

CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS

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

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SCILS Launches Podcast in Partnership with Louisiana Delta Community College



In an effort to help further the conversation around the LaSTEM work taking place along the I-20 Corridor, the SCILS Region 8 LaSTEM Center and Louisiana Delta Community College have partnered to produce a monthly podcast designed specifically for that purpose. The brainchild of Ryan Pierce, Division Chair for the LDCC School of Business and Technology, "The LaSTEM Collective" brings stakeholders discussions around accomplishments, opportunities, and experiences within the Louisiana Region 8 STEM ecosystem and beyond. Guests are welcome as well as suggestions for news, events and more. If you are interested in helping tell the LaSTEM story, send your news, events, images and story requests to region8lastem@gmail.com. You can also support this new podcast by subscribing or following wherever you watch or listen, or by sponsoring a segment or entire show. Contact SCILS for more information.

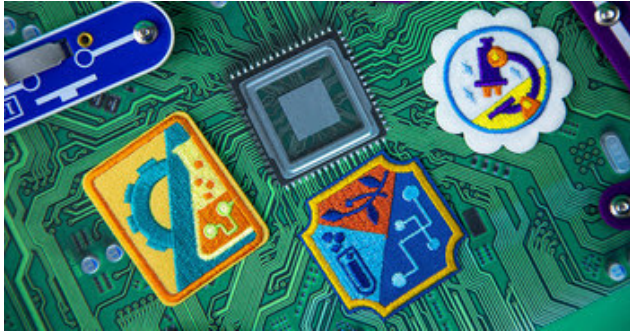
SCILS Region 8 LaSTEM YouTube Channel: <https://bit.ly/SCILSRegion8LaSTEMYouTube>
Inaugural Episode 1: <https://youtu.be/4-AV9C0Qhkk>

Take a Look Inside:

You Belong in STEM, SCILS on Social Media, cyber.org Ribbon Cutting, Ruston Junior High School Attends CS4U, SCILS Supports Trunk or Treat, SCILS Named National Commitment-Maker by CSforALL, Big STEM Halloween Events

DID YOU KNOW?

Girl Scouts of the USA Removes Accessibility Barriers in STEM and Entrepreneurship for Girls to Break the Next Glass Ceiling



Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) announced the expansion of their STEM Career Exploration badges and reimagination of the Financial Literacy suite of programming for girls in grades K-12, creating a 360° experience and clearing the pathway to underrepresented fields for women. This program update was designed to take girls on a journey through STEM, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship at every level, resulting in Girl Scouts learning skills to make a difference, making informed career choices, and rocketing them to the top of every hiring list.



“YOU Belong in STEM” Initiative to Enhance STEM Education for All Young People

Recently, ACTE released an updated “STEM is CTE” fact sheet to describe how CTE is developing students’ science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills and preparing students to enter the STEM workforce. CTE programs across the 16 Career Clusters® enable students to master STEM skills, such as computational thinking, that are increasingly required for both STEM jobs and for jobs not classified as STEM. CTE students also earn STEM industry credentials most requested in jobs as well as educational credentials that allow them to pursue high-wage STEM careers in areas like data science, cybersecurity and data center operations.

Visit <https://www.ed.gov/stem> for more information.

SCILS IS NOW ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Follow the SCILS Region 8 LaSTEM Center on both Facebook and Instagram

Look for SCILS-Region 8 La STEM Center on Facebook and @scilsregion8 on Instagram to see weekly posts related to SCILS activities and resources. And while on Instagram, check out our new podcast produced in partnership with Louisiana Delta Community College. Episode 1 can be found in our Instagram link tree <https://linktr.ee/scilsregion8>. Please help us grow by sharing our posts with your followers!

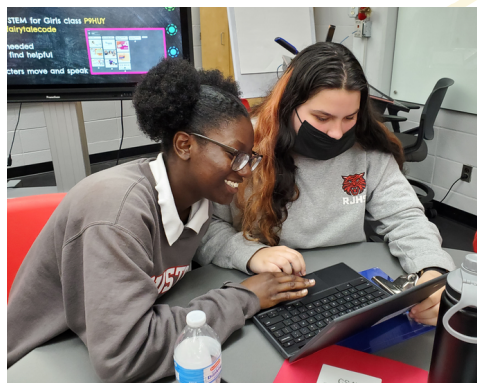
SCILS Team Joins Partner cyber.org for Ribbon Cutting

The Region 8 LaSTEM Center joined cyber.org for a ribbon cutting celebrating the launch of its new Cyber Range. The new hands-on experience available through the Cyber Range is designed to help educate the next generation of cyber-literate individuals while equipping them for high paying jobs throughout the region and state. During the event, attendees heard from members of the cyber.org team as well as Governor John Bel Edwards and U.S. Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Jen Easterly. Comments focused on the need for the right cyber security workforce and how that correlates to the right cyber education, beginning from the youngest of ages to inspire them to become part of the cyber pipeline and fill more than 700,000 cyber jobs throughout the country as well as more than 2100 jobs available in our area.



