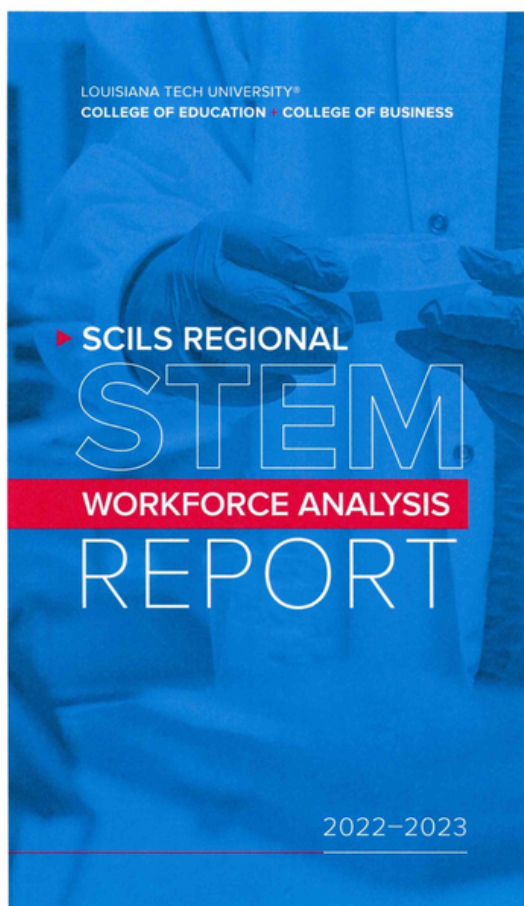


# CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS

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

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## SCILS Set to Release Inaugural Workforce Analysis Report



The Region 8 LaSTEM Center is proud to announce the release of its inaugural SCILS Regional STEM Workforce Analysis Report. Produced in partnership between the Colleges of Business and Education at Louisiana Tech University, the report was developed by the Center for Economic Research. The resource is designed to provide insight into the STEM workforce landscape across North Louisiana. This edition features information to help citizens in our region better understand STEM workforce activities and opportunities along the I-20 corridor and will be utilized by the SCILS team as it focuses on workforce initiatives and training opportunities in 2023. The report will be shared with its first audience during the Q1 LaSTEM Council Meeting to be hosted by SCILS in Baton Rouge on January 31. Beginning February 1, a digital file of the report will be posted to the SCILS website while utilized for additional presentations and conversations. For more information about the report, contact the SCILS team utilizing the contact information above.

*Take a Look Inside:*

*The Biden Administration's STEM Initiative, Richland Parish Joins SCILS, Lincoln Prep Engages in CS4U, Engineer the World: Girls Design for Good, SCILS Offers STEM Day*

## DID YOU KNOW?

### *The Biden Administration's New STEM Initiative: What Will It Mean for K-12 Schools?*

*A new Biden administration initiative aims to expand access to science, technology, engineering, math, and medical career fields through partnerships with universities, STEM companies, and nonprofit organizations. The White House announced a new "STEMM" (adding an extra M to the well-known acronym to include medical fields) national vision and strategy during the Dec. 12 Summit on STEMM Equity and Excellence. The initiative outlines five action items that the government and its industry and education partners will take to improve STEMM equity and access across the country and involves over \$1.2 billion in work and investments from the federal government, industry leaders, and nonprofit organizations.*

*The five action items the federal government plans to put in place include:*

- Provide holistic and lifelong support for students, teachers, workers, and communities to participate in and contribute to science and technology;*
- Address STEMM teacher shortages by recruiting and retaining teachers and improving teacher respect;*
- Close STEMM funding gaps and support students, researchers, and communities that have historically been excluded from access to STEMM resources;*
- Root out systemic bias, inaccessibility, discrimination, and harassment in classrooms, laboratories, and workplaces;*
- And promote culture and systems of accountability across science and technology communities, workplaces, and education fields.*

*The idea is that the action items will provide students from all backgrounds with the opportunities they need to access and excel in STEMM fields. For the STEMM workforce to reflect societal demographics by 2030, the number of women in those jobs would need to double, the number of Black people would need to more than double, and the number of Hispanic people would need to triple, according to a report from the National Science Foundation.*



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

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=A3CTg\\_ieT8A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3CTg_ieT8A)**

# SCILS Hosts Start Elementary School for a STEM Day as Richland Parish Joins the Partnership Network

The SCILS team was thrilled to welcome Start Elementary School and Richland Parish to its partnership network, hosting the school for a special STEM Day on the Louisiana Tech University campus. The students engaged in an engineering design challenge, worked with technology, plus enjoyed a special demonstration presentation by Dr. Bill Deese in Tech's Chemistry Department.



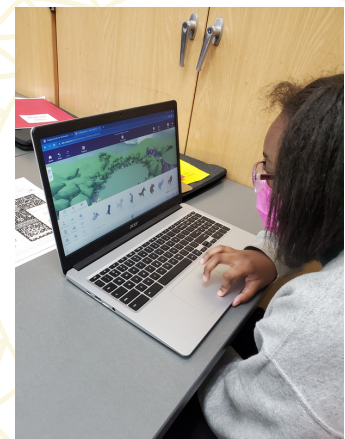
**Welcome  
Richland  
Parish!**



## SCILS Hosts Lincoln Preparatory School as Fourth CS4U Cohort



The Region 8 LaSTEM Center hosted nineteen 7th and 8th grade girls from Lincoln Preparatory School in Grambling for its fourth CS4U (Computer Science for You) cohort. The girls spent a day engaged in coding, cyber security, cryptography, computer science and career success. The girls did a fantastic job with each opportunity and challenge and left excited about their newly developed computer science skills.





