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Middle School Students to Participate in STEM Conference

Conference to promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers

Las Vegas, NV —Students from Harney Middle School will participate in a half-day conference on January 31, 2014, designed to promote careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The conference will take place at the Cheyenne campus of the College of Southern Nevada from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

The STEM Conference is a collaborative effort between CSN, the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), Clark County School District's GEAR UP Program and the Nevada System of Higher Education. About 120 students, ages 11 to 13, are expected to participate.

"We are always excited to have our students receive practical knowledge about subjects they learn in school," said Stan Hall, director of Career Technical Education for CCSD. "This is a valuable experience for these young people to interact with professionals who work in careers that they aspire to."

The objectives of the STEM conference are to increase awareness of STEM college majors and careers and to encourage youth to take college preparatory math and science courses in high school to prepare for related careers.

"Many students don't understand what careers require knowledge in science, math, engineering and technology, so we want to expose them to those careers," said CSN President Dr. Michael Richards. "We want students coming away from this conference excited about these subjects and interested in such career fields as engineering and computer science."

Students will have the opportunity to interact with professionals who have STEM-related careers. Workshops will give students greater knowledge about job duties of STEM-related professions.

"Having a workforce trained in STEM-related disciplines is extremely important to economic diversification for Nevada," said Frank Woodbeck, DETR director. "Partnerships between workforce development and education are important to Nevada's future. We must develop a diverse workforce in order to attract companies who need employees with high competency in science, technology, engineering and math."

Woodbeck said more STEM conferences will be planned statewide to expose as many youth to STEM-related careers as possible.

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