



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 22, 2019

Media Contact: Trineka D. Greer
Public Relations & Marketing Manager
mpr@estrellamountain.edu

EMCC Introduces High School Boys to STEM Careers at Inaugural Event

Teens attend Experience STEM Jan. 11 at Avondale college

AVONDALE, ARIZONA, Jan. 22 – More than 50 high school boys from West Valley Title I schools were introduced to STEM careers on Jan. 11 during Estrella Mountain Community College's (EMCC) inaugural Experience STEM event.

The event was the brainchild of Dean of Students Laura Dulgar and EMCC STEM Coordinator Liahla Roberts. Roberts, who wrote the grant for it last summer, said the event was designed to encourage the students to attend college, as well as pursue careers in STEM.

Experience STEM kicked off with a welcome address from Dr. Rey Rivera, Vice President of Learning, followed by the keynote speaker, Jaime Casap, Google Education Evangelist. The first-generation American shared his struggles growing up in Hell's Kitchen, N.Y., in the '70s and '80s and education being his ticket out of the city he said "deserved the name."

"I believe education disrupts poverty, I believe education changes families' destinies," Casap said. "I believe education is what moves us forward. You can't do anything without education."

The boys then attended three different nuclear energy workshops and met with STEM partners from Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station and Arizona State University.

Fifteen-year-old Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center (AAEC) sophomore Pedro Torres said he attended the event in the hopes of meeting some people from the far West Valley nuclear generating station.

"I want to be a nuclear engineer, and my dream is to work at Palo Verde," Pedro said.

Others, such as his classmate Keith Carter, also 15, attended the event to see if STEM is something he is interested in.

"I'm hoping to get some information and just want to see if I'm actually interested in engineering or not," Keith said.

The innovation grant that funded Experience STEM was a one-time grant, Roberts said, adding she hopes to partner with the business community to make the event an annual one.

#

[Estrella Mountain Community College](#) is one of the ten colleges in the Maricopa County Community College District, one of the largest community college districts in the nation. EMCC offers academic courses leading to associate degrees, university transfer, certificates, and short-term job training to more than 14,000 students annually. The flagship campus is located on Thomas and Dysart roads in Avondale. Classes are also offered online and at two Buckeye locations: EMCC's Buckeye Educational Center, located in downtown Buckeye, Arizona, and at the EMCC @ West-MEC Southwest Campus at 500 N. Verrado Way.