SETAC Llano Estacado Student Chapter Awarded Texas Tech's Most Improved Student Organization

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Note from the Editors: SETAC student chapters are becoming more and more active and visible not only in SETAC but in the communities where they are located. As SETAC looks to support and promote student involvement, we want to champion and share these success stories. We hope that other student chapters will share their success stories with the SETAC membership through the Globe. For additional information or letting us know you are interested in providing an article, please contact Bill Goodfellow or Tim Canfield, or contact the Globe team at globe@setac.org.

Wouldn’t you like to share your life in a way that matters? That is what students from Llano Estacado-SETAC (LE-SETAC) try to do. LE-SETAC is the student chapter at Texas Tech University (TTU) in Lubbock, Texas, and awardee of the most improved student organization of 2014–2015. LE-SETAC focuses its energy and efforts on two main groups: young minds and the local community. LE-SETAC’s outreach activities have primarily centered on elementary and middle school education with science presentations, hands-on experiments and help with science fair judging. These activities give their members additional opportunities to interact with local teachers and students. LE-SETAC members are also toxicology instructors of three educational activities coordinated by The Institute for the Development and Enrichment of Advanced Learners (IDEAL) at Texas Tech University: “Science: It’s a Girl Thing,” “Shake Hands with Your Future” and “Super Saturdays.” They are summer camps and programs focused on K-12 students encompassing a variety of science subjects. LE-SETAC has also acted as part of the Boy Scouts’ science mentoring team, helping them to win the Dr. Charles H. Townes Supernova Award. In addition, LE-SETAC has helped the Girl Scouts prepare a STEM Day by being instructors in one of the sessions.

As part of their community involvement, LE-SETAC participates in the “Adopt a Highway” program and cleans up two miles of highway at least three times a year. They help a Lubbock organization with their book sales at a local library. Every year, they have a team supporting the Susan G. Komen 5K race for breast cancer awareness, and they create awareness for childhood cancer participating in the Alex’s Lemonade Stand Million Mile Race all September. Additionally, to create awareness for ALS disease, they participated in the “Ice Bucket Challenge” as an organization and made a donation to the ALS association.

The active involvement of LE-SETAC provides an exciting example for other local chapters on how to inspire young minds and make a difference in local communities.

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