

LASER

DECEMBER 2023

LSTA NEWSLETTER



Louisiana science educators dedicated to the advancement of scientific literacy at all levels, and encouraging lifelong learning.

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President's Message

Members of Louisiana Science Teachers Association,

It is an honor to have the opportunity to continue serving on the LSTA Board in this new role. I am extremely appreciative and I look forward to working alongside you as we continue supporting science education in our state.

First, I would like to congratulate and welcome all of the newly elected board members. (Click [here](#) to read more about the new board.) Passionate about high quality science education and dedicated to the students and teachers in our state are two ways that I can describe this new team. I am confident our organization will continue supporting the science education community by providing opportunities for gathering the tools needed to implement equitable, rigorous science instruction to our students across Louisiana.

Thank you to everyone who attended the LSTA/LATM joint conference in Baton Rouge on November 2-3rd. We had an amazing turnout! This year's theme was Back for the Future. Huge thanks to all the committee members, board members, friends of LSTA and LATM, and especially the committee co-chairs (Pierre LaCaze and Christen Timmins) who worked tirelessly to ensure the conference was a success. An additional special thanks goes to Dr. Julie Luft (NSTA President 2023-2024) for attending and participating in the conference. Last, thank you to our conference sponsors (Brainpop, Curriculum Associates, Exxon Mobil, Great Minds, Cleco, Louisiana Art and Science Museum, NASA, Zearn, and Visit Baton Rouge) who so graciously donated time, meeting space, and/or items for the conference.

Now that the joint conference is over, we want you to save the date for the NSTA National Conference which will be held in New Orleans on November 6-9, 2024. In order to best meet the needs of conference attendees, we have partnered up with NSTA and created a survey designed to gather feedback on educators' professional learning interests for the upcoming NOLA24 conference. You can complete the survey [here](#).

Please consider nominating a K-6th grade science teacher for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The PAEMST Awards are among the highest honors a teacher of math or science may receive. Find more information on the award as well as information for nominating a teacher [here](#). The deadline to nominate a teacher is January 8, 2024.

As the year draws to a close, the LSTA Board and I would like to wish you a safe and peaceful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Bianca Deliberto

Dr. Bianca Deliberto



LSTA News/Awards

Each year LSTA honors outstanding formal and informal educators and awards up to 10 Travel Grants to offset expenses associated with attending its annual conference. This year, 42 attendees also received the 2023 Carolyn Sessions Conference Registration Scholarship. The honorees were presented on November 2, 2023 during the LATM/LSTA conference held in Baton Rouge. They are as follows:

LSTA MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

KATHERINE NELSON
HOMER A. PLESSY COMMUNITY SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LA

JOHN DEMPSEY OUTSTANDING SECONDARY SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

ANGELA LACEY HOOSIER
BUCKEYE HIGH SCHOOL
DEVILLE, LA

CLAUDIA FOWLER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO SCIENCE EDUCATION AWARD

SUSAN TESTEROT-BERGERON
RETIRED LIFETIME EDUCATOR & PROGRAM DIRECTOR
THIBODAUX, LA

WILLIAM CRAIG OUTSTANDING UNIVERSITY EDUCATOR AWARD

DR. SARAH BERGERON
NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY
THIBODAUX, LA

DISTINGUISHED INFORMAL SCIENCE EDUCATOR AWARD

DANI DILULLO
LA SEA GRANT
BATON ROUGE, LA

LSTA TRAVEL GRANTS

ELIZABETH AMANDEE
CRISSY GIACONE
LACEY HOOSIER
LORI RUSSELL

2023 CAROLYN SESSIONS CONFERENCE REGISTRATION SCHOLARSHIP

- ALISHA CAPSTICK
- AMANDA DOLPH
- AMY DOUGLAS
- ANGELA EDWARDS
- ANJEL MOORE
- ASHLEY ALBRIGHT
- BARRY GUILLIOT
- BETH OLIVIER
- CARMEN GONZALEZ
- LYDIA MORGAN
- MEREDITH HICKS
- CATHRYN HAMILTON
- COURTNEY EDWARDS
- CRISSY GIACONA
- ERIC THEARD
- GRETCHEN TREADWAY
- JAIMIE MOSLEY
- JAMES LEBLANC
- JAMIE HUGGHINS
- JAZMENE HARDY-YOUNG
- MAGGIE ACREE
- MICHELLE BLANCHARD
- KATHY MCKOIN
- KIMBERLY KEY
- LAINEY HODGE
- LAURA HEROMAN
- LAURIE LARPENTEUR
- LINDSAY DUET
- LISA RANNEY
- LOREN KLEIN
- LUCIE MESUCH
- MANDY FOURRIER
- NICK WEBER
- NICOLE WEATHERFORD
- RACHEL BROWN
- REBECCA SVENSSON
- REGENA LANDRY
- ROSIE LOFTIS
- STEPHANIE DE LA CRUZ
- TERESA WILLIAMS
- TYLER DUFRENE





