

CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS

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

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Made Easy for Teachers

- ✓ Lesson Plans
- ✓ PowerPoints
- ✓ Activities
- ✓ Worksheets
- ✓ Videos
- ✓ Online Learning Toolkit
- ✓ Earn Awards!
- ✓ Get Inspired!
- ✓ Change Lives!

Through SCILS, districts and other partners throughout the state have access to a myriad of resources and opportunities through ITEEA, the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association. Visit <https://www.iteea.org> to get a look at curricula, projects, challenges and other ways you can engage faculty and students in exciting engineering, technology and CTE teaching and learning.

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ACCESS TO LEARNING BLADE EXTENDED ALONG THE I-20 CORRIDOR

SCILS personally extended an invitation to district leadership within 15 parishes along the I-20 corridor to access Learning Blade. Provided at no cost to districts through a partnership between LaSTEM, Board of Regents, Louisiana Department of Education and Boeing, the highly engaging and relevant library of resources is designed to grow interest and sharpen skills for STEM, computer science and CTE (career and technical education). Designed for middle grades students, the resources include hands-on projects, design-thinking exercises, 3D printing projects and models, career videos and lessons, and parent activities. Ideal for early finishers in class, enrichment experiences, RTI (Response to Intervention) sessions, club activities and independent learning, all resources align to state academic standards. For more information, contact www.LearningBlade.com/LA, info@learningblade.com, or 423-521-2309

SCILS HOSTS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Working Together to Make SCILS Work

The SCILS Advisory Board met via Zoom on Monday, September 20, 2021, to not only kick off fall and the new academic year but discuss progress within the SCILS initiative. Director Cathi Cox-Boniol shared data reflective of the summer SCILS work along the I-20 corridor before addressing goals moving forward. Subsequent discussion focused around development of a special event to address increasing interest in STEM among female students as well as several collaborative efforts in place to produce opportunities for career development and employment certification. Ideas were shared around possible face-to-face gatherings for the advisory group and events designed to showcase work with the SCILS network. The next SCILS Advisory Board meeting will be held prior to the end of the calendar year.

Insurance is STEM

The possibilities of a meaningful career in the insurance industry are endless. However, considerable work must be done to ensure the insurance industry has the diverse, robust and sustainable STEM workforce needed to keep pace with the accelerating rate of change in today's world. STEMconnector's new e-book, *Insurance is STEM*, explores the exciting STEM-fueled companies, careers and trends in the insurance industry. Topics include: insurance basics, real stories, how STEM powers insurance, viable insurance career pathways, links to helpful resources, and more. For more information contact info@stemconnector.com.



Meet the SCILS Advisory Board:

Megan Bange, Bossier Parish Community College
Judy Copeland, Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
Andrew Ganucheau, Louisiana Center for Afterschool Learning
Anne Case-Hanks, University of Louisiana at Monroe
Sandra Harvey, Bossier Parish Community College
Jeff Holcomb, Bossier Parish Schools
Danny Hubbard, Grambling State University
Donna Johnson, Louisiana Tech University
Sue Nicholson, Monroe Chamber of Commerce (retired)
Ryan Pierce, Louisiana Delta Community College
Don Schillinger, Louisiana Tech University
Karen Soul, Centenary College
Tonya Oaks-Smith, Louisiana Tech University
Lindsey B. Keith-Vincent, Louisiana Tech University
Angie White, North Louisiana Economic Partnership
Missy Wooley, Lincoln Parish STEM Center
Maria Yabut, Morehouse Parish Schools

SCILS Advisory Board Spotlight

Dr. Danny Hubbard, Grambling State University

Dr. Danny Hubbard is Professor of Chemistry and serves as STEM Coordinator to the Connect2Success project. Hubbard serves as Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Prior to his appointment, Hubbard served as department head of Chemistry. Since joining the GSU faculty in November 1994 as assistant professor of Chemistry, he has authored and co-authored sponsored projects that support research, student training, and teacher development training projects total more than \$5 million to the University. His research efforts on the synthesis and characterization of modified polyimides and polymer composites have contributed to research initiatives by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for many years.



Hubbard



2021 LaSTEM Annual Summit
'Working Together for a Future that Works!'

Save the Date! February 8th, 2022
Raising Canes River Center, Baton Rouge, LA
Registration information coming soon!

#LaSTEMstrong #STEMworks4LA

Science • Technology • Engineering • Math

Together, we are #LaSTEMstrong!

To build a strong Louisiana workforce with the skills needed to find career success in a rapidly changing economy, we need to realize that both employers and PK-16 institutions have a role to play. The 4th Annual LaSTEM Summit entitled, "Working Together for a Future that Works," aims to do just that!

About the Summit

The Annual Summit, a full-day program sponsored by the Louisiana Board of Regents' LaSTEM initiative, will be held on February 8th, at the Raising Canes Conference Center located in downtown Baton Rouge. Participants will gain 1) deeper insight on current industry needs for foundational STEM literacy skills and types of degrees; 2) insight and tools from stakeholders whose critical STEM-focused initiatives and practices are making a difference; and 3) understanding the value that LaSTEM's regional network centers can offer.

