

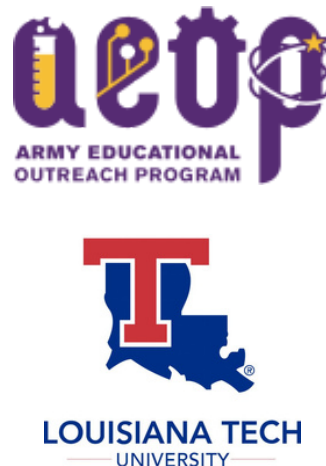
CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS

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

Cathi Cox-Boniol, SCILS Region 8 LaSTEM Center Director
region8lastem@gmail.com, ccox@latech.edu, or 318-268-7558
<https://community.latech.edu/scils-region-8-lastem-center/>

SCILS Partners with the Louisiana Tech University College of Education to Offer AEOP Student Research Experience

Louisiana Tech's College of Education in partnership with the Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) welcomed high school students on campus to work with university mentors through a paid apprenticeship program focused on research experiences and opportunities. Apprentices completed a minimum of 200 hours under the direct supervision of a mentor while working on a hands-on research project. This exposed the apprentices to the real world of research while they gained valuable mentorship and learned about education and career opportunities in STEM. Mentors for the students were Dr. Mark DeCoster in Biomedical Engineering and Dr. Julia Earl in Biology while Chris Campbell (UTeach Tech) coordinated the program. Presentations related to their research included "Synthesis and Characterization of Cu-HARS and other MOBs" and "Effects of Light and Soil on Tannins in Water" and were presented at the conclusion of the two-month summer program. The SCILS team was proud to support this outstanding STEM experience.



Take a Look Inside:

Save the Date: LaSTEM Summit, Congratulations LaSTEM Council Member, Lincoln Parish STEM Camp Recap, Region 8 PAESMT Honorees, SCILS Partners with ULM, Morehouse STEM Grows

DID YOU KNOW?

STEM Fields are Top Choice for Gen Z Students, New NSHSS Survey Shows

Results from a survey of over 11,000 U.S. high school and college students, conducted by the National Society of High School Scholars, offer insights into Gen Z's career choices and show that a majority of respondents are planning for future jobs in STEM fields.

Employment & Career Findings:

- More than 1 in 4 students said they plan on staying in their first full-time job for one year or less.
- 82% of respondents — primarily high schoolers — plan to have an internship before their first job.
- STEM fields were respondents' No. 1 choice of career fields, and this response continues to grow particularly among female students and students of color, the report said.
 - 27% said they plan to enter a medicine or health-related field.
 - 20% said they plan to work in the healthcare field.
 - 19% said they plan to enter a business or corporate career field.
 - 18% said they're planning on a career in engineering.
 - 18% said they're planning on a career in the sciences.
 - 16% said they're planning on a career in business.
 - 12% said they're planning on a career in technology.
 - 7% said they're planning on a career in math.



SAVE THE DATE!

November 14-15, 2023

LaSTEM Summit

**New Orleans Ernest N. Morial
Convention Center**

More Details to Come!

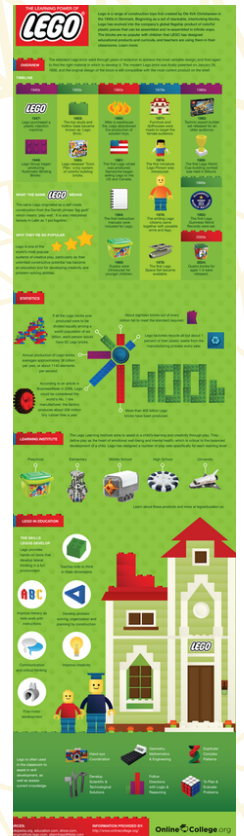
Congratulations LaSTEM Council Member Dr. Lindsey B. Keith-Vincent!

Dr. Lindsey B. Keith-Vincent was recently honored by the Monroe Chamber of Commerce as one of the Top 20 Under 40 Young Professionals throughout the region. As Associate Dean for Research, Outreach and Innovation in the College of Education at Louisiana Tech University, she spearheaded the effort that brought the Region 8 LaSTEM Center to Tech.