2022-2023 RECIPIENTS

Jamie Henry - Alexandria Middle Magnet	William Cloutet, Donnie Bickham Middle School	Mary Bissell, Northwood High School - Caddo Parish
Quinta Thompson, Anderson Middle School	Paula Anweiler, Dr. John Ochsner Discovery Health Sciences Academy	Lea Ann Fisher, Northwood High School - Rapides Parish
Megan Hall, Arlington Preparatory Academy	Theresa Callicott, Eastside Elementary School	Margaret Grindstaff, Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology Academy
Jason Soileau, Beau Chene High School	Melissa Johnson, Elizabeth High School	Loren Klein, Paul Breaux Middle School
Tracy Henry, Beau Chene High School	Betsie Fontenot, Eunice High School	Jennifer Comeaux, Pierre Part Elementary School
Katie Chavis, Benton High School	Tyler Colson, Eva Legard Center for Coastal and Environmental Studies	Brittany Thames, Ponchatoula High School
Tiffany Salley, Benton Intermediate School	Jessica Parker, Franklin Parish High School	Dennis Pevey, Ponchatoula High School
Gayle Adams, Berwick Elementary School	Erik Willie, French Settlement High School	Joanne Mudge, Ponchatoula High School
Michelle Boudreaux, Berwick High School	Julius White, Good Hope Middle School	Rebecka Rocquin, Ponchatoula High School
Angela Hoosier, Buckeye High School	Charles LaFollette, Green Oaks Performing Arts Academy	Christina Plaisance, Prairieville Primary School
Joseph Stevens, Caddo Parish Magnet High School	Cecelia Gillam, Hahnville High School	Hayley Hamblin, Quitman High School
Stephen Goebel, Caddo Parish Magnet High School	Shelby McKee, Holden High School	MaQueta Pipkin, Southwood High School
Tara West, Caneview K-8 School	Tina Thompson, Holden High School	Tiffany Garner, Southwood High School
Cora Comeaux, Cankton Elementary School	Kathryn Johnson, Joshua Butler Elementary School	Yvette Hill, Springfield High School



2022-2023 RECIPIENTS

Donald Esteen, Capitol Middle School	Amanda Vital, Kenilworth Science and Technology Charter School	David Bennett, STEM Magnet Academy of Pointe Coupee
Amy Douglas, Captain Shreve High School	Tracey Zelden, Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy	Faith Mcfadden, STEM Magnet Academy of Pointe Coupee
Courtney Norton, Captain Shreve High School	Cynthia Koonce, LeBleu Settlement Elementary School	Jennifer Bollich, STEM Magnet Academy of Pointe Coupee
Henri Loridans, Captain Shreve High School	Andrew Martens, LSU University Lab School	Tara Robillard, STEM Magnet Academy of Pointe Coupee
Sarah Arnold, Captain Shreve High School	Cynthia Rieger, LSU University Lab School	Lynne Anders, Sterlington High School
Theresa Platt, Captain Shreve High School	Steven Babcock, LSU University Lab School	Pauline Burnsed, Vernon Middle School
Carrie Trotti, Copper Mill Elementary/Middle School	Trichia Landry, LSU University Lab School	Walker Dillon, Vernon Middle School
Sandra Saye Foucqueteau, Copper Mill Elementary/Middle School	Matthew Owen, Lusher Charter School (Middle/High)	Sadie Newell, Vinton High School
Lea Nelson, Curtis Elementary School	Ralph Alvarado, Lusher Charter School (Middle/High)	Misty Naquin, Virtual Academy of Lafourche
Crystal DeMoura, David Thibodaux STEM Magnet Academy	Priscille Laurent, Lycee Francais de la Nouvelle	Rachel Leblanc, W.W. Stewart Elementary School
Stephanie Swindle, Denham Springs Elementary School	Lauren Rath, Mayfair Laboratory School	Jane Pablico, Walker High School
Brandon Landry, Denham Springs High School	Whitney Hunter, Moss Bluff Elementary School	Brett Craig, West Feliciana Middle School



2022-2023 RECIPIENTS

Daniel Eiland, Denham Springs High School	Ashley Krieger, Northshore High School	William Coker, West Ouachita High School
Lauren Gurney, Denham Springs Junior High School	David Reed, Northwest High School	Wanda Milliman, Westgate High School
Kathryn Curtis, DeQuincy Primary School	Karen Knecht, Northwestern Elementary School	

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!



In order to best meet the needs of conference attendees, we have partnered up with NSTA and created a survey designed to gather feedback on educators' professional learning interests for the upcoming NOLA24 conference.

Your feedback will be invaluable in helping us to develop relevant and engaging strands and themes for the conference.

You can complete the survey [here](#).

The survey window will close SOON and in order to ensure your input is received you should complete this as soon as possible.

We appreciate you taking the time to assist us with this part of the conference process.



