



Careers “R” Us

NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley Staff Helps Grow STEMs

During the week of October 5-9, 2015, Information Technology Officer Pablo Gonzalez, Meteorologist Chris Birchfield, Pathways/Intern Meteorologist Randall J. Hergert, and Warning Coordination Meteorologist Barry Goldsmith took to the road to Brownsville, Harlingen, and McAllen/Edinburg to showcase volunteer opportunities for rising student stars across the Rio Grande Valley. Fall career fairs at the new University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley Brownsville and Edinburg campuses drew several hundred students in wide-ranging fields to visit and discuss potential career-enhancing opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and related fields on October 7th (Brownsville) and 9th (Edinburg). Students from a wide range of physical, computational, and social science fields stopped by to see what NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley can offer as a jump-start to build resumes and experience. These fields included computer science and engineering, mathematics, electrical engineering, environmental science, communications, psychology, and sociology. More than a dozen resumes were provided by the students, and at least a dozen more received contact information to get in touch with our staff to potentially volunteer to assist the office in future research and development in all three fields.

On October 8th, the team set up a booth at the RGV LEAD (Linking Economic and Academic Development) Exposition in Harlingen, where nearly 1600 high school seniors from La Joya to Brownsville and everywhere in between were able to meet representatives from business, government, and academia in STEM-related disciplines to get an idea for career opportunities across the Valley and South Texas. We were able to speak to more than 100 students on potential careers in atmospheric science, mathematics, computer science/information technology, and social and behavioral sciences and their importance in building a Weather Ready Nation.

In 2015, we saw more prospective volunteers than in prior years, and we hope to consider a few for assistance at our office to help us build capacity in both computer, environmental, and social science through research over the next few years. Thanks to all of the institutions for allowing NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley to promote our great opportunities for STEM and related careers. If you're a student at University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, South Texas College, Texas Southmost College, Texas State Technical College, Our Lady of the Lake University, or any other high school (senior level) or higher institution, consider joining us! Contact us at 956-504-1432 for more details.