Third Quarter LaSTEM Advisory Council Meeting
August 18, 2022 | 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- 10:30 a.m. – Welcome and Roll Call
  - Dr. Neil Aspinwall, SOWELA Chancellor

- 10:45 a.m. – Approval of Second Quarter Meeting Minutes

- 10:45-10:55 a.m. – #SummerOfLaSTEM

- 10:55-11:15 a.m. – FY 2022-23 Appropriations to Regional STEM Centers (Statewide initiatives)
  - Mark Arseneault - Region 5 Director
  - Dr. Heather Kleiner - Region 7 Director
  - Daphine Barnes - Region 1 Director

- 11:15-11:30 a.m. – Regional STEM Center Renewal Process
  - New RFA will be prepared for release in January 2023
  - New RFA will be provided to Council prior to Q4 meeting

- 11:30-11:45 a.m. – Directors' Retreat
  - Determining regional and statewide metrics

- 11:45 a.m.-11:50 a.m. – Quality Science and Mathematics/Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching
  - LSTA- Jean May-Brett

- 11:50 a.m.-12:00 p.m. – Lake Area Industrial Alliance
  - Greg Gray, Secretary/Treasurer LAIA

- 12:00 p.m. – Adjournment

- Lunch with Mayor Nic Hunter and Tour of the Chennault Airport Following Meeting
Welcome from Dr. Neil Aspinwall, Chancellor, SOWELA
• New Member of the Council

• Roll Call

• Approval of Second Quarter Meeting Minutes
Welcome to New Council Member, Paul Helton!

LED FastStart has been the nationally top-ranked workforce development program for 12 straight years. Recruited to Louisiana as one of the founding team, Paul Helton serves as LED FastStart’s Executive Director, providing oversight and direction for all LED FastStart project operations and workforce initiatives.

Paul Helton has over twenty years of targeted workforce development experience. As the leader of the LED FastStart program, he has helped to create a well-qualified and sustainable workforce in Louisiana for over a decade. Prior to LED FastStart, Helton served as the Director of Economic Development for North Metro Technical College in Acworth, GA, leading the Contract Training, Continuing Education, and Workforce Programs divisions. Helton also managed individual company workforce development projects with the successful and highly ranked Georgia Quick Start program. Prior to Georgia Quick Start, Helton was an independent training consultant and a Training Specialist with the US Navy TRIDENT nuclear submarine program.

A graduate of Regents College (now Excelsior College) of the University of the State of New York, Helton also holds a master’s degree in adult education from the University of Georgia. Helton is also the Past President and current board member of the National Association of Industry Specific Training Directors (NAISTD) and an active member of Association for Talent Development (ATD), the Louisiana Industrial Development Executives Association (LIDEA), and is an Aspen Institute Economic Opportunity Fellow.
#SummerOfLaSTEM

• This summer, we continued our successful #SummerOfLaSTEM program with our Regional STEM Centers

• Social media posts with this hashtag were amplified by the BoR Communications Team

• Lots of great programming, from robotics to teacher professional development to workforce exposure programs, occurred throughout the state
FY 2022-23 Appropriations to Centers

• For fiscal year 2022-23, LaSTEM received $3M in State General Funds

• Dollars were distributed:
  • BoR Admin: $480,000
  • Regional STEM Centers: $280,000 per center (up from $170,000 in FY 2021-22)

• Each director was asked to provide 25% ($70k) to a statewide initiative

• "Statewide initiative" is loosely defined as an initiative that can be replicated or expanded across multiple regional centers

• Mark Arseneault (Region 5), Heather Kleiner (Region 7), and Daphine Barnes (Region 1) will present their statewide initiatives today
Voyage Solar System

- Great field trip opportunity
What physical, chemical, or biological system would I like to explore with gravity seemingly turned off for a period of time, as a means of assessing the role of gravity in that system?
RoboCenter

- Competition (Sept.)
  - Elementary IQ
  - MS/HS VRC
- Classroom
  - LSU Pathways / PLTW
  - Roboblocky
  - Vex Go
  - Vex EDR
- Rad-C
- Bell Robotics (Nov.)
- FRC (Jan.)
Region 7
GNOrocs Overview

2021-2022
The goal of the HBCU Startup Internship is to increase startup activity by HBCU students and graduates in our region by providing real-time, paid internship experience to foster entrepreneurial ideation and development.

**Program Highlights:**

- Pairs 12 selected Juniors and Seniors from Xavier University of Louisiana, Southern University at New Orleans, and Dillard University with startup companies in GNO who are seeking qualified, diverse talent.

- The selected interns develop creative capacity and entrepreneurial confidence, receive mentorship, and acquire necessary skills to build scalable startups that solve real problems.

