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New program to help rural students

BY MATT LOFTIS
 The Battalion

In a joint effort with the College of Education, the College of Veterinary Medicine's Center of Environmental and Rural Health is leading a program to increase interest among rural public-school students in the areas of science and health.

Larry Johnson, a veterinary medicine anatomy professor, said the program began a month ago and will not only facilitate interest in health and science but also will provide students practical knowledge about public health. Johnson said the program targets middle-school students in rural areas and 60 percent of the participants will be minority students — 50 percent Hispanic and 10 percent African-American.

"[The program] prepares public-school students to become and remain interested in science and college and to be better [Texas A&M University] students when they get here," Johnson said.

Trina Davis, program director, said need studies were conducted prior to proposing a program. These studies, Davis said, indicated one of the most pressing needs in school curriculum is public-health instruction.

"I think this is going to be vastly important — this

"I think this is going to be vastly important — this is a high need."

— Trina Davis
 program director

is a high need," Davis said. "It's good to have actually interacting with professors."

Johnson said the program focuses on middle students because they are an age group still in need of learning new things, and rural students in need of health education than those students with higher-income and developed with access to more information.

"Students are right at their development where they still discover things," he said.

Johnson said in addition to providing health and science curriculum for students, the program gives students a chance to meet and talk to scientists and gain hands-on experience with experimentation and scientific method.

He said the program hosts a week technology and environmental-science intensive-training program for several six-week research-laboratory experiences. Johnson said the program will develop rules on environmental health and science for the classroom.

Johnson said money for the program came from a grant received to begin the program. Funding will continue for the next three years and is expected to see future moves to augment middle school education with science related topics.

News In Brief

CAMAC to mark 25th anniversary
 The Committee for the Awareness for Mexican American Culture (CAMAC) will celebrate its 25th anniversary tomorrow by hosting a banquet in MSC 201 for past and present members.

"This is a time for our organization to acknowledge our history and understand where we are headed for the future," Angie Castro, program adviser, said.

Former students of the organization will speak, and current members have produced a timeline highlighting CAMAC historical events and accomplishments since 1974.

Castro said she hopes CAMAC will form strong ties with former members, who will share their knowledge.

Indian association to host talent show
 A play by the Hindu Student Council, an exhibition by the Aggie

MSC Film Society presents . . .

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 7:00 & 9:30

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