
90K granted to UT for academic programs

Halliburton donation will fund outreach, diversity efforts

Weiwen Ji

Published: Thursday, March 1, 2007

Updated: Friday, January 9, 2009

Three colleges within the University are hopeful that funds totalling \$90,000 by Halliburton, a Houston-based energy-service company, will help increase diversity on campus and give students hands-on exposure in their fields.

Halliburton executives met with representatives from UT last week to discuss the prospect of ongoing funding options, said Kristin Baker, development specialist at the Office of the Vice President for Development. The University announced the donation Wednesday.

The grant will go to eight programs serving students in the Jackson School of Geosciences, the College of Engineering and the McCombs School of Business.

The largest sum of the donation is a \$25,000 grant to the Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering, which will sponsor an outreach program called Camp Bevo, said Timothy Taylor, program coordinator for Camp Bevo and a petroleum and geosciences senior lecturer.

Camp Bevo invites 36 top undergraduate students from the department to the Halliburton Training Center in Duncan, Okla., and two one-week trips are arranged each year, Taylor said.

"Halliburton pays all costs of the program except for bus fares," he said. "The program is designed to offer hands-on experience to students and apply theories they have learned in the classroom."



GeoFORCE Texas, a summer program inviting 8th- to 12th-grade South Texas students to explore geological sites such as the Grand Canyon, received \$20,000 from the company, said John Bird, spokesman for the Jackson School of Geosciences.

"This contribution will go to this outreach program in order to encourage students in South Texas to go to college, especially in math and science majors," Bird said.

According to National Science Foundation statistics in 2000, underrepresented groups, such as women and Hispanics, earned 15 percent of all the U.S. bachelor's degrees in science and engineering, but only 4.6 percent of the degrees awarded in the geosciences.

GeoFORCE Texas seeks to reverse this trend by encouraging more students from diverse backgrounds to earn degrees in math and science and enter the workforce, Bird said.

Lauren Cove, program coordinator at the Red McCombs School of Business, said the McCombs Future Executive Academy received a \$5,000 grant and sent the next year's proposal to Halliburton Tuesday.

The program invites 30 to 50 high school students each summer to spend an all-expense paid week on the campus, networking with faculty, staff and professionals, and building business skills before they enter colleges, Cove said. It aims to allow economically disadvantaged students to go to a business school.

Cove said eight students who joined last year's program were admitted to the business school this fall, and a total of 14 of 21 senior high school students in last year's program were admitted into the University.


Another four programs in the engineering school, and one program in the business school, get the rest of the donation, Baker said.

© 2008, [Texas Student Media](#)

[Cactus Yearbook](#) | [The Daily Texan](#) | [KVRX](#) | [TSTV](#) | [Texas Travesty](#)

[The University of Texas at Austin](#)

PDFs require the free [Adobe Reader](#)® | [Accessibility](#)

Powered by  and 