

Abstract Submitted
for the TSF11 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Angelo State Society of Physics Students Peer Pressure Team Public Engagement Efforts – Do we make a difference?¹ JEREMY JOHNSON, TONI SAUNCY, Angelo State University — The Angelo State Society of Physics Students Peer Pressure Team travels throughout West-Central Texas for a week following the spring semester. The goals of this activity are two-fold. First the group seeks to engage undergraduate presenters in public service; the second goal is to enhance attitudes about science and encourage students in K-12 public schools to study science. Many of the schools we choose for our outreach visits are geographically isolated and populated with socioeconomically disadvantaged students, and/or groups underrepresented in physics. Over the week, the Peer Pressure Team visited over 1300 students, teachers and administrators. At each visit, surveys were collected to gauge the program's effectiveness. Student responses indicate a strong desire to study more science in their regular school curriculum. In addition, results are used to determine which demonstrations leave the most lasting impression on the audience participants. The 2011 Road Tour was dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the nucleus by Rutherford.

¹This work was supported by the Angelo State University President's Circle Award.

Toni Sauncy
Angelo State University

Date submitted: 12 Sep 2011

Electronic form version 1.4