

# CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS

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

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## STEM DAY in Lincoln Parish



## A St. Patrick's Day Celebration With a Little Johnny Appleseed Added In!



*Take a Look Inside:*

*Region 8 LaSTEM Center Partners for Grant, Meet Chuck Gardner, Region 8 LaSTEM SCILS Satellite Programs Announced, STEM Center Director Honored*



## SCILS 2022 Mini Summit

All SCILS satellite partners, advisory board members and key stakeholders are asked to put Thursday, May 26, 2022, 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM, on their calendar for our annual SCILS Mini Summit at the Davison Athletics Complex on the Louisiana Tech University campus. Satellite partners will present their upcoming projects and collaborative groups will discuss the growth of the Region 8 LaSTEM Center through the SCILS network while planning for the future. Invitations to follow!

## DID YOU KNOW?

### *Five Pieces of Advice on Being an Effective STEM Mentor*

1. Make sure you have the time and mental capacity.'
2. Be open to reverse mentoring if there's something you can learn.
3. Keep your focus on the advisee.
4. Encourage, then take a step back.
5. Connect them with your network.



Inspiring kids in STEM happens more often in afterschool and summer learning experiences than inside the classroom walls, particularly for girls and students from low-income backgrounds.

## Region 8 LaSTEM Center Partners with Dr. Bill Deese for Successful Grant Award

*Dr. Bill Deese, Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Louisiana Tech University, teamed up with SCILS Director Cathi Cox-Boniol for the submission of a 2022 LA EPSCoR (Louisiana Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) grant proposal.*

*Pursued through Track 4: STEM Outreach through Seed Funding within the Louisiana Materials Design Alliance, the proposal was awarded \$6000 for a project entitled "Making a CASE (Collaborating Around STEM Engagement) for Middle Grades."*

*The project will host 100 middle grades students from area schools on the Tech campus for a day exploring material science through inquiry, demonstrations, interaction with STEM professionals and tours of innovative campus spaces in May 2022.*

*Tech joins the University of New Orleans, Southeastern Louisiana University and Louisiana State University in receiving funding during this cycle.*



**Dr. Bill Deese**





Region 8 LaSTEM Center

## SCILS Advisory Board Spotlight Dr. Chuck Gardner Director of Curriculum for cyber.org

*Chuck leads the curricula development team and connects with state educational representatives on standards development. Chuck's favorite part of the job is teachers' "aha!" moments during professional development workshops. Need a recommendation for a kitchen gadget or podcast? Chuck is your guy!*



The Lincoln Parish STEM Center recently hosted a STEM Day for children of teachers participating in professional development. In addition to engineering an Apple Tower, participants also engaged in a challenge to design a container to hold one cup of Lucky Charms cereal, created a trap to catch a Leprechaun, utilized the robotics program Dash to complete a balloon challenge, made robots using Cup Bot and used a Bee Bot to find Leprechaun gold.



### Region 8 LaSTEM Center SCILS Satellite Site Projects Announced

- Bossier Parish Community College - Cyber Technology Training
- Bossier Parish School Board - Drone Course
- Grambling State University - STEM Mentoring Program
- Lincoln Parish School Board - Summer STEM Camps
- Louisiana Delta Community College - Forensic CSI Camp
- Monroe City Schools - Summer STEM Camps
- Morehouse Parish School Board - Robotics Program
- Ouachita Parish School Board - Green Science Robotics and Rockets
- University of Louisiana at Monroe - Pre-College Summer Research Program and STEM Camp
- West Carroll Parish School Board - CompTIA Course with Coding and Robotics Opportunities

# Region 8 Director Honored at ITEEA Conference in Orlando



SCILS Director Cathi Cox-Boniol was recognized during the recent International Technology and Engineering Educators Association conference held in Orlando, Florida. She was first named the Region 2 Outstanding Affiliate Representative during the President's Leadership Breakfast for facilitating outstanding growth within Louisiana. Region 2 is the East Central part of the United States and includes Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, and Tennessee as well as Ontario and Quebec. Cox-Boniol was then awarded the Outstanding State/Province Leader by the Council for STEM Leadership within ITEEA. The award recognizes leadership as well as service to the profession with Louisiana being the only state honored with the award. She was also voted Secretary/Treasurer of the CSL and now begins a term on the executive committee for the international organization. In addition, Cox-Boniol was invited for invitation into Epsilon Pi Tau, the International Honorary for Professions in Technology, the official honor society for ITEEA. Selected for promoting excellence in preparation and excellence in practice, she went through the Exemplary Initiation conducted during the conference. While at the conference, Cox-Boniol also presented sessions entitled "Leveraging LaSTEM Hubs" and "Sizzling Summer STEM."

## Research Says . . .

Applicants with backgrounds in STEM fields – science, technology, engineering and mathematics – have a leg up in law school admissions. Law is increasingly enmeshed with science and technology, and not just in the burgeoning areas of health law, tech law, patent law and environmental law. From forensic evidence to financial instruments, lawyers must increasingly draw upon scientific knowledge and quantitative skills. Emerging technologies based on automation, machine learning and distributed networks may eventually transform the legal field altogether.