

COOL Update

The COOL Program is keeping busy! We have taken students from all high schools to tour Tarleton State University, ACU, Texas State, HSU, and McMurry. We have seven more college tours scheduled between now and December. We hosted the 10th annual College and Technical School Fair on Monday, October 2 at the Abilene Convention Center. 53 colleges, universities, and community organizations set up tables and hundreds of students and parents came to visit with the admissions representatives and gain valuable knowledge about their schools and admissions requirements. This event continues to be a wonderful success for everyone who attends. For the second year, we added a Financial Aid booth that was manned by area Financial Aid representatives. They stayed busy all night answering questions about all things Financial Aid. This is a unique addition to our fair and we look forward to continuing this tradition. Elementary and middle school classroom workshops are starting to take place as well. We hosted our first 5th grade pep rally at Lee Elementary on October 10 and have several more scheduled for the rest of the year.

Here are a few campus highlights:

Abilene High School – Hannah Holmes

- Attended UT/Texas A&M/TSTC Counselor updates
- Classroom presentations to 12 senior English classes, also met with the basketball team
- Presented at: Senior and Junior Parent Meetings and Senior and Junior class meetings
- Hosted ACU Early Admission Reception
- Hosted Lubbock Christian, Baylor, and Austin Community College on campus

ATEMS High School – Dustin West

- Presented weekly question & answer sessions with senior classes about college admissions and financial aid
- Invited several colleges to give presentations to seniors
- Will be hosting a FAFSA night at the end of October

Woodson Center for Excellence – Dustin West

- Hosted first “College Symposium” with the topic of “Which College Fits You?” 26 students attended and asked questions and followed up in the days after
- Invited several college recruiters to speak with students about possible career options
- Will be hosting FAFSA night in early November

Cooper High School – LaQuiera Gantt

- Classroom presentations are going very well
- Many students are using the hour long “MegaLunch” to work on college applications
- Helped several parents with the FAFSA (which opened on October 1)
- Coordinated the Senior Parent Meeting and had great attendance



Left: The COOL Counselors on a very rainy tour of Texas State University.

Right: ACU Early Acceptance event at AHS. These students submitted their college applications to ACU before September 1 and were accepted early.



Left: An excellent turnout for the 10th annual College and Technical School Fair at the Abilene Convention Center on October 2.