

CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS

*The Official Newsletter of SCILS
STEM Collective for Innovative Louisiana Stakeholders*

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STEMinists Promote Women in STEM With the IF/THEN Poster Resources

Female middle grades students who attended the STEMinist Fest at Louisiana Tech University in December 2021 went back to their campuses with sets of posters featuring women in different STEM careers. The students were challenged to display the posters at their school to stimulate ongoing conversations about Women in STEM. Students from Cedar Creek School submitted pictures of their ongoing STEMinist activity.



Take a Look Inside:

Region 8 Student Promotes Girls in STEM Platform, Meet Kathy Hall and Melissa Saye, Region 8 LaSTEM Summit Highlights



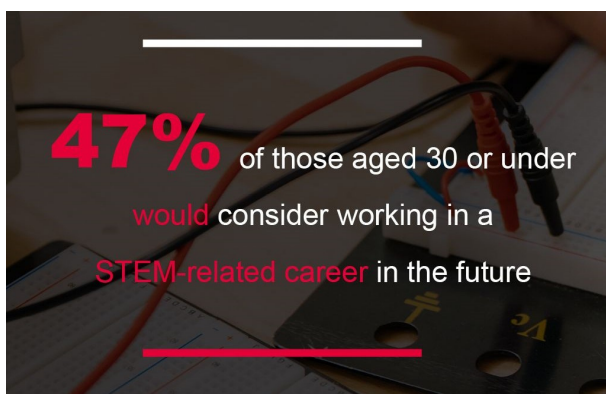
SCILS Joins "We Love Afterschool" Social Media Campaign

On Valentine's Day, SCILS joined other LaSTEM leaders across the state in promoting the Louisiana Center for Afterschool Learning and the wonderful opportunities for STEM learning during out-of-school time. Follow the campaign at We <3 Afterschool.

DID YOU KNOW?

Demand for Women in Science-Tech-Engineering-Math Jobs is On the Rise

According to exclusive data from JobsForHer, an online career platform for women, nearly 50% of the total number of jobs currently posted on the platform is for women in STEM roles, an increase from 35% in pre-pandemic 2019.



Standing on a Platform for Girls in STEM

A. E. Phillips Laboratory School 8th grader Melissa Le is the newly crowned Miss Louisiana Teen Volunteer. A positive-minded, problem-solving girl of passion, Le is thrilled about promoting a platform for Girls in STEM.

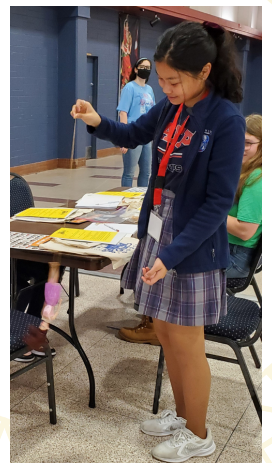
"My love of math and science inspired me with my platform," Le explains. "I am a strong believer that girls can take on challenging jobs and do them just as well as boys can. With science and technology, we can solve all sorts of problems and improve the quality of life for all people. If we girls make a positive impact in our own way, we will not only end gender stereotypes but also make the world a better place for everyone."

Le believes education is the most influential tool to empower girls. Furthermore, she feels STEM is a prime place for girls and hopes through her platform more girls will choose to pursue their passion and education within STEM pathways. It's something she plans to lead by example.

"I hope to grow my knowledge and love of STEM so that I can radiate and share it with other young girls," Le notes. "In the future, I want to start a buddy program where older girls can help younger girls in different STEM related activities. I plan to use my title to talk to other girls who are interested in STEM and visit school classes to encourage young girls to pursue their dreams in STEM."



Melissa Le after being crowned Miss Louisiana Teen Volunteer and participating in the STEMInist Fest at Louisiana Tech.



SCILS Advisory Board Spotlight: Meet Two New Members

Kathy Hall

Northern Louisiana Medical Center

Kathy Hall is the Chief Executive Office at Northern Louisiana Medical Center. Kathy has 20 years of hospital leadership experience and came to Ruston from Winn Parish Medical Center located in Winnfield, Louisiana where she served as CEO. She has worked in key leadership positions during her career including Director of Nursing at Willow Ridge Nursing and Rehabilitation in Arcadia, Louisiana, Chief Operating Officer, Bienville Medical Center in Arcadia, Louisiana and CEO at Eureka Springs Hospital in Eureka Springs, Arkansas.



Hall

Kathy has dedicated her career to professionalism, patient focus, compassion, and community involvement. She believes the delivery of compassionate quality healthcare is the essence of medical practice. She has an Associate's Degree in Nursing from Louisiana Tech University and a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from University of Louisiana Lafayette.

Melissa Saye

The Northeast Louisiana Children's Museum



Saye

Melissa Saye is the Founder/Director of The Northeast Louisiana Children's Museum in Monroe, Louisiana. Melissa graduated from Louisiana State University with a degree in Elementary Education. While teaching first and second grade at Grace Episcopal School, Melissa met the late Martha Ryan and the idea of starting a Children's Museum began. The Children's Museum, which hosts almost 50,000 visitors each year, celebrated its 20th birthday in August of 2018. She feels strongly that its success is due to the generosity of this community and the folks who have supported it over the years. A partnership with the City of Monroe has created to opportunity of relocate and expanded the museum to Forsythe Park.

Melissa is a graduate of Leadership Ouachita, has had the honor of being chosen as NELA's Sweet Sixteen Outstanding Women and Bayou Life's Bayou Icon this past December and speaker at the 2019 ULM Women's Symposium.

Region 8 Shines at 2022 LaSTEM Summit



Dr. Jamie Newman and Professor Nick Bustamante (Louisiana Tech University) prepare for their VISTA presentation



Dr. Anne Case Hanks (University of Louisiana at Monroe) facilitates a presentation on "Working to Emphasize Soft Skills in Higher Education" with an emphasis on STEM disciplines



Dr. Davy Norris (center, Louisiana Tech University) moderated the first panel of the day which focused on "Listening to the Employers"



The Northeast Louisiana Children's Museum hosted a vendor booth that included the giant inflatable heart

Research Says . . .



"To attract and retain brilliant female engineers, it's vital to cultivate an inclusive environment to support our women in engineering, from providing coaching benefits and mentorship at every stage. Three actions go a long way: Create allies, Encourage women to take a leap for development, Celebrate their success and ask others to do so too."

Bee Hayes-Thakore, Senior Director, Marketing and Partnerships at Kigen.