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Nevada Site Office Environmental Management

EM NEWS FLASH

The EM Student Forum Returns to A-TECH

The creative and fresh ideas of the Environmental Management (EM) Student Forum are back! This group of talented high school students is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Energy Nevada Site Office EM Program and the Advanced Technologies Academy (A-TECH), a high school in Las Vegas, Nevada. Originally formed in 2001, the group provides essential feedback on the EM Program's outreach materials.



Student Forum member Raul Beltran, wearing a Tyvek protective suit, at the White Pine county fair and speaking to children about the Environmental Management Program at the Nevada Test Site

Through this partnership, the students of A-TECH have provided the EM Program with invaluable products such as the highly successful Operation Clean Desert learning trio (display, activity book, and computer game) that is geared toward young children. A-TECH has agreed to continue this highly facilitative partnership which has provided students with precious real-world experience and helped to mold the leaders of tomorrow.

The new EM Student Forum, which historically consisted of four to six students, will work with members of the EM Public Involvement (PI) team to develop and produce outreach products consistent with the Operation Clean Desert learning trio. In addition to product development, students will better understand the EM Program's mission through optional participation in EM sponsored community outreach events and a tour of the Nevada Test Site.

This year, students for the EM Student Forum will be selected by the A-TECH Computer Science program area teacher. Of the seven program areas available to A-TECH students, EM chose the Computer Science program area to be involved with this year's EM Student Forum, since they will be creating an interactive computer-based timeline of historic and current activities on the Nevada Test Site, focusing on environmental management projects. The students will use the computer expertise they have acquired at A-TECH to develop and work in a real-world environment while earning credit for their educational class.

As a previous EM Student Forum member states, "I chose to be involved with the EM Student Forum because I knew I would gain invaluable experience that could not otherwise be attained while being a student." The students selected participate voluntarily and may choose to be graded on their contribution and involvement in the product developed.

As in past years, the EM Team is confident that A-TECH's exceptional students will develop a product which will provide a new perspective to interest and engage the public in the EM mission. The new EM Student Forum will formally kick-off at the first meeting on December 19th!

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