

Youth and Education

Four Hondo students named to 2007 GeoFORCE class

Four Hondo students are among the 40 outstanding Southwest Texas rising ninth graders recently selected for the GeoFORCE Texas 2007 summer academy.

Allison Boehme, Matthew De Leon, Nicholas Garcia and Sabrina Morin of Hondo's McDowell Junior High were chosen for the summer program designed to inspire students to pursue careers in the geosciences.

The University of Texas at Austin Jackson School of Geosciences manages the GeoFORCE program in partnership with Southwest Texas Junior College. This year, the program received more than 125 applications from 16 school districts throughout Southwest Texas.

The application process requires students to submit a personal essay, letter of recommendation and a personal statement expressing their qualifications for the program. Educators from each district in SWTJC's 11-county service area assist the program in recruiting students.

GeoFORCE Texas encourages students with a high aptitude in math and science to consider careers in the geosciences. The week-long summer academies offer a blend of college preparatory coursework with hands-on field trips to sites of geological interest around the country, at no cost to the students.

Students selected for the program are committed to attend summer academies for four years throughout high school with trips to Washington, D.C., the Grand Canyon, Mt. St. Helens and the Pacific Coast. Students will also have the opportunity to compete for GeoFORCE scholarships and internships after their final summer academy.

With this year's recruits, total participation in GeoFORCE Texas now stands at 240 students. When fully

operational, the program will engage more than 1,000 Southwest Texas students across all grade levels.

For more information about the program, contact Julie Spink, program coordinator at the Jackson School of Geosciences, at jspink.jsg.utexas.edu or visit the GeoFORCE Texas website at <http://www.jsg.utexas.edu/geoforce/>.