



Dear TRU and Question Why,

On November 17, 2011 the East Columbus HS ROCAME (Regional "O" Council for the Advancement of Minorities in Engineering) hosted the national event called "The Great American Smoke Out." The event's goal was to bring awareness of the danger teenagers' face when they use tobacco products. A number of our club officers and members showed leadership skills as they presented their information in ways that was entertaining and informative.

Classes were invited to attend sessions which were held during the school's enrichment period and both lunch periods. The club members decorated and made poster displays for their stations. Days preceding the GASO, students made daily tobacco awareness announcements and rehearsed their scripts. Announcements were sent to a local and county school system radio stations. Question Why and the TRU organizations provided lots of fun incentives which were distributed to students and staff.

Our GASO event brought over 300 students into our event area where they moved to various stations to learn about the dangers of using tobacco products. The response to our event was extremely positive. A few reflections are shared:

*Mrs. Dove (teacher)-"Great job with GASO! It was so nice to see students running the stations so successfully. The treats for the students were awesome."*

*Isaiah Day (student) "The ROCAME members gave a lot of good information about cancers and death rates".*

*Colin Pollard (student) "It was fun! I learned the ingredients that are in cigarettes."*

*Cameron Daniels (student) "It was very good and educational."*

*Ms. Frink (teacher) "Every year the ROCAME Club puts on a great presentation. The students really enjoy the incentives provided TRU and Question Why."*

ROCAME members will have an information table setup at our next home basketball game on December 9, 2011. See attached pictures from the GASO.

V. Farnum, ROCAME Adviser