LOUISIANA SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, and MATHEMATICS

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, August 15, 2018

The Louisiana Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (LaSTEM) Advisory Council met at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 15, 2018, at the Claiborne Building, Thomas Jefferson 1-136, 1201 North Third St, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Ms. Susana Schowen, Vice Chair of the Council, called the meeting to order. Mr. Vernon Dunn called the roll and a quorum was established.

Committee Members Present
Kellie Taylor White
Randy Duran
Michael Gaudet
Sharon Hewitt
Jeff Holcomb
Carrick Inabnett
Nikki Landry (Jada Lewis)
Trisha Fos
Michael Faulk (Janet Pope)
Kristen Reeves
Susana Schowen
Scott Stevens
Rachel Vincent Finley
William Wainwright

Jill Cowart (John White)
Jamie Williams (Erin Babin)
Sarah Haneline (Tom Yura)

Committee Members Absent
Kim Hunter Reed
Mahyar Amouzegar
Larry Carter, Jr.
Patty Glaser
Crystal Gordon
Jim Henderson
Stephanie Hilferty
Stanton McNeely
Ken Tucker
Laura Younger
Welcome & Updates

The approval of the minutes was deferred until the next meeting. Dr. Dunn informed the Council of the Boeing and Dow sponsorship of the Summit.

STEM Showcase: Learning Blade

Council Discussion

Ms. Jill Cowart gave an overview of pathways, careers, credentials and courses that students take to complete the pathways. She informed the Council the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved 2 STEM pathways in June, environment protection and environment stability. Last summer, BESE approved the pre-engineering pathway. Senator Hewitt informed the Council that end goal should be a job in a high wage, high demand job. She stated the pathways are created based on regional needs and by the Jumpstart regional teams that includes industry partners. There is a workgroup that has been brainstorming on how to comply with STEM seal requirement of the law. The first proposal is to have a tiered system. Students that chose a pathway and complete 8 courses will receive a gold seal on their diploma. Students that complete 4 stem pathway courses will receive a silver seal. There should be different types of seals such as a medical seal and computer programmers’ seal.

STEM Showcase: VEX Robotics

VEX was created as a robotics competition to gain students interest in robotics. Mr. Dan Mantz, CEO of VEX, provided a detailed overview of the program and the VEX World Championship. VEX offers free programming, scholarships and grants to districts. One of the focuses of VEX is on workforce needs. VEX grows programs by grants from corporate sponsorships. The biggest VEX program is Project Lead The Way. Ms. Vanessa Baggott, Lee High School Teacher and member the LSU Pre-Engineering Pathways Development Team, shared her experiences with
the VEX Robotics program and gave an overview of the Pre-Engineering pathway. Mr. Andrew, St. Paul’s in Covington, shared his experiences with VEX. Mr. Luis Medina acknowledged the Delhi Charter School as the VEX IQ winners and the 3 young men from Covington. Mr. Medina informed the Council of the 54 grants given to 25 schools in 24 different areas of Louisiana. Mr. Medina presented Senator Sharon Hewitt with VEX Excellence award for her efforts in STEM.

Other Business

Adjournment
Guest List: Appendix

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