LSTA News/Awards



LATA/LSTA 2023 JOINT CONFERENCE BACK FOR THE FUTURE



ExxonMobil

CLECO

ZEARN

LSTA News/Awards



LATA/LSTA 2023 JOINT CONFERENCE BACK FOR THE FUTURE



Professional Development Opportunities and Resources



Ignite.
Inspire.
Engage.

THE IGNITE PROJECT

WHAT IS THE IGNITE PROJECT?

How would you like to ignite a passion for computer science in your K–5 elementary students? The Ignite Project aims to train 1,000 teachers statewide to use computer science fundamentals to enrich teaching practices. This inclusive program invites both experienced educators and newcomers, offering 40 hours of professional development and stipends to the participants.

The Teacher Experience:

- Increase CS expertise using Code.org, Scratch, ScratchJr, Micro:Bits, Robots, and more!
- Develop your students' computational thinking skills.
- Training includes some in-person and some virtual meetings.
- Stipends and materials kits provided.
- Develop artifacts for use in the classroom.
- 40 hours of professional development.

The Ambassador Experience:

Receive an additional stipend for hosting this PD for other teachers in your school/district. Additional details including how you can apply are available on our website.

The Student Experience:

- Enhance coding skills.
- Improve cyber safety and responsible technology usage.
- Develop reasoning skills.
- Strengthen communication and soft skills.



For further details about
The Ignite Project,
scan the code or visit us online.

capitalareastem.org/ignite

About Us

The **Capital Area STEM Network Center (CASN)** is one of nine STEM leadership entities strategically positioned across Louisiana. It was established by the Louisiana Board of Regents in 2020 and is hosted by the LSU Gordon A. Cain Center for STEM Literacy. For more news and information about CASN, please visit capitalareastem.org.



Professional Development Opportunities and Resources



Louisiana Association of Science Leaders' Corner

Are you a district science supervisor, science content specialist, science master teacher, Teacher Leader or science coach?

If so, consider becoming a member of LASL, the affiliate of the National Science Education Leadership Association (NSELA). Watch for information on how to become part of LASL and upcoming Louisiana opportunities.

The 2028 NAEP Science Assessment Framework

The updated 2028 NAEP Science Assessment Framework describes the knowledge and skills students should be able to demonstrate in physical, life, and earth and space sciences in grades 4, 8, and 12. The updates reflect the most current science information and practices and keeps pace with the evolving field K-12 science instruction and assessment. The framework also ensures the data produced provide a better understanding of students' knowledge and skills in this vital subject for policymakers, school and district leaders, educators, families, and other education stakeholders.

Updating the NAEP Science Assessment Framework included public comment periods and panelists and advisors who represent a diverse array of viewpoints, backgrounds, and expertise.

The National Assessment Governing Board sets policy for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as The Nation's Report Card. The Governing Board oversees development of NAEP frameworks, the blueprint for the content and design of each NAEP assessment.

Review the 2028 framework and materials that provide deeper insight into [NAEP Science](#).

The revised NAEP Science Framework has been released. Here's a

link: <https://www.nagb.gov/naep-subject-areas/science/2028-naep-science-assessme>



Professional Development Opportunities and Resources

The Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) has just released their findings about K-12 environmental education, outdoor learning and climate education. Educators will be able to do state-specific drilling down within the Landscape Analysis Dashboard. The overall findings will be useful and, likely, consistent across the country. The landscape analysis includes K-12 Schools, Teachers, and Administrators.



In 2022, we surveyed more than 600 teachers and administrators to better understand what, if any, environmental education was taking place within and outside the classroom. Similar to the tools for looking at the field, there are tools to help meet the needs of teachers, students, and administrators.

With the Resource Hub, you can begin to explore the reports developed from each analysis, dashboards for each data set, ongoing research, and resulting resources based on the analysis.

<https://www.kaee.org/landscape-schools>

Next Generation Science Standards: Exploring Ten Years of Progress in Science Education

This edLeader panel webinar features four experts reflecting on the impact of the NGSS a decade after the standards were published.

The panelists discuss the transformation of K–12 science education, the current state of science assessments, and challenges and opportunities facing the future of science education. It's been 10 years since the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) were published, a landmark effort that transformed the landscape of science education and redefined how science is taught in American schools.

View this edLeader Panel to hear from four distinguished experts in the field of science and NGSS as they delve into the progress, challenges, and future of science education and assessment a decade after the launch of the standards. See the recording [here](#).



Professional Development Opportunities and Resources

APPLY FOR A YEAR-LONG SCIENCE PROJECT ENDING WITH PARABOLIC FLIGHT

Are you a devoted 6th–12th grade classroom teacher passionate about STEM and space sciences? The Embedded Teacher Program (ETP) annually selects ten teachers in two cohorts of five for a year-long immersive space science project culminating in a parabolic flight. ETP prioritizes Title I, rural, and underrepresented communities. Applicants should have over 5 years of STEM teaching experience, a dedication to project-based learning, district support for innovation, and a willingness to engage with stakeholders.

