

**LaSTEM Advisory Council Meeting**  
November 20, 2019  
10:00 a.m.

The LaSTEM Advisory Council met in session on Wednesday, November 20, 2019, in the Thomas Jefferson Room, Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA. Dr. Susannah Craig, Associate Commissioner for Teacher and Leadership Initiatives called the meeting to order.

**Committee Members/Representatives Present**

Commissioner Kim Hunter Reed, Chair  
Susana Schowen, Co-Chair  
Senator Sharon Hewitt  
Jeff Holcomb  
Jada Lewis  
Nathan Corley (Proxy-State Superintendent John White)  
Frank Neubrandner  
Kristen Reeves  
William Wainwright

**Staff Members Present**

Susannah Craig  
David Lafargue

**Committee Members Not Present**

Mahyar Amouzegar	Larry Carter, Jr.
Trisha Fos	Michael Gaudet
Patty Glaser	Crystal Gordon
Jim Henderson	Representative Stephanie Hilferty
Carrick Inabnett	Calvin Mackie
Todd McDonald	Stanley McNeely
Janet Pope	Scott Stevens
Kellie Taylor-White	Ken Tucker
Rachel Vincent-Finley	Jaime Williams
Laura Younger	Tom Yura

**Welcome, Roll Call, and Updates**

Dr. Susannah Craig called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and introduced Dr. Kim Hunter Reed.

Dr. Reed welcomed Advisory Council members, proxies, and guests, thanked them for attending, and said how important it is for all of us to be in attendance, share ideas, and how important it is to have robust conversations. Dr. Reed also reflected on the 2019 LaSTEM Annual Summit which was held on November 7, 2019. She touched on how well the Summit was, how well attended, that she enjoyed the interaction with the students, and commented on their robotics and passion.

Senator Sharon Hewitt also welcomed everyone, thanked them for attending, and mentioned how important this work is to us, the families of Louisiana, and our entire state. It's important to have Louisiana people accomplish what needs to be accomplished.

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed introduced and welcomed Dr. Randall Brumfield, the new Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs, Innovation, and Student Success for the Board of Regents.

Dr. David Lafargue, LaSTEM Program Manager, thanked Dr. Reed and Senator Hewitt for their welcome, their input, and their leadership. Dr. Lafargue conducted a roll call and established there was not a quorum.

Dr. David Lafargue indicated that today's meeting would cover important topics to move forward with LaSTEM. Guests in the audience were invited to sit at the tables and provide input for the discussions. Dr. Susannah Craig requested the guests introduce themselves.

Dr. Lafargue provided updates from the Baton Rouge Capital Regional Summit held on October 10, 2019, the Greater New Orleans Regional Summit held on October 30, 2019, and the Washington, D.C. and Cleveland Convening feedback. All of these meetings were well attended and provided good discussions and feedback. He told participants that there are many states that have demonstrated successful regional STEM models and can provide resources.

The 2019 LaSTEM Annual Summit was held on November 7, 2019 at the Raising Cane River Center located in Baton Rouge. There were 500 registrations received and was well received and informative. It was a great atmosphere and participants provided positive feedback. There were many students able to participate in the Summit and the participants loved the interaction with the students. Dr. Lafargue provided some of the data feedback from the completed surveys following the event. Most comments were positive as were networking opportunities, breakout sessions, and venue offering. He thanked Dr. Craig, the Board of Regents staff, and everyone that contributed making the Summit a success. If anyone would like to review the videos from the Summit, they can be found on the LaSTEM website. As a result of the surveys, the key areas for improvement will focus on business and industry involvement as well as earlier communication of event details. We will be focusing on the 2020 LaSTEM Annual Summit and plan to conduct the Summit at the Raising Cane River Center again in the month of October 2020. Once the dates are confirmed, they will be sent out to the Council and posted on the LaSTEM website. Dr. Lafargue asked if anyone that attended the Summit would like to provide feedback. Some of the comments were: well received, extremely informative, high energy, fully engaged, keynote was very well received, well done, and that overall, it was a great event.

