

2012 USC/Chevron Frontiers of Energy Resources Summer Camp

In mid July this summer, 24 outstanding high school juniors selected from an applicant pool of more than 200 will attend a Chevron-USC sponsored summer program at USC. This annual summer event has attracted the interest of many college bound students by helping them to focus their attention on both the scientific challenges and the associated professional opportunities for engineering education and employment.

This year the training program includes presentations by USC Faculty and Chevron experts on various types of energy resources. Together with the scientific fundamentals and economic aspects related to energy production, students are given the opportunity to compete on a team basis and devise creative solutions for addressing the expanding worldwide demand on energy and environmental concerns. Faculty and industry experts over the last several years have been quite pleased with the positive impact of this program on the recruiting of some outstanding talents into the engineering profession. Our records show that majority of past graduates of the Chevron-USC Summer Program are now pursuing their college educations in Petroleum, Chemical, and Environmental engineering at USC, Columbia, Cornell, Stanford, UC Berkeley, Dartmouth, UC Irvine and Brigham Young University.

To increase the impact of the program, every year a number of high school teachers are also invited to attend as guests for observing the training program and for taking back ideas and resource materials to their classrooms and laboratories. Participants, since summer 2009, include 62 high school students and 8 high school teachers from across the U. S.

Below are some quotes from the past students and teacher participants:

Teacher's Quote:

“All of my experiences at the Frontiers of Energy Camp gave me talking points to share with my students throughout this year and beyond. I had a wonderful time, was inspired, and found new enthusiasm for starting classes in the fall. Perhaps the most striking point to share about my summer experience is that it changed my mind about energy and the future. I had started the camp not knowing a whole lot about fuels and energy and idealistically thinking that there would be one energy source that would be

the answer to the world's energy problem. While investigating the gambit of energy sources, including what we consider "alternative" sources, I realized that each source has its pros and cons. It is unlikely that Earth's energy needs will be met by a sole source, but rather by using a variety of sources and identifying the best source for each need."

Students Quotes:

"I was pretty media-influenced and I had a stunted view of energy. I feel enlightened now! It's exciting. It was a very enriching experience and I feel like I have a lot more direction for my future now."

"Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to truly understand the energy needs of the world. It has opened my eyes to so many realities, and I hope to teach others and inform others the same things."



2011 Participants in the Chevron-USC Summer Program