

CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS

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

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SCILS Welcomes New Team Member

The SCILS Region 8 LaSTEM Center proudly welcomes Missy Wooley to its team as Assistant Director as well as STEM Outreach Coordinator for SciTEC in the College of Education at Louisiana Tech University. An award-winning, master STEM educator who spent two decades in the high school classroom, Missy also served as Director for both New Tech @ Ruston as well as the Lincoln Parish STEM Center. With tenures in both the Louisiana Department of Education as well as CATALyST (Center for Applied Teaching and Learning to Yield Scientific Thinking) on the Louisiana Tech campus, Missy brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the work among the growing SCILS network of partners. She has already immersed herself in the SCILS work, helping develop a full slate of experiences to support the center's ongoing "Girls in STEM" initiative.



Take a Look Inside:

Regional You Be the Chemist Challenge, Louisiana Delta Community College Celebrates Cyber Month, Alda Center Project, code.org Partnership, SCILS Launches CS4U, SCILS Team Attends NGCP Collaboration Institute

DID YOU KNOW?

Young people in rural areas often do not have the same access to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education as youth in suburban areas of the country, according to the Hechinger Report, a national educational newsroom.

4-H STEM and agriculture programs equip young people with skills they need to succeed in life, and are available through local clubs, schools and grant-funded programs. Focus areas include computer science, robotics, environmental science, agri-science, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and veterinary science.

4-H STEM Challenge, formerly known as National Youth Science Day (NYSD), is 4-H's annual initiative to inspire kids everywhere to take an interest in STEM topics through hands-on learning.

4-H computer science programs help prepare youth for college and career by teaching technical programming skills in languages like Scratch, Python and Java alongside essential life skills like problem solving, teamwork and resiliency.

For more information: <https://4-h.org/parents/stem-agriculture/>



According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, chemists in general earned an average annual salary of \$86,410 (www.bls.gov). Chemists working in scientific research and development earned an average of \$99,720 in 2020, whereas those working in pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing earned an average of \$81,250. Want to see what chemistry has to offer? Check out the You Be the Chemist Challenge!



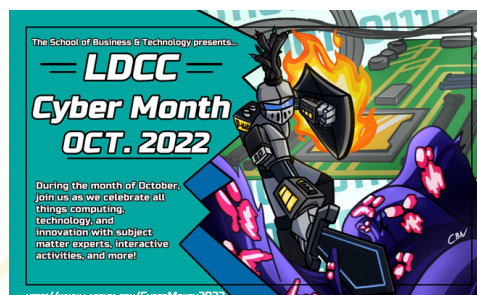
Regional You Be the Chemist Challenge

Hosted by the SCILS Region 8 LaSTEM Center

Louisiana Tech University Student Center

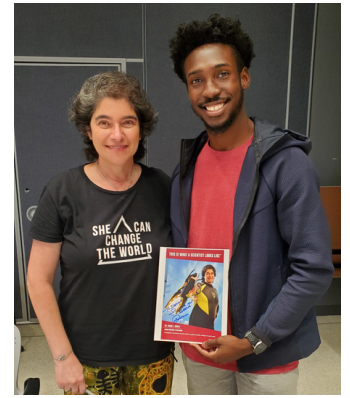
9 AM - 1:30 PM, Friday, March 3, 2023

Contact Cathi Cox-Boniol (ccox@latech.edu or region8lastem@gmail.com) or Missy Wooley (mwooley@latech.edu) for more information



Louisiana Delta Community College Promotes Cyber Skills During October

During the month of October, Louisiana Delta Community College celebrated Cyber Month with a series of activities designed to equip students with skills focused around cyber security. Experiences included YouTube lessons for "Have a Plan! Disaster Recovery 101" with Ieshea Hollis; "Email Analysis and Safety" with Skyshun Smith; "Is Your Online Identity Secure?" with Hunter McFadden; and an on-site workshop entitled "Connectivity 101: Patch Cable Creation" where students learned to build their own cat 5e ethernet cable. Hats off to this exciting project within the SCILS network.



