

STEP TOUR to Case Western Reserve University

Virtual Worlds (Gaming and Simulation) Laboratory and think[box]

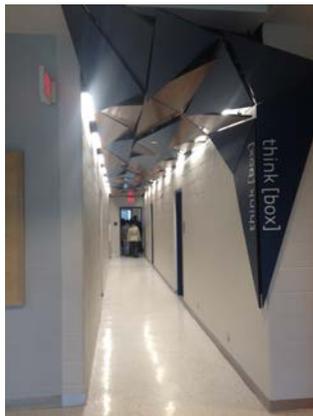
November 21, 2015 STEP students had an opportunity to tour the prestigious Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) located in Cleveland's University Circle. During the visit, students were given a campus tour, which included the Gaming and Simulation Laboratory and think[box]. This was a great opportunity for students to get exposed to STEM fields of studies offered by CWRU, which focuses on medical, science, liberal arts, and engineering careers. Formally known as Western Reserve College, it was founded in 1826 in Hudson, Ohio. CWRU, the first in northern Ohio, took its name from the surrounding region (known at that time as the Western Reserve of Connecticut). In 1877, Leonard Case Jr., a philanthropic citizen of Cleveland and early benefactor of the engineering school, began laying the groundwork for the Case School of Applied Science.



The CWRU Tour started with the **Virtual Worlds (Gaming and Simulation) Laboratory**, which opened at CWRU in the Fall of 2005. The lab contained several advanced computer stations and a room



with game consoles and large screen 2 and 3-D projection displays. The students use the lab to do homework and create new innovated games and stimulations with advanced gaming technologies like the Oculus Rift, which is a virtual reality head-mounted display headset. But the tour doesn't stop there.



The Students were then split into groups of about 5-7 STEP students with a STEP student leader and CWRU student tour guide. The CWRU student tour guides gave a tour of the campus including the **Think[box]**, which is located at the Richey Mixon building for innovation and entrepreneurship that provides a space for anyone – students, faculty, and alumni and members of the community - to tinker and creatively invent, and Nordhall which is the home of Case School of Engineering. Both deal with computer science and engineering majors. The tour gave students an idea of what daily life is on college is and how college lifestyle differs from high school or middle school lifestyle. It also exposed them to various engineering majors and various computer science majors, which isn't an everyday component of a teenager's day.

The tour to Case Western Reserve was a great opportunity for STEP students, giving them an option for college. As well as exposing them to STEM related majors which will be beneficial in the long run once they become ready for college.



Submitted by: Alexander Polley, Student Leader