



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY
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ACCESS Summer Students Partner with City of Houston To Save Energy

Wednesday, July 15, 2009



PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas--Summer for many college bound students is usually spent vacationing or relaxing, but this summer students in Prairie View A&M University's Academy for Collegiate Excellence and Student Success (ACCESS) summer program can be seen spending summer days engaging in college preparatory training, meeting with government leaders and community service intended to spark energy conservation.

To learn about local government's role in society, ACCESS students recently toured the City of Houston's City Hall facilities and met with Houston Mayor Bill White. While learning how the City of Houston functions, students heard from city leaders, viewed council chambers and official city several offices.

To aid a partnership between CenterPoint Energy, Energy Star and the City of Houston, PVAMU ACCESS students also distributed compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) to a select number of Houston communities to encourage energy conservation. The program was co-facilitated through Houston's Weatherization Program which divided ACCESS students into groups and armed them with CFL information and bulbs. Students encouraged citizens to use CFL bulbs instead of incandescent bulbs.

Experts report that CFLs can replace incandescent bulbs that are roughly 3-4 times their wattage, saving up to 75 percent of the initial lighting energy. Although CFLs cost 3-10 times more than comparable incandescent bulbs, they last 6-15 times as long (6,000-15,000 hours).

Throughout the sunny afternoon ACCESS students distributed more than 150 bulbs energy efficient CFL bulbs to the community. ACCESS Program Executive Director Lettie Raab emphasizes to parents and students that the initiative was a great way for student to engage in service-learning, which is a learning pedagogy that incorporates community service with strategic learning principals that compliment academic study.

Other initiatives on the horizon this summer for ACCESS students will be trips to the Fort Hood military base in Texas, San Antonio and Austin.

* Featured in spotlight photo: PVAMU summer ACCESS students help share literature on CFL bulbs to Houston, especially Houston HOPE program homes. **Photo:** Keenan Lazenby



Houston Mayor Bill White welcomes PVAMU ACCESS students to Houston's City Hall Building.

Photo: Bryce Hairston Kennard



ACCESS students tour Houston City Council Chamber room.

Photo: Bryce Hairston Kennard

About the ACCESS Program at Prairie View A&M University:

ACCESS is a "bridge to college" program designed to improve a students' academic performance and assist in their transition from high school to college. ACCESS has two components. The first is a summer program with a seven-week residential, academic enhancement experience designed for the seriously motivated student. The ACCESS summer program provides daily skills based instruction in nontraditional classes including mathematics, reading comprehension, writing, critical thinking and problem solving. In the fall, ACCESS students who attend PVAMU enter into the second component, University College (UC). UC is a program designed to improve the first-year academic performance of all PVAMU freshman. UC is a structured, nurturing, academically focused environment that seeks to make the freshmen year a successful one by providing intrusive, holistic, professional advisement, academic enhancement, centralized support services and a residential learning community. For more information, please call (936) 261-5900.

About Prairie View A&M University

Prairie View A&M University was founded in 1876 and is the second-oldest public institution of higher education in Texas. With an established reputation for producing engineers, corporate leaders, nurses and educators, PVAMU offers baccalaureate degrees in 41 academic majors, 46 master's degrees and four doctoral degree programs through eight colleges and schools. The university recently named its College of Engineering for PVAMU alumnus Roy G. Perry and the University's marching band, The Marching Storm, was featured as the lead band in the 2009 Rose Parade. A member of The Texas A&M University System, the university is dedicated to fulfilling its land-grant mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research and service. During the university's 132-year history, more than 50,000 academic degrees have been awarded. For more information regarding PVAMU, visit www.pvamu.edu.

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