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NSBE40 T.O.R.C.H. Chair

Carrying the T.O.R.C.H. to Nashville

The goal of NSBE40's Technical Outreach Community Help (T.O.R.C.H.) is to leave a lasting impression on this year's Convention site, Nashville, Tenn. We want to bring a NSBE presence to a city that doesn't now have one.

BEFORE THE CONVENTION

Toward this goal, the NSBE40 Annual Convention Planning Committee (CPC) participated in a community outreach event, last September, in which we took over the Fisk University Saturday Science Academy. During the program, we taught middle school students what being an engineer really means. The students built bridges, made a Newtonian fluid out of cornstarch, found efficient ways to assemble writing pens, developed sound using glasses of water and tried their hand at paper airplane design.

Working with the students was one way in which we felt we could impact the community. But now it's 2014, and we are aiming to make a bigger and better impact. The CPC will host a community think tank in February for the city of Nashville. The purpose of this event will be to survey the community and find out just what they need and how NSBE can help. NSBE wants to build the black technical community of Nashville. There is plenty of potential that we feel we can help bring out.

AT THE CONVENTION

During the convention, the CPC T.O.R.C.H. Committee will host an Informal Science and Engineering (ISE) Fair on Saturday, March 29, 12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. This year, the fair will include a reverse "A Walk for Education" event titled "A Showcase for Education" (ASFE). Unlike A Walk for Education, which has NSBE members go out into communities, the Showcase will have community members come to us. If your school or NSBE Jr. chapter would like to set up a booth during this portion of the convention, feel free to contact me at nallen@nsbe.org. We are looking for cool science experiments, information regarding study habits, tips on the college application process or anything else you see fit.

See you all in Nashville!



CHRIS ALVAREZ