Some also provided suggestions as we move forward with STEM. We might want to think about getting a Cyber Education plan together and we can pitch that to the Department of Public Defense, Homeland Security, and other federal agencies because we might be able to find funding. Dr. Lafargue advised those present that they had previously met with members of the Cyber Security Education and Workforce subcommittee to discuss partnering with the Cyber Security Council.

Due to the lack of a quorum, the minutes from the June 20, 2019 and August 21, 2019 LaSTEM Advisory Council Meeting were tabled until the next meeting.

### **Council Discussion**

Dr. David Lafargue requested that council members refer to the minutes of the June 20, 2019 and the August 21, 2019 meetings within their folders. He advised there are two workgroups he would like to discuss, one of which is a carryover from the August 21, 2019 quarterly meeting.

The first workgroup discussed was recommendations to the Council from the August 21, 2019 meeting from Senator Hewitt and Tom Yura. Recommendations consisted of creating proposed timelines, measurables, and an executive plan to address STEM diploma seal recognition venues, effective stakeholder communication, and identify STEM pathway incentive opportunities to present back to the LaSTEM Advisory Council.

The second workgroup discussed would focus on the purpose, goals, and implementation of the proposed Regional STEM Centers/Directors (RSCD). For example, defining purpose and goals, determining regional layouts, sustainability, communication, accountability, reporting structure, funding, measurable data, and timelines. Dr.

Lafargue recommended the workgroup identify a proposed budget for a three-year plan, consider the pros, cons, and recommendations. Dr. Lafargue also recommended the group explore existing regional efforts throughout Louisiana as interim channels of communication to regional stakeholders. Dr. William Wainwright recommended the workgroup determine which regions are resource ready and begin moving forward with these regions first. Dr. Lafargue proposed this workgroup meet three times prior to February 2020 to present the Regional STEM Centers/Directors proposal to the council on February 13, 2020. Dr. Lafargue asked council members and guests that are interested in being a part of this group to contact him with an email by Friday, November 23, 2019 or talk to him after the meeting was adjourned. He then asked if anyone had any remarks or comments regarding the timeframe, the idea, the approach, or any recommendations. Dr. William Wainwright agreed the timeframe was doable. He stated he has seen challenges in the past with the balance between the regional autonomy and accountability. Dr. Wainwright indicated he would be happy to participate on behalf of LCTCS. He suggested that early on in this process we must agree on common data points, and that no matter where the regional work takes us for the next several years, we have a reporting mechanism in place on how we're moving the needle and then allow the regional autonomy to happen naturally. Also, we can account for all of the additional variables that come along that are good, but we go before the legislature to report the success, we are consistent in our reporting mechanisms, and there is no question about that. Co-Chair Susana Schowen thanked Dr. Wainwright for his comments. To that point, Ms. Schowen mentioned she thought this has a lot of potential structure, but there are challenges with presenting grant applications to the field and believed identifying potential metrics and parameters would help establish continuity with the proposal process. Ms. Schowen mentioned the regions take into account regional asset studies as part of their regional priorities. Dr. Randall Brumfield asked for clarification of some of the metrics that might possibly be used. Dr. Wainwright responded stating that the baseline is how to define literacy and ensuring we are fully immersing the literacy within our communities. Dr. Wainwright recommended identifying activities at the K-12 level to the post-secondary level, two-year and four-year institutions, to represent how to move the needle. The community college system may have a number of individuals who are in line to achieve STEM in their pathways who go on to be successful in achieving STEM. That can be a unique qualifier for 2-year institutions, but in a 4-year span there will only be measures. Senator Sharon Hewitt stated that if you combine those with funding you actually drive the results that you want. So, whatever the overall statewide goals are, you have the metrics driving the results you want and the type of funding needed.

