



MARCH 2010 newsletter

Building Trust—and Lego Cars—at Oklahoma's STARBASE 2.0

By Guest Author Lt. Col. Kim Howerton, Deputy Director of STARBASE Oklahoma

It was a different kind of homecoming for Renika Webber, as she recently walked into Hamilton Middle School Career Academy for the first time in more than a decade. A 1998 graduate of Hamilton Middle School Career Academy, Webber is currently a junior rehabilitation services major at Langston University-Tulsa, and serves as a mentor for the STARBASE 2.0 pilot program in Oklahoma. She said she was very impressed by the school's improvements—not just the building renovations, but the focus of the school as well. Webber feels STARBASE 2.0 is putting these middle school students—also referred to as scholars—a step ahead of their peers as they focus on how they are going to reach their goals.

Hamilton Middle School Career Academy was a perfect partner for STARBASE Oklahoma, as the school aims to ensure academic excellence through career awareness. Dean Tammie Bowman had attended a STARBASE teacher training academy and worked with the curriculum as a classroom teacher. When she was approached by STARBASE Program



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upcoming events

- STARBASE NOVA club meetings:
Mar. 9, 16, 18, 23, 25
- STARBASE NE club meetings:
Mar. 9, 16
- STARBASE Robins club meetings:
Mar. 10, 17, 24
- STARBASE OK club meetings:
Mar. 10, 24
- STARBASE Wright-Patt club meetings:
Mar. 3, 17

Explore Your Future

Explore new career options and discover career matches at exploreyourfuture.org. This web site is designed to help students find career paths they might be interested in, specifically focusing on the STEM fields. Use interactive tools to help propel yourself into a world of potential areas of interest and watch videos designed to inspire students to get excited about their future and what they are capable of.

A Fond Farewell: STARBASE says Goodbye to Bill Scott

Last month, Bill Scott retired as Director of STARBASE Oklahoma after nearly fifteen years of service. Scott's career in Oklahoma's youth-serving organizations brought him to STARBASE in 1993. "The whole concept of getting kids excited and identifying goals to strive for really drew me in," said Scott, adding that there are few things more rewarding than "seeing that light bulb go on after a STARBASE experience."

Scott plans to serve on the board of directors for Oklahoma's nonprofit, STARBASE Inc., and to continue to check in on the program's new mentoring component. Scott also plans to put his RV to use and travel with his wife. Scott enthusiastically passes the torch to Pam Kirk. "She is a fantastic person," said Scott.

Best of luck to Bill, and welcome, Pam!

Building Trust *continued*

Manager Julia Webster, Bowman immediately said, "YES!"

Scholar Roxanne, who graduated from STARBASE STARS academy last year, is growing accustomed to scaling building blocks like STARBASE 2.0 on her path to becoming a doctor. She talked about the rocketry and physics experiments she enjoyed in her previous STARBASE experience while she and her teammate, Scholar Piseta, worked to make a Lego car that would withstand a crash test experiment. Still, unsure about their construction project, they scanned the pages of their training book while searching for pieces.

Meanwhile, another pair of scholars, Tianna and Gabby, had two successful crash tests. "I like math. Math is my favorite," said Scholar Tianna, another STARBASE graduate.

Tianna displayed the engineering project they had completed: a small car with a "dummy" attached to it. The group had just discussed characteristics they admire in others and would like others to see in them. She smiled as a mentor approached and asked to see their project. Recalling one of the traits all group members agreed was important, he asked if she trusted him. Tianna and Gabby looked at each other and agreed they did. Tianna handed the mentor the car for the official test, trusting he would be careful with their finished product.

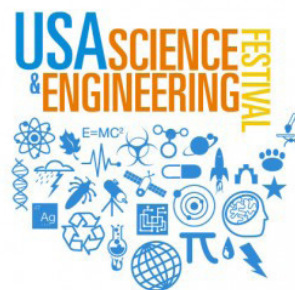
Mission accomplished.

did you know...

Google got its name from a number?

A "googol" or "googolplex" is a very large number that is written as a 1 followed by 100 zeros. The term was coined in 1938 by Milton Sirota, the nine-year-old nephew of American mathematician Edward Kasner.

D.C. to host Science and Engineering Festival



The First USA Science and Engineering Festival is scheduled to take place at D.C.'s national mall this October. The event, hosted by Lockheed Martin, will include two weeks of free events in

the D.C. area; over 750 hands-on exhibits on the topics of aerospace, green energy, medicine, biotechnology, robotics, nanotechnology, neuroscience, genetics, and more; and satellite events at universities, science clubs, and labs around the country.

To learn more, visit www.usasciencefestival.org, or sign up for [email updates](#).

tools AND RESOURCES

- ★ [Engineer Your Life](#): Inspire girls toward careers in engineering.
- ★ [Chemical Heritage Foundation](#): Access chemistry resources, podcasts, and research opportunities.
- ★ [The After-School Corporation](#): Grow and expand your after-school programs.
- ★ [School Improvement Network](#): Professional development opportunities for teachers.
- ★ [Elements of Effective Practice Webinars](#): Put MENTOR's evidence-based standards into action at your program.
- ★ [National Geographic Xpeditions](#): Access activity suggestions and lesson plans for all grade levels.

To explore pre-existing resources for STARBASE 2.0, log-in as a user at <http://www.dodstarbase.org/> and explore the mentoring initiative in the Resources tab.

Have an event or story to contribute? Looking for a specific tool or resource? Need help implementing STARBASE 2.0? Call or email:

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