



Lakewood firefighter Nadrece Robinson dons his protective gear as part of a presentation to Nelsen Middle School students during Impact Day.

Nelsen Middle School students see the future

School's 'Impact Day' gives students a chance to hear from professionals and ask questions about potential future employment, education

January 28, 2010—Nelsen Middle School today hosted its annual Impact Day where local professionals present the school's 1,050 6th- through 8th-graders with information on their profession and what it takes to be successful.

Nearly 40 professionals including business leaders like Phil Smart, philanthropist and owner of Phil Smart Mercedes-Benz, along with an FBI agent, Boeing engineer, firefighter, Coast Guard boat builder, artists and others, took over classrooms with PowerPoint presentations, job-related equipment, and handouts packed with information to help pilot students toward a meaningful future.

The event, created by Nelsen Middle School counselor Scott Jones, included having students take notes and answer important questions that could help them decide what job they'd like to pursue, and what classes—in high school and college—would help them achieve that goal.

Career days, like Nelsen's Impact Day, allow students a chance to learn first-hand what a career is and the importance of continuing their education beyond high school to prepare for success in a chosen field. Nelsen students heard presenters explain what field of study they should pursue to be employable in specific jobs, and that good education can be found at community and technical colleges, apprenticeship programs, four year colleges and universities and the military. Research has demonstrated that students who have a focus in a specific subject area in high school generally have higher grades and are more successful.

The day's presentations were well-received by students, who were overheard making positive comments about the speakers as they rotated out of classrooms, headed to hear other presenters.



Salvation Army Captain Terry Masango speaks to Nelsen Middle School students about his work leading a non-profit relief