



MEDIA CONTACT:

Kanada DeBurr
Communications Specialist
Rhodes School for the Performing Arts
kdeburr@rhodesschool.org

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION
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Local Fine Arts School Hosts Annual District STEM Day

Rhodes School for the Performing Arts Moved Full "STEAM" Ahead with Local STEM Professionals

Houston, TX – Rhodes School for the Performing Arts (RSPA) was pleased to welcome non-profit organizations Port City Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, and Constellation Energy for its District STEM Day in early March 2023.

RSPA's District STEM Day was a one-day event on March 9, 2023, scheduled for 9:00-12:00 PM in RSPA's Humble campus cafetorium. This year, STEM career professionals from Port City Chapter of The Links, Incorporated teamed with Constellation Energy of Houston, Texas, to lead scholars in discussions and fun, hands-on activities.

RSPA's 3rd - 8th-grade scholars were introduced to the vast and wonderful world of STEM. Scholars rotated through engaging STEM experiment stations such as coding demonstrations, Astronaut Spacesuit Designs, the Paper Tower Engineering Challenge, Rosie Revere Ziplining, Math Art's Pattern Block Snowflakes, the Tinfoil Barge, and the most popular station, the Balloon Skewer station.

[View District STEM Day photos here!](#)

During the event, scholars heard from pediatricians, retired NASA Johnson Space Center professionals, postal service engineers, and chemical lab techs of Port City Chapter of The Links, Inc. "STEM is important because we simply need more African American young professionals in STEM careers," says Links Chapter President, Mary Auzenne. The Links shared upcoming space station features and opportunities, explained how medicine, physics, and the duties of energy-industry corporate attorneys relate to STEM, and gifted scholars with free wristbands, totes, and sunshades.

"Having partnerships with organizations such as Links Houston and Constellation does so much for our students' self-awareness and esteem. Representation matters. Watching these professionals work alongside our students has proven to be a valuable way to promote diversity and inclusivity in students and inspire an interest in STEM." says Kenitra Bennett-Edwards, RSPA's Curriculum and Instruction Support & Science Specialist.

Representing Constellation Energy, scholars also heard from senior retail operation managers and professionals in Finance and Weather, Climate & Sustainability. Followed by hands-on lessons at the math & science stations, the team explained how important it is to hold analytical, innovative, and critical thinking skills to be successful in their STEM-related roles and career fields.

"Wow, I didn't know so many black people had STEM careers!" said one scholar. "I really thought it was mostly for men!" said another. Constellation Energy encouraged scholars to recognize their value in the STEM industry.

“...It is also important in STEM for you all to be included in that because there are so many brown and black faces, women and gentlemen...and we need your representation. We’re talking about moving us forward in the future, and each one of you is that future,” says Constellation Energy’s Senior Retail Operational Manager. “You are the people that will be taking our spaces when leaving NASA and Constellation, and we need you to stand up proud and lead us into the next generation.”

RSPA’s Bennett-Edwards says, “I look forward to a lasting partnership with these organizations that provide children with relatable and diverse role models that help inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and mathematicians.”

This year’s District STEM Day was the perfect segue into its next event, the [Out of the Box College & Career Convention](#), held on Wednesday, March 22nd, at their Humble Campus.

[View District STEM Day photos here!](#)

Rhodes School for the Performing Arts is a Fine Arts Magnet School of Distinction. Established in 2007 by Michelle Bonton, RSPA serves over 600 students in the greater Houston area. RSPA boasts six Fine Art disciplines and is home to several Fine Art ensembles such as choir, visual arts, and theatre arts. Rhodes School for the Performing Arts is dedicated to providing its students with an exceptional education and rigorous Fine Arts curriculum. To learn more about RSPA, visit RhodesSchool.org.