

## The Neighborhood Longhorns Program Happenings



*UT Women's Assistant Basketball Coach George Washington, addresses over 700 Webb Middle school students at one of the NLP Kick-off assemblies on the importance of reading, and of doing well in school each day.*

The Neighborhood Longhorns Program (NLP) continues to be an integral partner within DDCE community in reaching a large number of underrepresented student populations within the Austin area. NLP's mission aligns with DDCE's educational pipeline strategic initiatives by engaging students in an

academic incentive program that promotes academic success for first-generation

and/or low-income families.

Since its establishment in 1991, NLP has served the Austin community. NLP serves students 33 schools in 2<sup>nd</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade attending Title I schools through promoting a college going culture and providing students a unique look at college life. Its partnership with UT-athletics fosters a strong sense of community as students have the opportunity to meet student athletes and athletic coaches, attend athletic events and visit campus.

This Fall 2015, NLP started off fast and furious as we hosted 18 Kick-off assemblies and 2 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) assemblies. With the help of both UT Women's Basketball and UT women's Soccer athletic team members, NLP staff encouraged students to enroll in the Neighborhood Longhorns



*UT Soccer Assistant Coach Jaimel Johnson and soccer players Brinkley Field and Abby Smith talk to kids about the importance of getting good grades in school at the STEM soccer assembly.*

Program and inspired them to earn good grades and attend school each day. Each year, between 4000 to 6,000 students join NLP, making the NLP program one of the most robust programs within DDCE. NLP students who earn a 3.5 GPA earn scholarships as early as 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, indicative of DDCE's true commitment to improving educational achievement along the



educational pipeline for low and underserved communities in the Austin area.

## STEM Soccer Challenge

On Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, UT Women's soccer team hosted the STEM Soccer Challenge. A record 8 schools were in attendance, with over 230 students.



*Coach Kelly and UT women's soccer team talk to the NLP students about life as a student athlete.*

## CHEMISTRY IS FUN at the STEM Soccer Challenge



Students participated in a variety of soccer drills, a Fun with Chemistry workshop, presented by one of our Chembridge partners, and UT Chemistry professors, Dr. Katie Biberdorf, and a math activity. Needless to say, it was quite an “explosive” event!

*Dr. Katie Biberdorf, Chemistry professor at UT-Austin teaches NLP kids that Chemistry IS FUN!*

## What's new with NLP?

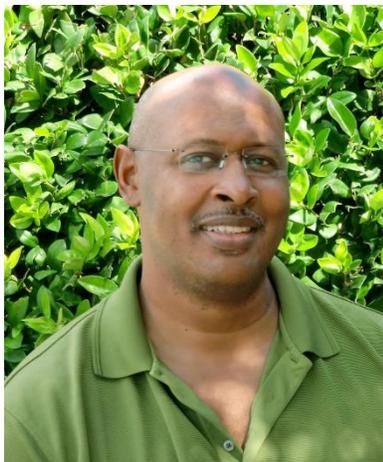
Seven University Leadership Network students have joined our team this year. ULN students serve as Event Coordinators for our NLP sites. Each ULN serves between 4 -5 Title I schools in the Austin area.



ULN interns (from left to right): Niang Cing, Alex Sanchez, Jennifer Santos, Cameron Rose, and Tim Lam (front row). Not pictured Amy Urquiza and Ana Sanchez

To help promote and launch additional STEM initiatives, partnerships with UTeach Outreach, Chemistry professor Dr. Katie Biberdorf, Biology professor Dr. Gregory Clark, and the UT Women in Engineering Program have been formed.

Additionally, our volunteer recruitment efforts are well under way as we prepare to expand our tutoring sites to 27 this upcoming school year.



## Les Lilly Joins NLP

A former college athlete, Les Kyle Lilly graduated in 1981 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Pembroke State University in Pembroke, North Carolina. Les joined The University of Texas at Austin's Athletic Academics in 2011. In September 2015, he joined the UT Neighborhood Longhorns Program as its Volunteer Coordinator. He brings skills amassed as a result of over 20 years in real estate management, 14 years of law enforcement, and 5 years in restaurant management. Les enjoys mentoring youth, debating world politics and spending time with his wife, son and daughter.

Needless to say, the BEST of the Neighborhood Longhorns Program is yet to come!

NLP earns Austin

## Best Bevo Benevolence: Neighborhood Longhorns Program



PHOTO BY JANA BIRCHUM

Recently, NLP earned the Austin Chronicle's Best of Austin" Benevolence award.

It was awarded with an honorary plaque and a feature article in the Austin 2015 edition.

Needless to say, the BEST of the Neighborhood Longhorns Program is yet to come!

*NLP earns Austin Chronicle Best BEVO Benevolence Award*