

Education News

Olympic diver Chris Colwill visits Faith Outreach Academy



STEP UP FOR STUDENTS

Carmen Cassing Gleason, left, of DeVry University, and Step Up scholarship recipient Danjerrys Vazquez heard Olympian Chris Colwill speak.

By A STAFF REPORT | Tbo.com

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TOWN 'N COUNTRY -- Faith Outreach Academy students recently heard about the importance of science, math and other subjects from an unlikely source.

As part of a career assembly at the Sheldon Road campus, U.S. Olympic diver Chris Colwill of Tampa shared with middle- and high school students how science, technology, engineering and mathematics -- the STEM curriculum -- play a role in Olympic Games competition.

More than 50 students attended "The Science and Technology behind Team USA," a new DeVry University program intended to introduce STEM and STEM careers to students.

DeVry is an official educational provider to Team USA, with nearly 80 Olympic hopefuls enrolled at DeVry and its Keller Graduate School of Management.

Students heard how nutritionists develop diets for peak athletic performance, how footwear is designed differently for sprinters and for distance runners, and learned the science behind the Olympic Park design requiring that civil engineers demolish 200 buildings, build 30 new structures and clean 2 million tons of soil.

"At DeVry, our mission is to help educate the nation's future workforce and prepare our students for their future success," said assembly participant Nicole Bethune-Walker, dean of DeVry's Tampa center. STEM careers are growing faster than other fields, yet fewer high school graduates are pursuing STEM-related degree programs in college, she said.

Faith Outreach Academy participates in the Step Up scholarship program. Step Up for Students is the nonprofit that administers Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, awarding K-12 scholarships to students in low-income Florida families.

Colwill, 28, shared his London 2012 Olympic Games experiences, detailing how STEM fields helped make his success possible.

"To have a perfect dive, you have to have a lot of things go right, before and after you leave the diving platform" he said at the Feb. 15 assembly. "We are measuring vertical and horizontal velocity, as well as rotation – the actual physics of a perfect dive."