

Career Safari – It’s a Jungle Out There!
Best Practice – 2005
North Texas Tech Prep Consortium

One of the North Texas Tech Prep Consortiums best practices is a “Career Safari – It’s A Jungle Out There!” for 8th grade students. This year’s event was held at the Multi-Purpose Events Center on February 22, 2005. The career Expo offered 8th grade students from 11 counties in the North Texas Region twelve sessions on different careers available in the North Texas Region with the students attending 6 sessions. Vernon College instructors and business partners from the North Texas Region conducted sessions telling about the training available at Vernon College with business partners telling students about the daily activities of a particular career, how school subjects relate to that career, and how to start preparing for their future in that career now. Careers being discussed were Criminal Justice, Office Technology, Health Information Technology, Aviation, Nursing & Rehabilitation, Computer Aided Drafting and Design, Electronics/Electricity, Computer & Information Sciences, Automotive Technology, Fire Fighting/Emergency Medical Services, State Police, Forensic Science, and Manufacturing Technology/Welding.

A session was conducted by the Iowa Park GO Center from Iowa Park High School. GO Centers are being implemented in high schools and communities across the state to help recruit students into higher education. GO Centers help students find a variety of resources to help them better prepare and plan for college. High school and collegiate G-Forces assist students in finding information and exploring options. G-Force students from each school help through peer mentoring students to help them understand the importance of college. Iowa Park G-Force members helped the 8th grade students understand the importance of going on for higher education after graduation from high school and the importance of setting goals. Thank you to Iowa Park GO Center for volunteering to help students understand these concepts.

Thank you to the following Vernon College instructors and local business partners for volunteering their time to help 8th grade students learn about various career options: Vernon College: Linda Kalski, Lynn Kalski, Ron Wilson, Mark Holcomb, Sharon Wallace, Al Garcia, and Gene Nessel. Business partners volunteering were: Officer Steve Carroll, Wichita Falls Police Department, Major Nolan, Doug Russell, Capt. Forino, pilots from Sheppard Air Force Base, Michelle Fielder and John Fritsch, Wichita Valley Rehabilitation Hospital, Ken Dowdy, Bundy, Young, Simms, and Potter Architects, Jim Stevens, Evans Enterprises, Inc., Horace Tipton, Patterson Auto Center, State Trooper Garcia and Jim Blundell, Texas Department of Public Safety, and Mary Cheney, Burkburnett High School instructor.

There were seventeen (17) schools in the North Texas Region that participated: They were: Throckmorton, Nocona, Henrietta, Forestburg, Burkburnett, Prairie Valley, City View, McNiel, Electra, Northside, Kirby, Saint Jo, Crowell, Windthorst, Paducah, Iowa Park, and Chillicothe.

The “Career Safari – It’s A Jungle Out There!” was a great opportunity for 8th grade students to hear about different career options from Vernon College and business professionals. The information students heard helped them make informed career choices for their future.

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