7 Skills Kids Can Develop from Playing LEGO

- LEGO helps develop problem-solving, organization, and planning by construction
- LEGO teaches kids to think in three dimensions
- LEGO improves literacy as kids work with instructions
- LEGO provides tools that develop lateral thinking in a fun environment
- LEGO improves creativity
- LEGO enhances communication and critical thinking
- LEGO boosts kids motor development.





The Numbers are In! With SCILS Support, Lincoln Parish STEM Center Wraps Up Successful Summer Camp Series

The Lincoln Parish STEM Center ended the 2022 summer slate after 7 successful camps: Girls Who Code I, Girls Who Code II, Camp Invention, Fairytale STEM, Super Supports (2 sessions), and All About Boats. 167 students, 68 boys and 94 girls, engaged in the camps while 7 community volunteers put in 326 volunteer hours. 100% of parents indicated the STEM camps met their expectations and 100% anticipate their students attending STEM camp again next summer. When asked to capture their student's experience in one or two sentences, parents said: "It might not be easy but it's always possible," "He was so excited before it started, and the excitement and fascination only grew from there. I'm so glad he had this experience," "Taught that learning can also be fun and exciting. It is also useful tools to have for everyday life," "Fun, independence and to use high order thinking skills," "These camps were a highlight of my daughter's summer. She enjoyed learning, being creative & being with old and new fellow STEM friends," "Wonderful, stupendous, and inspiring way to spend the summer," and "She had a fantastic time and came home every day excited about what she learned and ready to go back the next day!"

SCILS Celebrates Region 8 Excellence at the Governor's Mansion

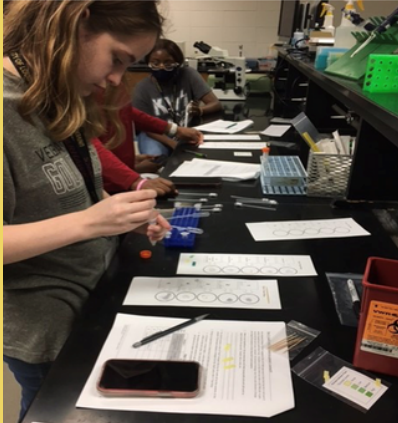
SCILS Director Cathi Cox-Boniol joined Region 8 honorees Robbie Evans (Sterlington Middle School) and Krissi Allen (Sterlington Elementary School) as they were recognized at the Louisiana Governor's Mansion. Robbie is the reigning secondary science winner of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and Krissi is a current finalist for the elementary mathematics award. Congratulations and thank you for representing Region 8 so well!



SCILS Partnership with ULM Provides Three Summer Initiatives



SCILS partnered with the University of Louisiana at Monroe for three highly successful summer initiatives (pictured below) that engaged students throughout the region in exciting and meaningful STEM opportunities. Dr. Anne Case Hanks helmed the ULM partnership work which included a Pre-College Biology Program, STEAM Summer Camp with the ULM Museum of Natural History, and Natural Hazards and Disaster Summer Camp. Dr. Ann Findley worked with high school students from Richwood, Rayville and Mangham during the intensive pre-college program where they learned techniques in molecular biology over a two-week period. Museum staff worked with fourth and fifth grade students as they explored rocks and fossils, plants, birds, art and technology during the five-day STEM camp while Dr. Sandy Watson and Dr. Case Hanks led camp activities for elementary students at Neville High School that centered around natural hazards and disasters. The culminating activity was launching a weather balloon with Dr. Todd Murphy and watching the related data report. The SCILS teams salutes ULM for its partnership and the exciting STEM experiences facilitated over the summer.



Morehouse Parish Schools Records Increase in Summer STEM Program



In partnership with SCILS, Morehouse Parish Schools expanded its summer robotics STEM enrichment program. A total of 45 students participated, with data reflecting 3 SPED students among 26 male and 19 female students, 41 of them black, 3 white and 1 Hispanic. SCILS applauds the work of this outstanding achievement.