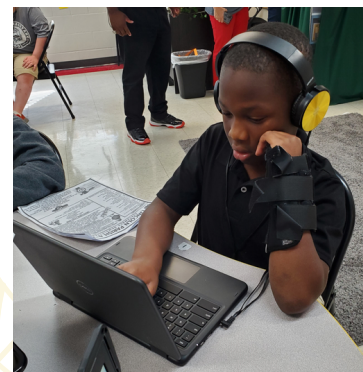
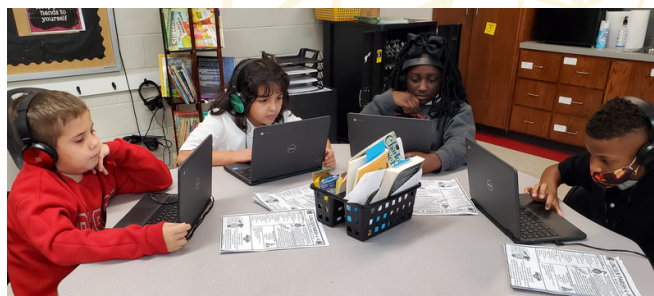
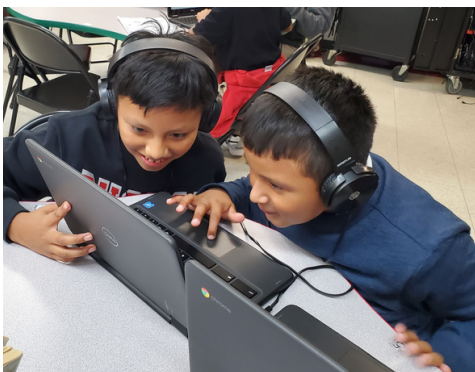
SCILS Supports Alda Center Project

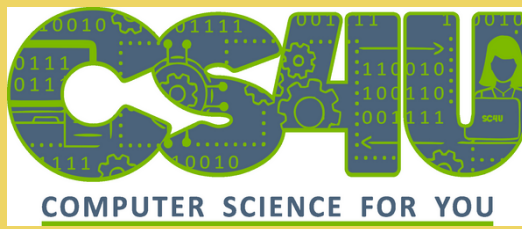
The Region 8 LaSTEM Center supported Dr. Jamie Newman's Alda Center Project that brought Dr. Tamar Goulet to the Louisiana Tech University campus. Goulet is a strong advocate for women in STEM, having been selected as one of 120 ambassadors for the American Association of the Advancement of Science (AAAS) IF/ THEN Initiative. The goal for the event was to engage the university in a conversation not just about women in STEM but about representation in all disciplines. SCILS invited area middle and high school female students to participate in the day.



SCILS Partners with Region 2 for code.org

The Region 8 LaSTEM Center is joining forces with the Capital Area LaSTEM Center to bring computer science through code.org to elementary grades. Ruston Elementary School STEM teacher Michee Moss went through the code.org training and is piloting a computer science class for grades 3-5 on the RES campus. She reports things are going well and the students are thoroughly enjoying the new challenge, adding that she is incredibly proud of their persistence in learning these new skills. As part of this partnership, the SCILS Region 8 LaSTEM Center will host a code.org training for elementary teachers in North Louisiana on March 4, 2023, on the Louisiana Tech University campus. Participants will receive stipends and lunch will be served. Stay tuned for more details!





SCILS Launches CS4U: Computer Science for You

Held at the Lincoln Parish Library Events Center, the day and a half CS4U event welcomed middle grades girls from across the Louisiana Delta and began with Dr. Lisa Dick and several of her students from Louisiana Tech facilitating a lively session on coding. The following day, Missy Wooley guided the girls through breakout boxes and cryptography before they engaged in a cyber scavenger hunt on the Tech campus. Chris Campbell then directed the group through programming giggle bots and the girls heard from a powerhouse panel that included Kim Breithaupt (Argent Financial Group), Farrah Dixon (HiTech Computers), Dr. Mary Fendley (Louisiana Tech University), Melissa Hartwell (Northern Louisiana Medical Center) and Tech senior computer science student Mary Nations as part of the career success component. Schools that attended the event were able to return to campus with materials and technology for the girls to continue developing their CS skills. In addition, a special online suite of courses has been developed on the Coursera platform for the girls to work independently over the next several months to further fuel their interest in coding and computer science skills. CS4U will be repeated for 7 additional sessions throughout the academic year to include additional schools and middle grades girls as part of the SCILS "Girls in STEM" effort.



SCILS Team Attends NGCP Collaboration Institute

To further support its "Girls in STEM" initiative, the SCILS team attended the National Girls Collaborative Project Collaboration Institute in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Leveraging the network of national leaders, the team picked up resources and developed partnerships to support its ongoing work. In addition, Dr. Lindsey Keith-Vincent was part of the 20th Anniversary celebration video.

