



Emily Dabney and JT Morey, Two area students named to 2007 GeoFORCE class

AUSTIN, Texas – Two Rocksprings area students are among the 40 outstanding Southwest Texas rising ninth graders recently selected for the GeoFORCE Texas 2007 summer academy.

Emily Dabney of Rocksprings and JT Morey II of Nueces Canyon 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.

Other area students from Brackettville, Carrizo Springs, Crystal City, Del Rio, Dilley, Eagle Pass, Hondo, Knippa, La Pryor, Leakey, Pearsall and Uvalde were selected for the 2007 class.

The application process requires students to submit a personal essay, letter of recommendation and a personal statement expressing their qualifications for the program. Edu-

cators from each district in SWTJC's 11-county service area assist the program in recruiting students.

Doug Ratcliff, director of outreach and international programs at the Jackson School, noted that community support for GeoFORCE Texas continues to grow.

SWTJC Dean of Technology and Institutional Advancement Dr. Blaine Bennett echoed Ratcliff's sentiments.

"This year we had more applicants than ever and we want to thank all the students, parents and teachers who took time to complete the application process," Bennett said. "I also want to encourage all applicants not selected for the summer academy to take advantage of the young geoscientists field study they will be invited to participate in later this summer."

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.

Qualified applicants not selected for the summer academy track are invited to participate in the Young Geoscientists Field Course. Similar to the summer academies, the field course includes both coursework and hands-on field work in the Uvalde area, Port Aransas, Austin and Houston.

With this year's recruits, total participation in this year's Ninth Grade Academy will be held July 14-21 and will visit The University of Texas at Austin campus where students will stay in dorms and attend professor-led classes. The group will then travel to Washington, D.C., to meet professionals at the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia. While in D.C., students will tour the Smithsonian Natural History and Air & Space museums, the U.S. Capitol, and visit the Lincoln, Korean War and Vietnam memorials.

A Ninth Grade Academy orientation session for students and parents will be held April 14 on the SWTJC campus in Uvalde.