

Preparing Students for Nontraditional Fields

Lake Region State College – Women into Auto Technology

Lake Region State College hosted an auto tech academy for young women, providing an opportunity for women to explore the career of automotive diagnosis and repair in a non-threatening atmosphere. Guest speakers at the event included an owner/operator of two GM dealerships and a service manager, both female role models. The service manager shared her personal career story of starting out in a parts delivery job.

Lake Region State College – Men Into Nursing

Lake Region State College hosted a multifaceted program to attract and retain men into the nursing program. Engaging the assistance of male nursing students, program staff set a number of goals for the program. They bolstered Lake Region's media campaign by including direct testimony of male graduates who are strong advocates of the nursing field; they hosted Nurse Camp for Kids complete with hands-on skill stations in areas such as first aid, alternative therapies, and visits to local medical facilities; and they hosted 28 seventh grade students from Fort Totten Middle School for a Nurse Academy Day. Students enjoyed activities/presentations in the following areas: injections, dressing changes, vital signs, and head to toe assessment. The students used lifelike manikins with tissue disturbances and sounds as well as other program equipment.

Minot Public Schools

Diva Tech and Define Your Dream were among the many activities launched by Minot Public Schools to promote awareness and interest in nontraditional careers. The national award winning Diva Tech Program featured a wide range of hands on opportunities for girls in grades 8-11. The students could choose to learn how to frame a wall, create a web page, learn about what makes engines run, learn to paint car panels and hammer out dents, design their own nameplates using a plasma arc, or sandblast a mirror.

Define Your Dream, targeting middle school girls, was designed to foster an understanding of the role of math, science, problem solving and communication in the world of work, and to meet and learn from successful female role models. Define Your Dream featured a wide variety of careers. Among them: dentist, agronomist, electrician, attorney, veterinarian and crime fighter.

North Valley Career and Technical Center

The North Valley CTC set out to impact awareness of students, parents and patrons. Parent night featured a "What's My Line" type of panel, featuring a female fighter pilot, a female farmer, a female aircraft maintenance specialist, and a male registered nurse. Parents were then engaged in learning about career planning and transitions to high school and college. In addition, a "Techsploration Program" featuring machine tooling, construction technology, video editing and auto technology was hosted for girls in area schools in grades 7, 8 and 9. Techsploration was enhanced by the use of high school girls serving in role model/mentoring capacities.

Turtle Mountain Community College

TMCC offered female students from five area high schools an opportunity to earn places in the Information Technology Career Academy through a selection process involving essays, scholastic ability and local recommendations. The Academy consisted of ten weeks of after school sessions on all aspects of the IT industry. The sessions consisted of a presentation of theory followed by hands-on activities. Enjoyed most by the students were sessions in computer networking, GIS/GPS, building a computer, and recording studio technology. The TMCC project engaged the assistance of a number of student mentors who were able to help the students make the most of their learning experiences.

Williston Public Schools

Rosie the Riveter, Revisited, was enjoyed by eighty three female students, who had the opportunity to learn about four different nontraditional fields: automotive technology, aviation, the petroleum industry, and Cisco Systems. Two female role models made presentations during lunch, one an engineer and the other,

a police officer. The students were also afforded the opportunity to job shadow at local businesses and industries such as Amerada Hess, Ryan Auto Sales, Murphy Motors, Tractor and Equipment, and the Western Vet Clinic.

Williston State College

The week-long Technology Camp for Girls targeted middle school students, and offered a number of hands-on learning opportunities. Featured activities included a crime scene DNA problem solving activity, programming with Visual Basic, soldering to create sirens, disassembling a working computer and writing detailed instructions to reassemble it. The Camp used a number of excellent resources including Cool Careers for Girls, TechnoKids, and a number of video resources featuring nontraditional careers.

Grand Forks Consortium Schools

Grand Forks staff engaged students and teachers in a wide variety of activities and events throughout the consortium. Girls Tech, with assistance by the UND Society of Women Engineers, planned and delivered hands-on activities to students at the middle school level. The "Switch Days" Program involved 9th, 10th and 11th grade students in an arrangement that switched students from their current CTE class into an alternate CTE class and engaged them in a hands-on lesson. The activity was strategically scheduled to take place prior to January registration and promote interest in nontraditional careers and the courses supporting those careers.

In a similar activity for 8th graders, high school level Technology Education and Life Skills instructors visited classrooms to make students aware of the wide array of CTE elective courses available to them. The twist in this exercise was that the Tech Ed teachers visited the Life Skills classrooms, and vice versa.

Grand Forks teachers also had an opportunity to apply for travel support to expose students to nontraditional careers via tours of local business and industry. Finally, a nontraditional career fair was hosted at Community High School. A number of individuals in nontraditional careers throughout the greater Grand Forks community participated in a "What's My Line" panel presentation. The panel was followed by breakout sessions in

which students were directly exposed to the materials, tools and processes involved in careers ranging from firefighting to cable network installation.