

# KBR Weekly

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## KBR Mentors Provide High School Students with Life Skills



Claire Hasnip, Aimee Yuan and other KBR Mentor Volunteers from KBR-DEC, kick off the Mentoring Program at Jeff Davis High School with principal, Jaime Castaneda (far right). [Click to Enlarge](#)

With a mission to promote activities that introduce young people to engineering, sciences and technologies, KBR Discover Engineering Committee (KBR-DEC) has reinitiated a pilot Mentoring Program at Jeff Davis High School in Houston.

This program is an improvement on the 2008 Mentoring Program, and this year, KBR has partnered with Project GRAD (Graduation Really Achieve Dreams), a non-profit educational organization that focuses on improving high school graduation rates and preparing students to enter and succeed in college.

"We are thrilled to have the Jeff Davis High School Mentoring Program back up and running," said Claire Hasnip, Manager, LNG Technology Development, and Chair of the Mentoring Program. "This year we have the largest group of mentors in recent memory, which is a true indication of the passion that these KBR-DEC volunteers have for helping others."

This school semester, KBR is beginning the pilot program with the goal of seeing students succeed, and in the next school year, obtain an institute credit which qualifies them to receive a scholarship from Project GRAD.

The new program is organized with specific modules that cover topics varying from life skills to college pursuit. Twenty-nine KBR volunteers/mentors have been paired, through the program, with 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. The volunteers and the students signed agreements with one another to stay committed to the program for its bi-weekly, afterschool sessions.

The students and the KBR volunteers meet in the school's library for an hour session, where each pair walks through a module topic and completes an activity, followed by homework that the students need to complete for the next session. Module topics for the program are ethics, time management, teamwork, resume writing and interview skills.

"Our KBR volunteers are positive, professional role models for these students and have the opportunity

to provide guidance for them as they ponder their future careers," said Hasnip. "Some come from homes where they may be the only person in their family to graduate high school, let alone go on to college. These mentors are committed to helping the students fulfill their potential, to believe in themselves and to reach for their dreams."

With help and guidance from the volunteers, in addition to Project GRAD, the students are encouraged to stay in school and graduate, and they are introduced to countless possible career paths, such as engineering, that they, otherwise, may not have known.

"I know now a lot more than I did before the mentoring sessions. I used to think engineering was only about technology and building things, but really, it's much more than that," said Nancy Felipe, a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student at Jeff Davis High School.

KBR-DEC is working towards expanding the program to all grade-level students and holding sessions throughout the school year. The pilot-stage program will, in the future, have the opportunity for students to follow their mentor from entry to graduation of high school, and offer privileges such as field trips to various institutions and the KBR Tech Center.

"It's exciting to be a part of KBR-DEC's Mentoring Program at Jeff Davis High School," said Aimee Yuan, Manager, Process Controls. "It's extremely rewarding to positively invest in these young people and see them grow in character, as well as in awareness of the opportunities available to them."

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