

# CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS

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

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## Ahoy STEM Campers!

### Lincoln Parish STEM Center Hosts All About Boats

With SCILS support, the Lincoln Parish STEM Center hosted its inaugural "All About Boats" summer camp as an introduction to future engineering opportunities such as Louisiana Tech University's concrete boat competition as well as careers in ship building and design. Campers engaged in a series of learning experiences that culminated with launching their cardboard boats in the natatorium on the Louisiana Tech campus as parents and guests cheered them on.



*Take a Look Inside:*

*Regional Teacher Professional Development, VISTA Opens Exhibit, SCILS  
Featured at National Conference, West Carroll Partnership Yields Certifications*



## DID YOU KNOW?

*Certificates in STEM fields are an excellent way to get a job in the tech industry. As technology becomes more prevalent in every aspect of life, you'll find yourself working with people who have undergone training programs designed to improve their use of technology. If you want to be one of those people, then earning a certificate will show that you can perform well as part of a team that uses technology. Certificates are also often earned online, which makes them easy for people with busy schedules or who live far away from major universities. In addition, it means that even if your employer doesn't offer tuition reimbursement, it may still be possible for you to earn your degree while keeping up with your other responsibilities.*

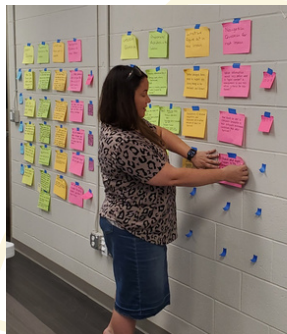
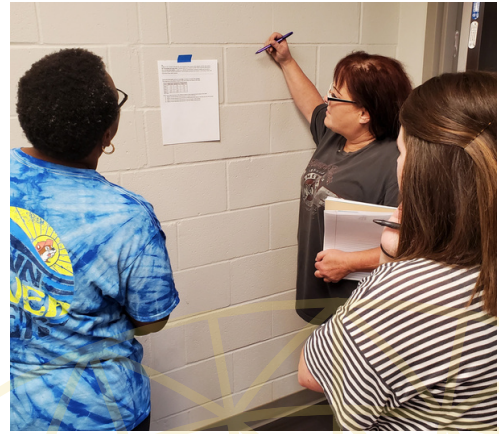
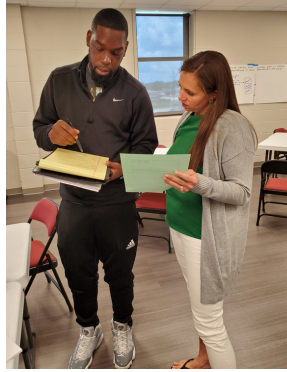
### 5 Rewarding Online STEM Programs for a Better Career in the IT Sector:

1. Artificial Intelligence
2. Cyber Security
3. Internet of Things (IoT)
4. Data Science
5. Cloud Computing



## SCILS Supports Regional Teacher Professional Development

SCILS Staff was on site to provide professional development for middle grades teachers in Ouachita, Madison, and West Carroll Parishes.



## Three Tools to Develop Talent in Every Kid

- Embrace failure as an opportunity
- Provide opportunity for deep, deliberate practice
- Foster in kids a love for their endeavors

Stressing the idea that talent is a journey should also tell children that the pursuit of talent is talent itself.

Talent is what EVERY child bears and carries and brings forth over time.

# SCILS

Region 8 LaSTEM Center

# VISTA

Visual Integration of Science Through Art

## SCILS Partner VISTA to Open Exhibit at Louisiana Art & Science Museum August 13, 2022--July 31, 2023

The Visual Integration of Science Through Art (VISTA) Center at Louisiana Tech University engages students in art, science, and engineering to use their knowledge and skills to create informative and impactful illustrations related to health. Over the past seven years, the Center has worked with hundreds of students to create illustrations for academic programs, research faculty, student services, and community partners. Students have also illustrated six interactive children's books and participated in community outreach where they shared their experiences and taught children the value and impact of visual communication. This year-long exhibit at the Louisiana Art & Science Museum in Baton Rouge will showcase the work of 25 students and engage the audience in understanding the impact of illustrations on health sciences and medicine. SCILS encourages you to visit this museum during your next trip to Baton Rouge. For more information on the museum, hours, and virtual tour of exhibits visit [lasm.org](http://lasm.org). For more information on VISTA, contact: Penny Humphries Director of Development, College of Applied and Natural Sciences [penny@latechalumni.org](mailto:penny@latechalumni.org) / 318.245.2013

## With SCILS Support, Louisiana Tech University College of Education Summer Camp Series Continues

SCILS continued its support of Louisiana Tech University's College of Education 2022 summer STEM Camps with exciting opportunities that included materials science and sound.