Selected participants receive cost coverage for workshop, lodging, parabolic flight, and travel related to the flight. Apply by March 1, 2024, for the 2024 cohort. Selection notifications will be sent by April 1, 2024, with the workshop scheduled for May 23–25, 2024, at UT Austin Center for Space Research. For inquiries, contact <https://spaceforteachers.org/>

Sea Change Podcast

Have you had a chance to listen to Sea Change? Sea Change is a podcast from WWNO/WRKF that dives into the environmental issues facing coastal communities on the Gulf Coast and beyond. [Listen now](#) wherever you get your podcasts!

<https://www.wwno.org/podcast/sea-change>

Recently on Sea Change:

- [Flood by Flood](#): The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that in the last year alone, around 3 million Americans were displaced by natural disasters. Today on Sea Change, we explore what it means to recover after disaster.
- [The Riddle of the Ridley](#): Kemp's Ridleys are the most endangered sea turtle on the planet. Today, we go on a journey to the remote Chandeleur islands to try to find the mysterious Kemp's Ridley turtles, who, after 75 years, have been discovered on the shores of Louisiana.

Made possible with major support provided by the Gulf Research Program of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.



Professional Development Opportunities and Resources



JOIN OUR PILOT PROGRAM!

During the 2023-24 school year, the ONPAR science assessment system will be piloted in Louisiana with schools using the IQWST curriculum. Participating teachers use three online science tasks when they are teaching the relevant unit to inform teaching and learning. Two content areas sets will be available for Grade 8 in science: Plate Tectonics and Energy. In addition, a traditional science test called the Springboard Assessment will also be piloted with Grade 7 and Grade 8 students. This assessment is aligned to Louisiana science standards and has similar functionality to the LEAP test.

Please visit our [website](#) and view our overview [video](#) for more information about ONPAR.

Participating districts and schools are asked to:

- Permit participating teachers to attend online monthly meetings and complete project
- surveys (4-6 hours non-contract time);
- Allow teachers to administer three ONPAR tasks and use reports in their classrooms;
- Allow one class period for Springboard testing in Grades 7 and 8 prior to LEAP testing;
- Allow teachers to participate in a voluntary focus group (one hour)
- Co-sign a memorandum of understanding, which describes all research procedures and expectations.
-

Incentives and project support:

- Depending on school policies, teachers or schools may receive up to \$300 per participating teacher; school coordinators may also be compensated up to \$200 for their assistance with local coordination;
- Free professional development led by ONPAR staff during the pilot;
- Teachers and schools will receive support from project staff as needed through regular
- online meetings with participants, webinars, and training materials;
- Summary of project results.

Contact: Katrina Pommerening, Outreach Specialist, kpommerening@wisc.edu

Professional Development Opportunities and Resources

PRESIDENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARDS

The PEYA program promotes awareness of our nation's natural resources and encourages positive community involvement. Since 1971, the President of the United States has joined with EPA to recognize young people across the U.S for protecting our nation's air, water, land and ecology. Up to two awards- one for Grades K-5 and one for Grades 6-12- will be selected from each of Epa's 10 regions for national recognition.

Recognition: EPA gives a Presidential plaque to the award winners.



Eligibility Requirements:

- Project is completed while the applicant(s) is in kindergarten through 12th grade.
- Applicant(s) is a citizen of the United States or its territories or has been lawfully admitted for permanent residency. Applicant also resides in a U.S. state, territory, or tribal land.
- Project is sponsored by at least one adult 21 years of age or older.
- Project started during the 2023 calendar year and had activity during the 2023 calendar year. As long as a project had activity during the 2023 calendar year, a project initiated prior to 2023 is also eligible for consideration.
- Projects must include an environmental stewardship component.

Applications are due January 15, 2024.

Projects recognized through the PEYA program are developed by young individuals, school groups, summer camps, and other youth organizations to promote environmental stewardship.

To apply, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/education/presidents-environmental-youth-award>

PRESIDENT'S INNOVATION AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS

EPA recognizes outstanding K through 12th grade teachers who integrate environmental education through innovative, place based and experiential learning approaches and use the environment as a context for learning in public school programs across the country.

Recognition: Teacher awardees will receive an award of up to \$2,500 to be used to further the recipient's professional development. The teacher's local education agency will also receive an award of up to \$2,500 to fund environmental educational activities and programs.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Teach K-12 on a full-time basis in a public school that is operated by a local education agency, including schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Education.
- Hold a current teaching license from the state (or valid reciprocity from the state for a license from another state).
- Have at least 5 years of K-12 teaching experience, including at least 3 years of teaching an environment-based curriculum or environmental education.
- Anticipate a classroom teaching assignment involving environmental education for the upcoming school year.
- Be a citizen of the United States, its territories or possessions, or lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residency.
- Have not been a recipient of the award in the past 5 years.

Applications are due January 15, 2024.



The Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators program is sponsored by the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) in partnership with the U.S. EPA.


To apply, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/education/presidential-innovation-award-environmental-educators>


Professional Development Opportunities and Resources





Unlock the gateway to interactive STEM education with Learning Blade—a dynamic platform designed to ignite curiosity and passion for science in your students! Best of all, Learning Blade is FREE to all Louisiana educators!

 Why Learning Blade?  Engaging Content: Our platform offers a treasure trove of interactive lessons, hands-on challenges, and real-world applications that bring science to life. Spark excitement in your classroom!

 Aligned with Standards: Learning Blade is meticulously crafted to align with national science standards. Empower your students to succeed while supplementing curriculum requirements effortlessly.

 Technology Integration: Seamlessly integrate technology into your lessons with our user-friendly platform. Foster a love for STEM in the digital age!

 Accessible Anywhere: Whether in the classroom or remote learning, Learning Blade adapts to your teaching environment. Make science accessible anytime, anywhere.

 Free Account for Educators: Sign up now and experience the magic of Learning Blade at no cost! Join the community of educators transforming science education.

 Unleash the Power of STEM!

Visit this [site](#) to sign up for your FREE account today! Make plans to join us for a brief demonstration on January 9, 2024 at 4:00 pm CT.



Professional Development Opportunities and Resources



SAME (Southern Association of Marine Educators) annual meeting registration is now open!

January 26-28, 2024 | Gulf Shores, AL

The SAME Annual Meeting will take place in January at The Learning Campus at Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores, AL.

SAME will cover most food costs and all of on-site lodging. More travel information is provided in the PDF below. For best results, open the PDF in a new tab to download.

If you have any questions, contact your [officers](#)

[Register Here:](#)

[Travel Information and Agenda](#)



Professional Development Opportunities and Resources



The NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office is now seeking applications to the FY24 Gulf of Mexico Bay-Watershed Education and Training (Gulf B-WET) competition. The FY24 Notice of Funding Opportunity can be found at [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov) under funding opportunity number: NOAA-NMFS-SE-2024-2008255, or at the following direct link: <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/350934?showPackages=1>.

Applicants should apply through [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov). Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 5, 2024 to be considered for funding. An [informational webinar](#) about the FY24 Gulf B-WET funding announcement will be held via Google Meet on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 from 9-10 am CT | 10-11 am ET. Join here: <https://meet.google.com/kik-qtem-ezz>.

The Gulf B-WET program is an environmental education program that promotes place-based experiential learning for K–12 students and related professional development for teachers in the five Gulf states. Projects supported by this funding opportunity will develop or promote [Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences \(MWEEs\)](#). The MWEE is a learner-centered framework that focuses on investigations into local environmental issues, leads to informed action, and increases environmental literacy. Specifically in FY24, the Gulf B-WET funding opportunity includes the following priorities under which an application can be submitted:

- Professional Development for Teachers related to Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences: supports high quality professional development for teachers allowing them to gain confidence in the value of MWEEs and strategies for conducting MWEEs with students (\$100,000 ceiling per award covering a period of up to 24 months.)
- Exemplary Programs combining Teacher Professional Development with Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences for their students: supports professional development for teachers and teacher implementation of the MWEE with students such that students investigate environmental issues, identify actions to address those issues, and act as stewards for watersheds and related ocean and coastal ecosystems (\$100,000 ceiling per award covering a period of up to 24 months.)
- Systemic Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience Implementation: supports implementation of systemic MWEEs which reach the entire student population in one or more grades within a school district (\$150,000 ceiling per award covering a period of up to 24 months.)

The Gulf B-WET funding announcement emphasizes our strong commitment to expanding the participation of marginalized communities in watershed education and is interested in projects that partner specifically with organizations and institutions that serve marginalized groups, particularly minority communities. It continues to suggest that the MWEE educational framework can contribute to one of the most pressing economic, social and environmental issues of today - climate change - by directly fostering climate knowledge and competencies to contribute to climate solutions.

Eligible applicants are K-12 public and independent schools and school systems, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, state or local government agencies, interstate agencies, and Indian tribal governments. Applicants may be physically located in any U.S. state; however, education projects must target teachers and/or students located in any part of the five Gulf of Mexico states which are Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

More information about the NOAA B-WET program and previous awards can be found at the [Gulf B-WET program website](#) and through the [Gulf B-WET highlight video](#). Contact Amy Clark (amy.clark@noaa.gov)

On Saturday November 4, Tulane hosted GiST (Girls in STEM at Tulane) for middle school girls in the area. This was an immersive and very successful event that lasted from 8:00am-3:00pm. First, the kids participated in a scavenger hunt where they got to learn about the next eclipse, drive robots, manually power a bike, and more! After that, the students went to two 50 minute segments where they experienced hands on STEM activities.



