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Houston PREP Teachers Visit Ed Center and SDSC

Texas EOT Program Focuses on Minority Outreach

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO -- Between February 19 and 22, 1999, a group of teachers--led by Richard Alo, Director of the Center for Computational Sciences and Advanced Distributed Simulation (CCSDS), and Sangeeta Gad, Director of Houston PREP program--visited San Diego. Their goal was to explore classrooms making innovative use of technology and to experiment with cutting-edge technologies that might enhance the PREP program.

The Houston Pre-Freshman Enrichment Program Houston (PREP) is a summer enrichment, pre-college program for socially and economically disadvantaged students in middle and high school. Students with an interest in Computer Science, Mathematics or Engineering participate and receive educational enrichment opportunities to prepare them for advanced study and careers in these areas. Program instructors Jeffrey Derry, Deborah Tolivar, Sylvester Morris, and Yash Gad--who also run the academic-year program, Saturday PREP--have a mission to enhance the program using a NASA Pre-College Award for Excellence in Mathematics, Science, Engineering, and Technology.

On Friday, the group visited the Education Center on Computational Science and Engineering (EC/CSE) on the San Diego State University (SDSU) campus. Kris Stewart, director of the Center, gave an in depth presentation on activities that could be used to enhance Houston PREP. Kris Stewart invited STEP alumnus, Steve Bartram, to give a presentation on his daily use of technology in his Marine Science class at Rancho Buena Vista High School.



Houston PREP teachers, former STEP teachers, Stewart, and Theresa Ott of SDSC discuss the application of technology in the classroom.

In order to observe technology integration in action, the teachers visited Robert North, also a STEP alumnus, at Hoover High. Hoover reflects the inner-city population of San Diego, one that greatly resembles the students who participate in Houston PREP. Vice-Principal, Denis Dolby, described the process the school followed in

order to gain a special reading computer lab, and the computer labs used by teachers like North. North, like Bartram, has had great success integrating technology in his chemistry curriculum and offered his advice on that process to the Houston group.

On the last day of the trip, the group visited SDSC in order to have a day of hands-on computer time. They explored and experimented with sites and activities they gathered from various sources around San Diego.

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