Summit Format

The format for the Summit includes: 1) Three moderated panels that will focus on listening AND responding to the workforce needs of business and industry and promoting more women and girls in STEM; 2) Promising practice breakout sessions that will focus on successful college and career readiness practices and programs provided by businesses, education, and/or community organizations that are working; 3) Live demonstrations by students; and 4) Vendor presentations.

Intended Audience

We challenge all sectors (PK-12, postsecondary education, employers, government, community organizations) to learn new strategies for working creatively and together to close all gaps and grow a STEM-strong Louisiana.

Video Record

LaSTEM recognizes the value of extending best practices to the rural and remote areas. Therefore, we will video/record portions of the event.

About LaSTEM

Louisiana Act 392 created the Louisiana Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (LaSTEM) Advisory Council. The LaSTEM Advisory Council provides guidance and support for nine designated Regional STEM Network Centers, whose primary objectives are to 1) Build strong foundations for STEM literacy; 2) Increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEM and 3) Prepare the STEM workforce for the future. More information about LaSTEM can be found here:

<https://lastem.regents.la.gov/>

A call for panelists, presenters and other participants will be forthcoming. If you are aware of someone who would make a good panelist or presenter, please contact Cathi Cox-Boniol at ccb91110@gmail.com or 318-268-7558 at your earliest convenience.

Louisiana Tech University College of Education and Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Partner to Offer Grow with Google Webinar

Louisiana Tech University's College of Education and the Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce recently partnered to host a Grow with Google webinar focused on using YouTube to grow a business. The free event was held online at noon on October 6, 2021. online. This webinar shared best practices for businesses interested in creating a YouTube Channel and making video content that promotes products and services while driving engagement with the business brand. The College of Education is a new partner in the Grow with Google initiative <https://grow.google/>, which offers free training, tools, and resources to help individuals grow their skills, careers, or businesses.



SCILS SATELLITE SPOTLIGHT: BOSSIER PARISH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CyberStart Fellowship for Women

By: Madison Poché

Project Director – GDIT/LED Program, Computer Technology Department, Bossier Parish Community College

Bossier Parish Community College is piloting a new program for women called the CyberStart Fellowship. The Fellowship offers accelerated, entry-level IT and Cybersecurity skills training in order to help increase the diversity in the field of Cybersecurity.

This school year, a dozen women will be taking 4 college classes over 2 semesters to earn BPCC's Network Security CTC as well as CompTIA's A+, Network+, and Security+ industry certifications. CyberStart Fellows include full-time students, entry-level IT professionals, and industry managers interested in bolstering their knowledge.

The cohort is also receiving additional financial and professional support from BPCC. They meet monthly for presentations from women in the IT industry and in unique training areas, like Negotiations. Fellows receive a scholarship for classes as well as stipend to costs of attendance, such as childcare or transportation.

This program has been supported by a grant from the Cybersecurity Education Management Council of the Louisiana Board of Regents.



YOU + ME = EMPLOYEE Event Set for November

In partnership with Louisiana Delta Community College and Coursera, SCILS will present an opportunity for parents and/or guardians to earn an employable certification alongside their high school student. The pilot event is set for Saturday, November 13, 2021, and available to GEAR UP students and their parents in Madison Parish, Monroe City, Morehouse Parish. To register, contact Erika Jones (erikaj@latech.edu or 318-257-2866) by Monday, November 8, 2021.

SCILS Advisory Board Member Awarded Grant

Andrew Ganucheau, director of the Louisiana Center for Afterschool Learning in the SciTEC division of Louisiana Tech's College of Education, has been awarded a grant from the STEM Next Opportunity Fund as part of the Million Girls Moonshot initiative.

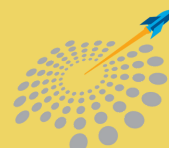
The Million Girls Moonshot effort "inspires and prepares the next generation of innovators by engaging one million more girls in STEM learning opportunities through after school and summer programs over the next 5 years" as noted on their website <https://milliongirlsmoonshot.org/>. Through Million Girls Moonshot's approach, youth across the nation will be engaged in STEM in ways that will inspire girls to become builders, creators, and problem solvers.

Girls are underrepresented in STEM as they make up less than one-third of the science and engineering workforce within the U.S., according to the Million Girls Moonshot.

"Encouraging and supporting Women in STEM is critical if we as a society are going to be able to address some of the fundamental challenges of the present. The Louisiana Center for Afterschool Learning provides a number of supports for professionals and learners in the out of school time space. We are thrilled that this award will provide funding for another support for STEM out of school time efforts for this important sub demographic of our student populations," noted Dr. Lindsey Vincent, Associate Dean for Research, Outreach, and Innovation in the College of Education.

This activity is one of many taking place in the Science and Technology Education Center (SciTEC) in the College of Education to help inspire and educate girls and women who have interest in engaging in the STEM disciplines. Other efforts include partnerships with the National Girls Collaborative Project (<https://ngcproject.org/>) and the STEM Collective for Innovative Louisiana Stakeholders (<https://education.latech.edu/scils-center/>) national, a STEM initiative through the Louisiana Board of Regents.

To learn more about how you can engage in STEM education and outreach efforts focused on engaging girls and women in STEM, email scitec@latech.edu.



MILLION GIRLS MOONSHOT