These activities consisted of making their own lungs, learning about rivers, making DNA necklaces, seeing virtual reality anatomy, and so much more! During lunch the kids were fed pizza and then spent time making cars out of straws, paper, and lifesavers that were then raced at the end of the day. Finally, the kids went to their third activity of the day and then met to see whose car moved the furthest. GiST was so much fun this year and Tulane's Center for K-12 Education had an amazing time putting it together!!



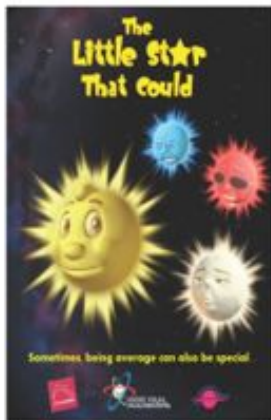


Louis J. Roussel, Jr. Laser Planetarium

Join Us For An Experience That's OUT OF THIS WORLD!

JANUARY 2024

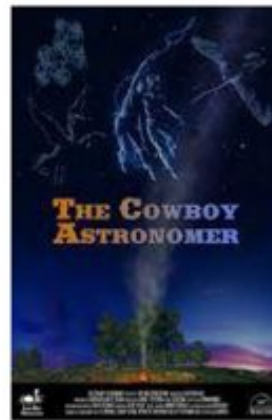
*Special programming on Jan. 6 will replace scheduled shows



The Little Star That Could

Join Little Star, an average yellow star in search for planets of his own to protect and warm. Along the way, meet other stars, learn what makes each star special, and discover that stars combine to form star clusters and galaxies.

Running time: 35 minutes



The Cowboy Astronomer

Come roam the range and star gaze the cowboy way in this light-hearted planetarium show narrated by cowboy humorist Baxter Black. From the depths of the countryside, free from light pollution follow the Milky Way and star hop from Polaris to the Pleiades.

Running time: 40 minutes

Dream to Fly

Since the beginning of history, people have dreamed of flying. Open your hearts to new ideas about flight, and learn how generations of dreamers pursued the ancient impulse that has taken us from the ground to the stars.

Running time: 35 minutes



Voyage to Distant Worlds

Take a tour of the planets in our Solar System and discover facts you never knew about our neighboring worlds. Voyage to Distant Worlds is a production of the Casper Planetarium.

Running time: 38 minutes



LASER BEATLES

Be a part of Beatlemania as the group's most popular hits are brought to life through a dazzling laser light display! TWIST and SHOUT to your favorite tunes and remember the hits of YESTERDAY... among many others!

Running time: 30 minutes



Admission:

E-mail hglorioso@kenner.la.us or call 504-468-7231 for information and group rates.

Adults \$6.00 per show
Children/Seniors \$5.00 per show

Multi-show packages available

*Children 2-12 years
*Seniors 60 and over

SHOW SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

Schedule:

*Appointment Only: Tues-Fri Schools/Camps/Groups
Call 504-468-7231 for reservations.*

*General Public: Saturdays Only
Box Office opens at 10:45 am*

The Little Star That Could: 11:00 am
The Cowboy Astronomer: 12:00 pm
Dream to Fly: 1:00 pm
Voyage to Distant Worlds: 2:00 pm
Laser Beatles: 3:00 pm

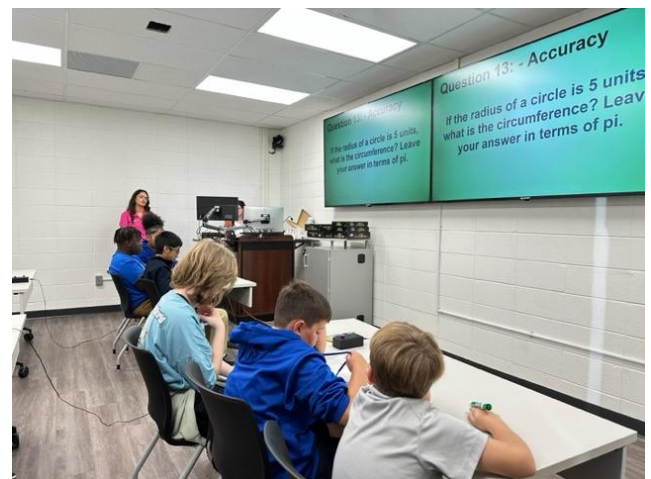
Kenner Planetarium 2020 Fourth Street Kenner, Louisiana 70062
www.kenner.la.us 504-468-7231

West Baton Rouge Parish Schools holds an annual Fall Fest for students at Port Allen Elementary, Cohn Elementary, and Port Allen Middle School. All three schools come together as a community to promote math and science. Students are encouraged to dress up for Halloween as they can trick or treat and play activities for even more treats. The three schools plan fun and engaging activities that revolve around math and science to get the students engaged and to enjoy both of those subjects outside the classroom environment.