## SCILS Partners with Lincoln Parish Library and VISTA for Engineer the World: Girls Design for Good

Never underestimate the power of girls.

That's the message that came through loud and clear as girls in grades 3-6 recently gathered at the Lincoln Parish Library to participate in a special Saturday workshop entitled "Engineer the World: Girls Design for Good."

"This is part of our year-long emphasis on girls in STEM," explained Missy Wooley, Assistant Director for the SCILS Region 8 LaSTEM Center at Louisiana Tech University. "We wanted to include an opportunity for girls throughout the community to come together and not only celebrate what they are capable of doing, but focus that energy on how they can better our world."

The workshop is part of a state-wide effort to implement successful community programs that help break down barriers for women and girls. Spearheaded by the Million Women Mentors-Louisiana group, the initiative allowed the SCILS team to put together an experience that not only connected girls from all corners of Lincoln Parish but also focus on one of the grand challenges of engineering: access to clean water for everyone.

"The girls spent a full day engaging in interactive experiences that focused on water and how we need to be better stewards of the water on Earth," Wooley continued. "It allowed them to learn a lot about water while exercising their problem solving skills and developing as leaders to make a difference in our world."

The days included a water carousel, "Where in the World is the Water" measuring activity, an exploration of the book "A River Ran Wild," a deep dive into the water cycle through various resources, a lively "Pollution Mountain" experience, a Water Tower engineering design challenge to develop a mechanism for transporting clean water from one community to another, a fun "Day in the Life of a Water Drop" experience and plenty of opportunities for each girl's voice to be heard as they developed solutions to the problems we face with our natural resources. Plus, each girl went home with their own STEM kit and the VISTA book "Worrisome Waters." For Girl Scout Troop 11 Brownies Leader Ashley Turner, it was an exceptional experience for her scouting group.

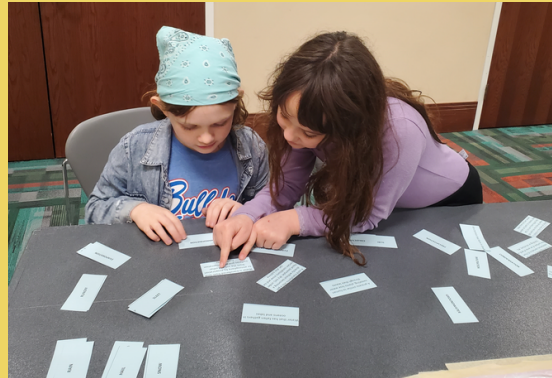
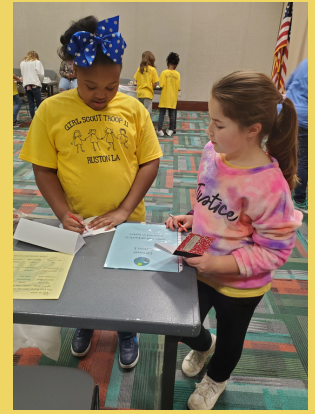
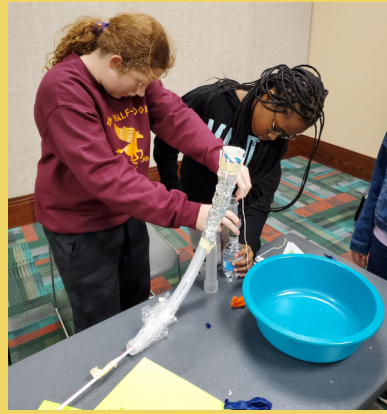
"This is just amazing," Turner shared. "This one day is like four meetings for our girls. And the way it is structured not only helps us accomplish our goals, but also allows the girls to interact with a larger group from the community they might never meet. It's so powerful having girls from all the different schools working so well together. We simply couldn't have asked for anything more perfect."

While they are currently working on "WOW! Wonders of Water" as part of the "It's Your Planet—Love It! Leadership Journey," the Brownies who engaged in the workshop were able to earn three badges as well as complete requirements for their Summit Award. That made the day not just fun but important for the group. "It's really a big deal for us," Turner added. "We are truly grateful for the incredible leadership that made this possible and for allowing our group to be involved."

While the SCILS leadership team was a driving force behind making the day possible, the partnerships in place are what made it so successful. For Lincoln Parish Library Children's Director Marcie Nelson, that's what it's all about.

"This is why the library is here," Nelson pointed out. "It's all about community and making the most of our partnerships. We couldn't be more thrilled with being a part of presenting this special workshop and look forward to doing it again. We love bringing different groups in and especially when serving our young people. It's so inspiring to see what they are able to accomplish. And today was certainly evidence of that. These girls obviously had a ball. You can't help but wonder just what they might do next."

# *A Look at Engineer the World: Girls Design for Good*



## **SCILS Team Kicks off 2023 With a STEM Day**

The SCILS Region 8 LaSTEM Center and SciTEC in the College of Education teamed up for a STEM Day to kick off 2023. Throughout the day, attendees from grades K-5 rotated through different stations that included various types of technology, a measurement carousel, engineering design challenges with a winter theme, electrical circuits and breakout boxes.

