

## **TU teaches students technology essentials**

### **CIAT welcomes high school seniors, juniors to 'bring them up to speed'**

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Many high school students have the talent and ability to achieve great things, but sometimes they don't have the proper resources to succeed.

As part of an effort to remedy that, the Towson-based Center for Instructional Advancement Technology hosted a seminar on Thursday for teenagers in the Building Science Education Technology Partnerships program.

The goal of Building STEPS is to give talented but underserved students an opportunity to excel in the technology field.

Debra Plant, a representative of Building STEPS, said the program is a chance to help students catch up on the technology that they lack in their current schools.

"You can bring them up to speed. These are students not exposed to a professional environment," Plant said.

On Thursday, participants learned about TU's admissions process.

They also met with the director of the Molecular Biology, Biochemistry & Bioinformatics department, and toured the campus.

Mike Schroder, director for extended education and online learning, said the program was valuable for attendees.

"The students were able to get a good flavor of what Towson University could offer them, but more importantly, [they] were exposed to several program areas such as the MB3 Program and CIAT, two programs that utilize science, math and technology to prepare them for careers in the Maryland workforce and a global workforce."

The program is not run by Towson University, but it is affiliated with TU and other area colleges. The program includes teenagers from three schools in the area: Woodlawn High School in Baltimore County and Dunbar and Digital Harbor high schools in Baltimore City.

Although Building STEPS does not offer scholarships to the students in the program, it does inform students about types of scholarships they may apply for. Students need to have at least a 2.0 GPA and a good attendance record to apply to the program.

Attendees were given palm pilots. Plant said the intention of the gift was to help future organization and to expose them to one of the newest technologies.

Jessica Baloh, a CIAT graduate assistant, helped demonstrate the palm pilots. She showed the group how to create a phone book and a calendar. Baloh said the palm pilot can be for entertainment purposes, too.

"There is a smart card to put in a device that holds photos," Baloh said. There were over 100 students who are part the program.

Fifteen of the students were high school juniors and 17 were high school seniors.

The remainder of the students were either in college or alumni. Plant said Building STEPS stays involved with students who are also college.

The program has given out \$1.5 in scholarships since 2002.

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