

# CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS

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

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## SCILS Partners for Successful EPSCoR Project



The SCILS Region 8 LaSTEM Center has once again successfully partnered with Dr. Bill Deese in the Louisiana Tech University Chemistry Department to develop a submission for the 2022 -2023 Louisiana EPSCoR initiative. Supported by the National Science Foundation and co-sponsored by the Louisiana Board of Regents, LA EPSCoR is contributing significantly to the growth of Louisiana's research enterprise by providing funding and opportunities for science and engineering faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and post-doctoral assistants. The team behind the proposal was not only awarded the full amount requested for the project but were invited to double the budget and include more students and activities. The original "Girls in the Mix" project will now become "Middle Grades in the Mix" and bring 200 students in grades 7-8 to the Louisiana Tech campus during Spring 2023 for a day of laboratory experiences and career success opportunities focused around materials science and chemistry.

*Take a Look Inside:*

*AEOP Partnership, Computer Science Education Week, Morehouse Partners for Interest and Opportunities, Bossier Parish Community College Celebration, Girl Scouts Earn Badges, SCILS Workforce Report, Cedar Creek Promotes STEM*

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Community Voices:  
Broadening Participation in  
Science, Technology,  
Engineering, Mathematics,  
and Medicine Among Persons  
with Disabilities*

*Broadening participation in  
STEMM (Science, Technology,  
Engineering, Math, and  
Medicine) is crucial for vitality  
and innovation in science,  
biomedicine, education, and the  
humanities. Disabled persons'  
unique perspectives facilitate  
improved understanding of the  
social, natural, and physical  
world. Indeed, recent studies  
surrounding disability justice  
has stressed the gains and  
creativity that come with  
experiences of disability, rather  
than simply losses or obstacles  
that typically accompany  
definitions of disability. Yet,  
persons with disabilities remain  
both under-represented and  
excluded, within STEMM. We  
will all benefit both directly  
and indirectly through closing  
knowledge gaps and  
implementing a framework that  
includes flexibility,  
accommodations and  
modifications.*



## SCILS Set to Support AEOP at Louisiana Tech University

**Chris Campbell, SciTEC and UTeach Tech staff, has been awarded a site agreement by the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) on behalf of the Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP), establishing Louisiana Tech University as an AEOP High School Apprenticeships host for 2023. With support from SCILS, Chris will oversee a hands-on research experience for high school students to develop an understanding of the process of research, to spark curiosity and understanding of work in STEM, and to contribute to the pipeline of STEM talent comprising the future workforce. The AEOP Apprenticeships will provide youth from under-served populations with hands-on summer research experiences under the supervision and guidance of qualified mentors.**

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**Don't Miss the Second SCILS Podcast  
Produced in Partnership with  
Louisiana Delta Community College:**

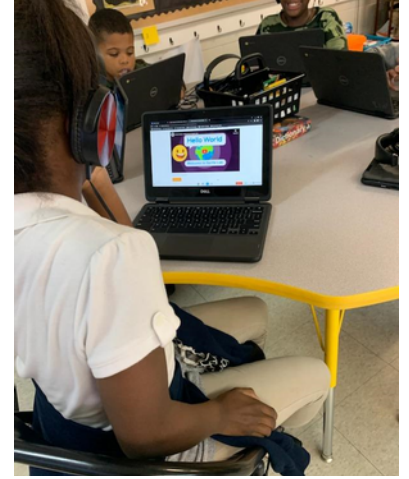
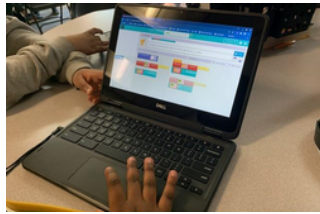
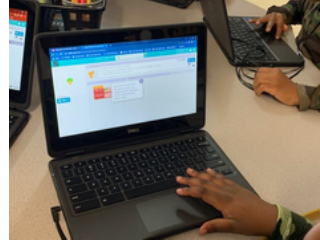
<https://youtu.be/EcbqOr7cy3E>



# Ruston Elementary School Featured Among Schools Highlighted During the Inaugural Louisiana Computer Science Education Week

In partnership with SCILS and its ongoing collaboration with the Region 2 LaSTEM Center focus on computer science, Ruston Elementary School's work with code.org was featured during the inaugural Louisiana Computer Science Education Week by the Louisiana Department of Education. As RES teacher Michee Moss continued facilitating daily computer science lessons for her students, their work was showcased in social media posts shared by the DOE to help raise awareness and promote interest in computer science education.