Dr. David Lafargue asked if there was any other feedback, questions or comments. Some of the feedback is as follows:

- ❖ Consider connections to business, connections for placements, internships, and grants as part of the metrics. With those connections being made, you can show in the first year that people are engaged and the amount of grant money received, etc.
- ❖ Realistic goals to the increase the number of students who major in STEM or pursue a career in STEM.
- ❖ Defining and identifying STEM pathways. For example, is the medical field considered a STEM field?
- ❖ Consider the 21<sup>st</sup> century skill set in the metrics.

Senator Hewitt mentioned the quarterly Advisory Council Meetings. In 2018, the Council met monthly and then in 2019, according to legislation, was updated to quarterly meetings. She indicated that we should revisit the interest of council members in their role and this is something we will need to explore. There was good participation in August, but not in this November meeting. Council action is limited, but we can take comments. Dr. William Wainwright commented it might be a good idea to invite the leadership within the regional centers. Dr. Lafargue indicated he would propose bi-monthly meetings for 2020 RSCD implementation updates and request feedback from the Advisory Council Members. Dr. Susannah Craig asked the Council Members present if they were opposed to changing to bi-monthly meetings. Dr. Wainwright suggested that all other board meeting dates be taken into consideration when looking at council meeting dates. Dr. Craig and Dr. Lafargue indicated they would take a look at dates and take this into consideration when considering the possibility of adding dates in 2020.

## **Council Presentations**

Mr. Nathan Corley with the Louisiana Department of Education provided an update on Louisiana Department of Education Jump Start Pathways. He provided a view of the available pathways, recent successes, and some of the challenges they are facing. Each pathway offers opportunities for college credit, industry based credentials (IBCs), and workplace based experiences. They currently have eight pathways available. The schools need to be encouraged to pursue these pathways and push students further. Mr. Corley responded to questions and/or feedback from Ms. Jada Lewis with the Board of Education and Secondary Education (BESE) and Ms. Wendy Conarro with Southeastern Louisiana University.

Mr. Jake Lounsbury with The Chief Science Officers provided a presentation on mentorship programs within their organization that have been successful. The Chief Science Officers (CSO) International Program engages a global network focused on creating and sustaining a culture of leadership development, STEM awareness, workforce and employability skills in 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who serve as users of technology, advocates for diverse learners, and critical creative thinkers. The vision of this program is: “The Chief Science Officers (CSO) International Program believes in developing visionary, goal-driven, interconnected, and an action-oriented worldwide community of STEM leaders who exhibit an awareness of self and others’ ability to be changemakers.” Students are identified and selected, but ultimately are elected by their peers. The idea is to begin elevating STEM positions to a place where the students engage all the other students. It is amazing to see students going through this program. In order to participate in this program each school would need an operating budget of \$5,000 per cabinet. The average pilot starts with 25 to 40 students. Mr. Lounsbury responded to questions and answers from members and guests. He provided information about sponsors/possible sponsors and indicated his company can work with those interested. Dr. Lafargue thanked Mr. Lounsbury for his presentation.

## **Other Business**

Dr. Lafargue mentioned he would be working on the annual report, which is part of the legislation, to submit by the January 15, 2020 deadline. Dr. Lafargue also mentioned the dates for the upcoming 2020 quarterly meetings that are scheduled and will send out meeting dates of the other two meetings considering comments from discussion and upon further review.

Mr. Frank Kidd made a recommendation. He would like to ask the Council to consider creating a subcommittee to focus on college minority communities, underserved communities, and lower income communities. Mr. Kidd stated Louisiana will need people and efforts to pound the pavement and work with non-profits in those communities and work with whoever needs to be worked with to bring those resources to these communities. Ms. Jada Smith and Ms. Wendy Conarro responded to Mr. Kidd’s recommendation. Mr. Kidd indicated they need someone at the state level. Susanna Schowen, Dr. Lafargue, and Dr. Randall Brumfield also responded to the recommendation.

With there being no further business to come before the LaSTEM Advisory Council, a motion was made by Ms. Jada Smith and seconded by Jeff Holcomb to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.