West Baton Rouge Parish Schools hosted its first WBR STEM Challenge in October at the BRCC Port Allen site. Students in grades 4-12 participated in several different STEM competitions to earn individual awards and points for their schools. Judges and event facilitators included district staff, BRCC staff, and industry volunteers. Students showed their skills in Math and Science Quiz Bowls, Snap Circuits, Math 24, Bridge Building, Medical Competitions, Measurement Competitions, Rocket League and more! With nearly 400 students competing over 3 days, it was an incredible event!



Regional News



The Baton Rouge Magnet High School STEM club hosted its annual STEM Day on November 16, 2023 for more than 300 elementary and middle school students on the campus. The students were participated in a variety of science demonstrations performed by ExxonMobil enegineers, LSU students, Clean Energy Company, and BRMHS students. They also competed in friendly STEM building events, Science Bowl, and Team Test. The overall winning schools are Mayfair Lab School, Sherwood Magnet Middle School, and Wildwood Elementary School. BRMHS STEM Day 2023 Winning Schools: McKinley Elementary School, Wildwood Elementary School, Mayfair Lab Middle School and Sherwood Magnet Middle School. Thanks to all elementary and middle school teachers and congratulations to all students!

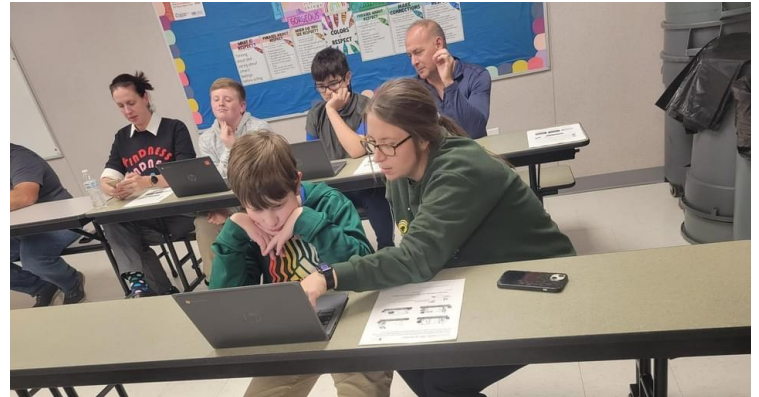


Bayou STEM hosted fall-themed STEM activities at the Napoleonville, Belle Rose, Pierre Part, Bayou L'Oourse, and Labadieville branches this month. Participants in grades 3-8 investigated Tastebud Trickery, Turkey-bots, and conducted owl pellet dissections.



Mrs. Amedee's Biology II students at E D White are exploring the cardiovascular system and showcased their creativity and knowledge with a working model of the heart.

Lacache Middle School hosted its Science Night for students and their parents on November 2, 2023. The evening featured a presentation by Mr. Cartozzo regarding science fair information and he moderated a Q & A session on science fair procedures.



Vandebilt Catholic High School students in Mrs. Stephanie Rogers' class extracted DNA from fruit using basic household ingredients as part of their biology studies.

Region 4 representative Raven Veillon-Skrmetti attended the NABT national conference to receive the Outstanding Biology Teacher Award for Louisiana.



In October, St. Thomas More Catholic High school held its 8th Annual "Soil Field Day" where NRCS Soil Scientist Brandon Waltman led a day of learning about this valuable natural resource with core samples taken and examined, soil aggregation demonstrations, and a long-term investigation on soil biota where underwear where buried in various locations and will be dug up months from now to show the cotton digested by soil microbes indicating good soil health.

On October 28, 2023, high school participants from the University of Louisiana Lafayette Upward Bound Math Science and Educational Talent Search Programs attended LSU's Super Science Saturday in celebration of Chemistry Week. Participants met with representatives from BASF, Exxon Mobil, Dow Chemical, and Ligo. They were also engaged in hands on activities at science stations staffed by LSU student ambassadors from various programs. What an opportunity to learn about university programs and workforce partners during Chemistry Week!



Regional News Region 4

Lafayette Parish School System (Hosted by Robotics Team Phenomena 3616) will be hosting the Lafayette Parish Science and Engineering Fair for Middle School Students (Grades 6-8) and High School (Grades 9-12) Students on January 17, 2024 at W.D. & Mary Baker Smith Career Center.

Junior Division (Grades 6-8) and Senior Division (Grades 9-12)

- Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024.
- Set Up: 4:30–5:00 P.M. Judges Meeting: 4:45–5:00 P.M.
- Judging: 5:00-6:45 P.M.
- Public Viewing of Projects: Approximately 6:45 – 7:00 P.M.
- Award Ceremony: Approximately 7:00 P.M.

See rules/regulations and certification forms at <http://region6ull.blogspot.com> or Obtain Forms at <https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/forms/>
[More information here](#)

Questions? Email: lranny2@gmail.com or lbranny@lpssonline.com or urgent questions call or text at 337-501-0140



Region 4 STEM Network Center Saturday Robotics and Innovation Program UL Lafayette hosted a Saturday Robotics and Innovation program for 60 children in grades 1-5. Using LEGO SPIKE Essentials robotics sets, students completed engineering challenges in a fun way, fostering their creativity and problem-solving skills. This program also gave UL Lafayette's Education majors an opportunity to practice teaching robotics, systems thinking, and engineering design. These activities are part of the ChangeMaker K12 project developed at UL Lafayette by Dr. Douglas Williams, Dr. Aimee Barber, and Dr. Peter Sheppard.