SCILS Welcomes Ruston Junior High School as Second CS4U Cohort

The Region 8 LaSTEM Center hosted 32 7th and 8th grade girls from Ruston Junior High School for its second CS4U (Computer Science for You) cohort. The girls spent a day engaged in coding, cyber security, cryptography, computer science and career success. The gathering represents the second of eight CS4U sessions that will be held during the 2022-23 academic year.



SCILS Brings STEM to LPECC Trunk or Treat

The SCILS Team joined the Lincoln Parish Early Childhood Center for some Halloween fun during its annual Trunk or Treat event. Each student received a special "Make a Monster" STEM Kit prepared by the Region 8 LaSTEM Center.



SCILS Named a CSforALL National Commitment-Maker

Together with CSforALL and 136 organizations, the SCILS Region 8 LaSTEM Center Announces its Commitment to Drive Action in the Computer Science Education Space.

During its Summit recently held in Memphis, Tennessee, CSforALL announced 180 CSforALL commitments from 136 organizations made by its member community while celebrating the forward momentum of K-12 computer science education systems in the U.S.

“This is such an exciting time for our SCILS team,” shares Cathi Cox-Boniol, Region 8 LaSTEM Center Director at Louisiana Tech University. “Through robust partnerships within our SCILS network, we have created a highly engaging experience designed to help move the needle with respect to the development of computer science skills for Louisiana students. We are simply thrilled to see our efforts now recognized by the CSforALL community.”

Selected as an official Commitment-Maker for the 2022 CSforALL Summit, the Region 8 LaSTEM Center’s initiative includes its new CS4U (Computer Science for You) program. The program engages middle grades students in a series of experiences focused on the areas of computer science, coding skills, cyber security and career success. The program debuted in September and will continue through the 2022-2023 academic year with a goal of impacting a minimum of 200 female students as a part of its Girls in STEM initiative. According to CSforALL, the program addresses three of its core goals: raise awareness, impact under-represented minority populations and rural STEM.

“We are incredibly proud to have made our CSforALL Commitment: a new, specific, and measurable action in support of achieving the ultimate goal of computer science for all U.S. students,” adds SCILS Assistant Director Missy Wooley. “We now eagerly join the hundreds of organizations that have committed to do their part to further the #CSforALL movement.”

#CSforALL commitments are aimed at advancing the goal of rigorous and inclusive computer science education for all U.S. youth and designed to grow support and momentum for a sustainable K-12 computer science education system in and out of school.

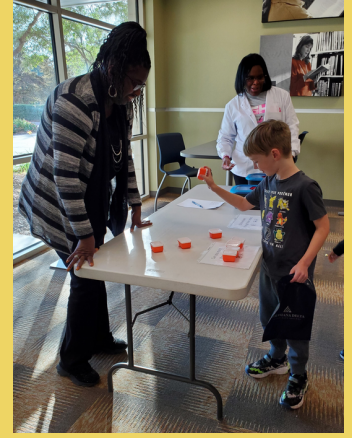
“The ability to engage and inspire young women to explore computer science and coding and to be recognized for those contributions at a national level is remarkable,” said Dr. Lindsey Keith-Vincent, Associate Dean for Research, Outreach, and Innovation in Tech’s College of Education. “I am grateful for the investments of time and energy put into the effort by Cathi, Missy and the SCILS team in SciTEC at Louisiana Tech. I am thankful these unique opportunities are available to our rural district partners who can benefit most. I am looking forward to the moment in 5-10 years when these young people are in the field, blazing their own trails, and inspiring the next generation of computer scientists, coders, and STEM leaders.”



SCILS Supports Louisiana Delta Community College



The Region 8 LaSTEM Center partnered with Louisiana Delta Community College for a "spooky" Halloween Open House that allowed the college to showcase pathways in different STEM fields for both the children and adults who attended. Hundreds of attendees engaged in exciting and inspiring hands-on experiences while discovering how LDCC can help shape their future!



SCILS Team Adds STEM to Monster Mash

The SCILS Region 8 LaSTEM Center was on hand for the Ruston Monster Mash where they handed out 1000 "Dancing Spider" STEM kits the team developed along with information about the LaSTEM Center. The kits were a hit with both children and adults alike!

