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Students to Participate in STEM Conference at NSC

Las Vegas, NV —Students from Harney Middle School will participate in a half-day conference on February 28, 2014 at 9:30 a.m., designed to promote careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The conference will take place at Nevada State College (NSC) in the Liberal Arts and Sciences building. Another group of students from Harney participated in the STEM conference held at CSN in January.

The STEM Conference is a collaborative effort between NSC, 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.

“This is an important endeavor for our students who are interested in obtaining a greater understanding about STEM related careers, said Stan Hall, director of Career Technical Education for CCSD. “They may not otherwise have the opportunity to interact with professionals with such diverse backgrounds.”

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.

“We are pleased to welcome these young people to our campus to help them further develop an understanding and appreciation for careers that require an aptitude in science, math, engineering and technology,” said Bart Patterson, NSC president. “We hope this will be a rewarding and enlightening experience for these students as they begin to prepare for their future beyond middle and high school.”

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.