Regional News Region 4



WISE Women Acadiana Mentorship Program The Region 4 STEM Network Center's Inaugural WISE Women Acadiana meeting was a success! In attendance was Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Louisiana's Commissioner for Higher Education. The WISE Women program is centered on providing mentorship opportunities as well as exposing, engaging, and inspiring female high school students who are considering STEM careers.

WISE Women mentors are women currently working in all aspects of STEM that are using their voice and expertise to increase DEI within the economic framework of the Acadiana region.



Provide Access | Remove Barriers | Build Networks

St Margaret Catholic School 7-8 grade students worked with Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana to Plant beach grasses in southwest Louisiana! On October 6th in Cameron Parish at Little Florida Beach the students planted 10,000 plugs of a native beach grass (bitter panicum) that will assist in growing and stabilizing beach dunes with the intention of preventing erosion and creating wildlife habitat. The team from CRCL taught the students about the importance of restoration, how to plant the grass, and use the tools properly.





CENLA STEM Center

REGION 6

The CENLA STEM Center hosted the Youth Challenge Program for Girls STEM on Saturday, December 2.

Students completed the prosthetic leg STEM challenge with the cadets to show off their Bioengineering skills.



Join us on December 16th from 11 AM to 3:30 PM to experience the magic of the new Wonka film in Louisiana's only IMAX dome theatre, the Goodman IMAX Dome.

Make your way to the solarium for heartwarming cocoa, creative cookie decorating, and festive photos with Santa Claus. Don't forget to dress in your coziest Christmas pajamas or ugly sweater for the full festive experience.

Enjoy access to the center and SnoPort simultaneously!



Congratulations! The NW LaSTEM Innovation Center (Region 7) has been renewed for another three years with Sci-Port's Dr. Heather Kleiner at the helm.

The NLA STEAM Alliance is the "boots on the ground" and hands on "arm" of the Region 7 LaSTEM Initiative. You can visit the nlasteamalliance.org to catch up on recent blogs and find out about resources! Engage. Educate. Employ.





Cathi Cox-Boniol and Missy Wooley (both SCILS Region 8 LaSTEM Center at Louisiana Tech University) wrapped up teacher professional development with Iberia Parish with a two-day session on assessment before facilitating three online sessions each for Louisiana teachers piloting the elementary OpenSciEd curriculum. Cathi then attended the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Roundtable at the invitation of Representative Chris Turner.

Cathi Cox-Boniol and Missy Wooley also attended the LaSTEM Summit in Lafayette where they not only hosted a SCILS table along with the 8 other regional centers, they facilitated a breakout session on their CS4U (Computer Science for You) program within the center's Girls in STEM initiative. Cathi also contributed to the STEM Literacy session facilitated by Andrew Ganucheau and a session on Coursera hosted by Dr. Lindsey Keith Vincent (Louisiana Tech University).



Cathi Cox-Boniol participated in the Ouachita Parish Job Fair hosted by the Louisiana Workforce Commission where she shared information about STEM jobs and careers in Region 8. Missy along with Chris Campbell and Dr. Lisa Dick (both Louisiana Tech University) hosted a STEM Day for Cedar Creek 2nd Graders that included an engineering design challenge, breakout boxes and work with technology.



Ouachita Parish Job Fair

Cedar Creek STEM Day





Cathi handed out free magnetic STEM kits at the Ruston Monster Mash and Missy joined her do to the same at the Lincoln Parish Early Childhood Center Trunk or Treat. Missy presented two sessions at the LSTA conference, one on CS4U and the other on "Tricks of the Trade for Enhancing a High Quality Curriculum" using OpenSciEd as the focus. Cathi and Missy were recognized at a Louisiana Tech Foundation reception honoring their two Lagniappe Ladies grant awards. SCILS also hosted SeaPerch training for teachers and coaches getting teams ready for the challenge to be held in March and was notified by the global CSforALL organization that it had been named an official commitment maker for the year based on its success in raising awareness about computer science through its CS4U (Computer Science for You) program.



CSforALL COMMITMENT MAKER
Raise Awareness

The Region 8 LaSTEM Center, partnering with CYBER.ORG, CODE.ORG, Coursera, SciTEC and The Hub, makes a commitment to provide customized, engaging computer science and cyber security workshops and learning experiences within special events on the Louisiana Tech University campus to promote skills development and career awareness for elementary and middle grade students in Northeast Louisiana, serving 250 students by Spring 2024.

SCILS
Region 8 LaSTEM Center

#CSFORALLCOMMITMENTS