GeoFORCE concludes summer academy

Closing ceremonies for the GeoFORCE Texas 10th-grade summer academy were held June 10 in Uvalde Adult Activity Center.

The academy began June 3 and included a weeklong tour of various parks and geological sites of interest in Utah and Arizona, including Zion National Park, Virgin River Canyon, Glen Canyon Dam and the Grand Canyon.

Representatives from Chevron and BP petroleum company outlined career opportunities to academy participants during presentations made at the Holiday Inn in Uvalde June 9 and 10.

Funding for summer academies is provided by Shell, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, Chevron, BP, AT&T Foundation, Dominion, Halliburton, Marathon, Minerals Management Service, Schlumberger and Swift Energy Company.

A total of 40 students from high schools across Southwest Texas were selected in 2005 to be participants in the program designed to inspire students to pursue the geosciences. The University of Texas at Austin's Jackson School of Geosciences manages the GeoFORCE Texas Program in partnership with Southwest Texas Junior College.

Uvalde High School students attending the 10th-grade summer academy were Rosy Arellano, Schaefer Edwards, Andrew Nunez, Nazarey Ortiz, Hilary Prado, Michelle Rodriguez, Marissa Vara, and Felipe Villanueva, Katie Bales and Carlos de la Torre of Sabinal, Samantha Moore and Jacob Schoeder from Bracketville and Victoria Hernandez from Nueces Canyon Junior High, are also part of the 10th-grade group.

Other area schools represented included Cotulla, Crystal City, Del Rio, Dilley, Eagle Pass, Hondo, Pearsall and Rocksprings.

Through weeklong summer academies featuring geology-based field trips, research projects and course work led by university professors, GeoFORCE Texas hopes to expose students to the geosciences in ways that inspire and motivate them to actively pursue geology as a future course of study.

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU – Patricia Hall, BP petroleum company senior geologist, makes a presentation on career opportunities to members of the GeoFORCE Texas 10th-grade summer academy class at the Holiday Inn June 10.