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ExxonMobil joins GeoFORCE Texas team

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ExxonMobil has joined the GeoFORCE Texas program in its efforts to inspire budding Southwest Texas scientists to consider the geosciences and related fields of study.

Debra Weeden, senior petroleum geophysicist for ExxonMobil, was in Uvalde July 27 to visit with program participants and attend the closing ceremony for the inaugural GeoFORCE Texas summer academy.

At the ceremony, Weeden presented a \$10,000 check to UT-Austin Jackson School of Geosciences Associate Director Doug Ratcliff.

The contribution from the ExxonMobil Foundation represents her company's initial support for the GeoFORCE Texas initiative.

"GeoFORCE Texas provides a great opportunity for students interested in math and science to be exposed to the wonders of Earth science and to interact with students from the Southwest Texas region who share their interest in academic excellence," Weeden said. "ExxonMobil is excited to be a part of the GeoFORCE program and we look forward to following these young students all the way to careers in the high-tech industries of the future."

Earlier in the day, Weeden addressed the 40 ninth graders who had just completed the summer academy and provided insight into opportunities available in geoscience-related fields. She also gave students her personal perspective on the role and challenges facing female geoscientists in the oil and gas industry.



BIG CHECK - ExxonMobil Senior Petroleum Geophysicist Debra Weeden (left) presents a \$10,000 check to Doug Ratcliff, associate director of UT-Austin's Jackson School of Geosciences. The presentation was made during closing ceremonies for the first GeoFORCE Texas summer academy. The ceremony was held July 27 on the Uvalde campus of Southwest Texas Junior College.