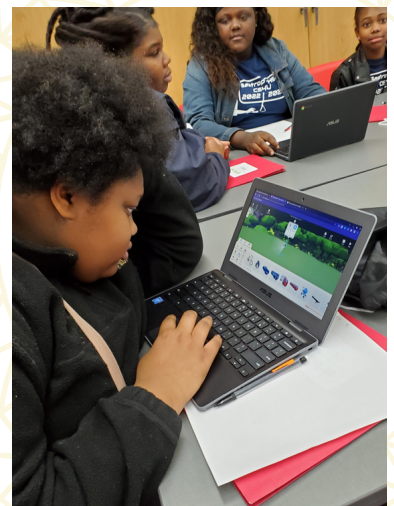
*CONGRATULATIONS MICHEE AND RUSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!!*



## SCILS Welcomes Morehouse Parish Schools as Third CS4U Cohort as well as First Interest and Opportunities Partner



The Region 8 LaSTEM Center hosted 33 7th and 8th grade girls from all three middle grades schools in Morehouse Parish for its third CS4U (Computer Science for You) cohort. The girls spent a day engaged in coding, cyber security, cryptography, computer science and career success. In addition, Morehouse has tapped SCILS as its partner for its Interest and Opportunities initiative with each school designing a unique CS4U Club shirt. The LDOE Interest and Opportunities indicator is designed to measure whether schools are providing students with access to a well-rounded education that exposes them to diverse areas of learning in which they can develop their skills and talents. Morehouse will be continuing its focus on the elements found within CS4U.







bossier parish  
community college

## SCILS Celebrates Partnership with Bossier Parish Community College

Bossier Parish Community College recently hosted a CTEC Scholarship and Awards Banquet to honor SCILS Scholarship recipients, GDIT Step-Up participants, CyberStart Cohort participants, CompTIA Certifications, and Distinguished Industry Partners. Quentin Calhoun, Project Director LED/GDIT, invited SCILS Director Cathi Cox-Boniol to provide an overview of the partnership with the Region 8 LaSTEM Center and how it is supporting students in their computer technology career paths.



## SCILS Team Helps Local Girl Scouts Earn Badges

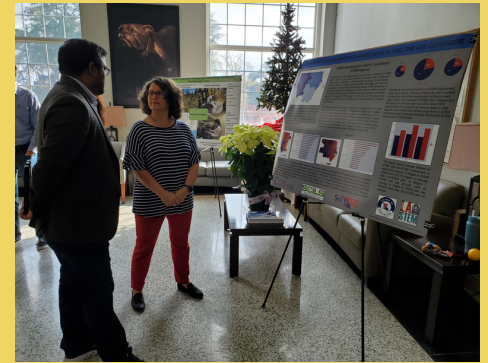
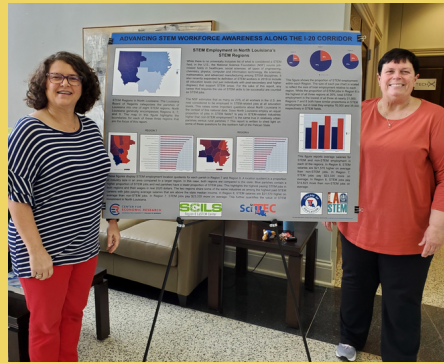
The SCILS team worked with Lincoln Parish Girl Scouts to earn their Space Exploration badges. SCILS created customized STEM kits for the girls to engage with as they explored the James Webb Telescope, the solar system, Earth and Moon revolutions, and phases of the moon.





# SCILS Provides Advance Look at STEM Workforce Report

SCILS partnered with the Center for Economic Research within the College of Business at Louisiana Tech University to provide a Workforce Report designed to advance STEM workforce awareness along the I-20 Corridor. While the report will be officially unveiled in January 2023, the SCILS team provided a special preview during the Louisiana Tech Research and Partnerships Week activities. Cathi Cox-Boniol and Missy Wooley participated in a poster session that featured elements of the report while engaging in conversations about STEM workforce needs and opportunities.



## Cedar Creek Partners with SCILS to Promote STEM

Cedar Creek leveraged its partnership with SCILS to promote STEM throughout its elementary grades in different events. 2nd graders visited the Louisiana Tech University campus to enjoy a STEM Day with SCILS. These students created catapults for a Punkin' Chunkin' challenge, worked with Dr. Lisa Dick on programming and technology and cracked codes to help them complete breakout boxes. In addition, SCILS Director Cathi Cox-Boniol hosted Miss Louisiana Teen Volunteer and SCILS STEM Leader Melissa Le for a special program for students in grades 3-5 on the Cedar Creek campus.

