



DBU Hosts Annual Servant U



One hundred high school students from across the state of Texas spent a week this summer at Dallas Baptist University discovering what it means to be a servant leader. They participated in the second annual Servant U at DBU from July 15-20, which included five different tracks aimed at providing experience and ministry opportunities across the Metroplex in their chosen fields of study.

"Servant U provides high school students with the opportunity to take a deeper look at their future career fields and gain insight into how they might be able to serve on a local, national, and international level," said Andrew Briscoe, director of Service-Learning at DBU.

The five tracks were Life Influencers with a focus on ministry; Artists of Impact for visual and music vocations; Peacemakers for medical professions; City Builders for business and public service; and the Equippers for education.

Students attended workshops each morning and then went out on trips across the Metroplex each afternoon, some service related and others to hear from

Christian leaders in various vocations. Field trips included meeting representatives at Dallas City Hall, filming and creating a video about ministries for Brother Bill's Helping Hand, touring the Dallas Baptist Association, and visiting Buckner International.

The City Builders had the opportunity to go to the Petroleum Club in downtown Dallas to meet with real estate developer David Watson. He shared with the students about how to integrate their faith into their calling in the business world. While many times he faced great risk in development projects, Watson shared, "I couldn't take a risk without knowing God is in control. Personally, I couldn't do what I do without the faith that I have."

At lunchtime one day, as the rest of Servant U sat down for their meals, the Equippers set out on a one-mile walk to UME Preparatory Academy. The students spent the time praying for different

levels of education including teachers, students, and administrators. Upon their arrival at the school, they were met by UME's Superintendent and Dean of Academic Study Rollin Mayes, who gave them greetings in Spanish, and helped them learn about the object lesson

they had just experienced.

Andrew Briscoe shared that many public school students walk up to two miles a day to and from school. Those from lower-income neighborhoods may not have had a meal the night before, and some may not speak English in their homes. The exercise that the Servant U students went through was to help them have a better understanding of the experiences children in their future classes may have on a daily basis.

Each night, the campers joined together for a time of worship and to hear from noted speakers including Doug Lawson, president of Baylor Medical Center of Grapevine; Heather Mercer, former missionary and author; and A. J. Rinaldi, director of academic and Parachurch ministries for EvanTell.

"Servant U is not like your average camp," said Marcus Dooley, a senior from Red Oak. "You don't come to do activities. You come to learn about service to others and then you take that knowledge from the meetings and the classroom into the field to actually serve others."

Pictured above: Servant U students shake hands with Dallas real estate developer, David Watson; and students walk to UME Preparatory School as part of an object lesson.



DBU alumnus and former staff member Dr. Brance Barker, UME Dean of Program Support, gave a welcome to Servant U students.