing gives the students an opportunity to explore a career they may be interested in for their future” says Stacey Adams, Tech Prep Assistant.

Tech Prep is looking forward next year to Groundhog Job Shadowing Day marking the 10th year.

For more information visit the North Texas Tech Prep website at www.waurika.net/ntp/