

Noche de Ciencias Lesher Middle School Fort Collins, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

In February 2018, Lesher Middle School hosted its second annual Science STEM Night--Noche de Ciencias. The event is for students and families to learn exciting scientific exploration, engage in hands on STEM activities, connect with engineering college students, and learn about college options, tuition assistance programs, and financial aid information for minority students in the community.

Lesher staff partnered with Colorado State University's (CSU) Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. The society is comprised of minority students that are currently earning Degrees in Engineering; a field where minorities have lower percentages of involvement than non-minorities.

Noche de Ciencias started with a quick pizza dinner and an opportunity for the 85 attendees to enter a raffle. After dinner, students and families spoke with community partners and teachers about financial aid options for STEM-related university degrees. Focusing on postsecondary options in middle school sparked excitement for participants to study hard in high school and fulfill their dreams of going to university.



Publicity is an integral part of the evening's success.

Spanish, math, and science classroom teachers encouraged their students to attend Noche de Ciencias. Lesher's family liaison sent flyers home and posted them around the school. School administration recorded three robocalls: one inviting families, one reminding families, and one confirming the event. In some cases, families received a personalized phone call home to encourage attendance.



After the science night, Lesher's family liaison received substantial encouragement to continue the event: "Parents and students appreciated the hard work to make this happen and congratulated us for hosting a great Noche de Ciencias event. CSU's Hispanic Engineers were great with their presentations, provided valuable information and were well organized."