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## **ExxonMobil INTRODUCES HIGHLANDS SCHOOL STUDENTS TO ENGINEERING**

Irving, Texas (February 24, 2009) -- On March 12th, twelve middle school students from The Highlands School attended ExxonMobil's "*Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day*." The program is designed to positively influence students in their formative years and instill in them an interest in the field of engineering. Seventh grade student, Shadhi Mansoori, said "The Highlands definitely shined brightly there, and I was really proud to be a part of it. It was so motivating."

Selected for their academic achievement in math and/or science, the twelve represented the only Catholic school students from the metroplex to be invited. This is the ninth year that ExxonMobil has hosted this special day. It was a valuable experience for eighth grader, Jacqui McCleneghen, who stated, "I learned a lot about engineering and realized I have an interest in it. It really opened up new options for me."

Students were treated as new hires on their first day of orientation and participated in three experiments with the ExxonMobil engineers. In addition to McCleneghen and Mansoori, the following Highlands girls attended: Andrea Baquero, Lucy Bray, Savanna Dinkel, Mariela Estrada, Becca Reiter, Anna Anderson, Katie Colanero, Tori Flaherty, Kristin Gerush, and Carolyn Mackenzie. The students were exemplary and drew attention from both ExxonMobil employees and the media, including KDAF-TV in Dallas. To review their news story, see <http://www.the33tv.com/pages/video/?autoStart=true&topVideoCatNo=default&clipId=3480653>.

Chairman and chief executive of ExxonMobil, Rex Tillerson, said, "As a corporation, we want to unlock the potential of our nation's future through educational awareness programs such as *Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day* and *Girls in Engineering Festival* in hopes of showing young women that engineering is a field where even the sky won't be the limit. The girls who take part in these activities will experience the fun and excitement of engineering and also see successful women in high-profile jobs. It's one thing to dream about the future; it's even more compelling to actually see and meet some of the brightest engineering minds in the world who are creating it."

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the growing demand for qualified engineers will soon reach a critical level and about 80 percent of new jobs created in the next 10 years will require science, technology, engineering, or math skills. At the same time, women make up 46 percent of the workforce but hold just 26 percent of the country's technical jobs.

### **About National Engineers Week**

National Engineers Week ([eweek.org](http://eweek.org)), founded in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers, is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers among young students and by promoting pre-college literacy in math and science. Engineers Week also raises public understanding and appreciation of engineers' contributions to society and is among the oldest of America's professional outreach efforts. For more information please visit [www.eweek.org](http://www.eweek.org).

### **About The Highlands School**

Established in 1986, The Highlands School is a Catholic college-preparatory school directed by the Legionaries of Christ. Offering grades Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup>, the mission of The Highlands School is the development of the whole person, consisting of a profound intellectual, human, and spiritual formation. Personalized attention from faculty, staff, and religious provides each student with the maximum opportunity for growth.

For more information about THE HIGHLANDS SCHOOL, or to schedule an interview with John Borley, please call Chris Hannis, Director of Development, at 972-438-8218 ext 261 or email Chris at [channis@thehighlandsschool.org](mailto:channis@thehighlandsschool.org).