### Project CASE (Collaborating Around STEM Engagement) Outreach Program at Louisiana Tech University

Dr. W.C. Deese, Johnson Professor of Chemistry and Ms. Cathi Cox-Boniol, Region 8 – LaSTEM Director  
With support from Louisiana Materials Design Alliance and LA EPSCoR



- STEM Days – with Middle School Students from Lincoln Parish
  - Campus Tours and Lunch
  - Panel Discussions with STEM Professionals
  - Interactive Lesson on Scientific Method
  - Demonstration Program on Properties of Matter
  - Information on College Admissions



## SCILS Collaborative Project Highlighted at National Conference

SCILS Director Cathi Cox-Boniol and Dr. Bill Deese co-authored a poster presentation highlighting "Project CASE" for the Biennial Conference on Chemical Education held at Purdue University the first week of August.

# SCILS Partnership Project Yields Industry Certifications



SCILS partnered with West Carroll Parish Schools to fund the district's first Cyber Literacy summer course. A total of 32 students completed the course, including 23 students from West Carroll and 9 from East Carroll.

As part of the course, the students engaged in the CompTIA ITF+ (Information Technology Fundamentals) certification exam. Nationally accredited, the exam provides a lifelong certification for students. Amy Cady, District STEAM Teacher for West Carroll, reports that 31 of 32 students successfully passed the CompTIA ITF+ certification exam and officially claimed the credential. Not only did this mark a 97% achievement rate for the certification, the group enjoyed a 100% rate with satisfying all course requirements and earning a full Carnegie unit in Cyber Literacy 1.

"The students put in a ton of hard work this summer to achieve that success," Cady shared. "Some of the activities we utilized this year were hands-on coding projects through Tynker, Scratch, and SpheroEdu. For example, the students learned the basics of loops in the JavaScript programming language by completing a fun video game style challenge in Tynker. Students were given group activities ranging from in depth discussion of core IT concepts to engaging STEAM challenges."

In addition, the students were able to visit virtually with two IT industry professionals who shared their journey and what it was like to be in a top IT career. Furthermore, students worked on their soft skills through interviews, goal setting, and resume writing. Students culminated their course work by creating a mini portfolio with a reflective capstone essay in which they discussed their experiences in the course and how it connected to their future career aspirations.

"I hope to carry the success of this summer program forward into the school year as I embark as the first ever full time STEAM teacher for West Carroll Parish," Cady concluded. "Additionally, we are considering expanding the summer program to include an additional CompTIA certification for the following summer."

West Carroll Superintendent Christy Boyte was effusive in her praise for Cady as well as the district's inaugural program. "Amy is amazing and we are so very proud of her success. She has really poured her heart into this class and her instruction. We are thankful to SCILS for its support and happy to see our success highlighted."

Dr. Lindsey Keith-Vincent, Associate Dean for Research, Outreach, and Innovation in the Louisiana Tech University College of Education echoed Boyte's praise. "This is a huge accomplishment and we congratulate Amy and West Carroll on this incredible success. We appreciate West Carroll allowing the SCILS team at SciTEC in our COE at Louisiana Tech to play a tiny part in this tremendous project. It is our honor to serve this district and its students."

## **Reporting on Women in STEM . . . Only 1 in 5 Engineering Degrees Go To Women**

*Despite various efforts to encourage more women to study STEM fields in college, the percentage of engineering bachelor's degrees earned by women in the United States hasn't increased much in the 21st century. Specifically, it has risen from 18% in 1998 to 22% in 2018. The Society of Women Engineers reports that over 32% of female STEM majors switch to another major. Research shows this rate is typically higher than the rate at which men leave engineering. Of those women who leave the engineering profession, 30% cite the workplace environment as the reason, the society reports.*