- **2021 Cohort Outcomes:**
  - 3 interns offered *internship extensions*
  - 2 interns secured *Venture for America* fellowships
  - 1 intern hired full-time by *Idea Village*
  - 1 intern completed *Black Girl Ventures Next Gen Program*
Participating Host Startups

- ADVANO
- Obatala
- LIFECITY
- New Orleans BioInnovation Center
- LeBLANC + SMITH
- junum
- El Guapo Bitters
- COTINGA SOFT
- torsh
The HBCU STEM Connect is an internship program designed to connect STEM business and industry leaders in the GNO region with HBCU STEM undergraduates to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in those employment areas where there is traditionally a deficit in underrepresented minority and gender groups.

Program Highlights:
- 14 students were selected from GNO HBCUs: Dillard University, Southern University at New Orleans, and Xavier University of Louisiana
  - 50% African American men
  - 50% women
  - 100% STEM majors
- Students interned at regional STEM businesses and industries
- 2022 Cohort Outcomes:
  - 5 students offered internship extensions with their host companies for the remainder of the summer
  - 1 student offered a 2023 summer internship
Participating Business/ Industry Partners

- **AOS Interior Environments**
  - Architecture, CAD, Design

- **Bootleg Spirits/ Porchjam Distillation**
  - Distillery
  - Engineering, Chemistry

- **Cornerstone Chemical Co.**
  - Engineering, Chemistry

- **Impetus**
  - Commercial Construction
  - Civil engineering

- **Laitram/ Intralox**
  - Engineering, Green/Sustainable Energy, Transportation/Logistics

- **Ochsner**
  - Biomedical Sciences

- **Universal Data Inc.**
  - IT, Computer Engineering, Cybersecurity

- **Chalmette Refinery**
  - Engineering, Green Energy, Research
Professional Development

These two regional organizations provide support to the prospective interns throughout the selection process.

1881 Research Institute

YouthForce NOLA
Meet Asiah Donahue, one of Cornerstone’s 2022 summer interns. She is a junior at Xavier University of Louisiana, majoring in chemistry. Asiah is a main lab intern at Cornerstone through our participation in the inaugural HBCU STEM Connect Summer Internship Program, sponsored by Greater New Orleans, Inc. – GNO, Inc. Region 1 Center for STEM. We hope you find yourself right in your element! #CornerstoneWaggaman #STEM #Intern #HBCU

Intern Spotlight

Asiah Donahue
Main Lab Intern
Junior at Xavier University of Louisiana

I have gained insight into career fields and been able to put my hands on instrumentation. I would not have been able to in a traditional learning environment. I am grateful for the people here and the experience.

Meet Kyra McWhorter, one of Cornerstone’s 2022 summer interns. She is a senior at Dillard University, majoring in biology, focusing on Pre-Med. Kyra is our medical intern at Cornerstone through our participation in the inaugural HBCU STEM Connect Summer Internship Program, sponsored by Greater New Orleans, Inc. – GNO, Inc. Region 1 Center for STEM. Thank you for helping keep our plant safe! #CornerstoneWaggaman #STEM #Intern #HBCU

Intern Spotlight

Kyra McWhorter
Medical Intern
Senior at Dillard University

I have gained a better understanding of how plants operate and their importance to the community. I am also gaining a lot of clinical experience here at Cornerstone that will help with my success in medical school.
We are grateful to be involved with the HBCU STEM Connect Internship program developed by Greater New Orleans, Inc. – GNO, Inc. We had a great time working with Cortland Nelson who joined Universal Data for an internship opportunity.

Cortland’s focus in college is on Computer Science. He has been immersed in our operations and learning how a professional IT organization functions. Thank you Cortland for helping the UDI tech team! We wish you the best on your technology journey!

#summerIntern #technology #stemEducation

Gabe Allen, a computer science student at Xavier University of Louisiana, joined the Impetus Innovation Team through the Greater New Orleans, Inc. – GNO, Inc.'s HBCU Entrepreneurship Internship Program. This program brings together New Orleans businesses to train the next generation of successful entrepreneurs of color, inspire students to become innovative change makers, and increase the innovation capacity of regional startup firms.

Alongside the analytics team at Impetus, Gabe worked on a data engineering project and structured historical project-cost data in a clean manner to enable future analytical model development. The code Gabe wrote over his internship was successfully run and captured over 280 projects worth of information.

At the conclusion of his internship, Gabe presented his work to Preconstruction Leader Joe Yenni and Chief Estimator Jeff Kerth, receiving a big thumbs up and sparking numerous ideas on how Impetus may leverage this information.

We are appreciative to Gabe for his efforts and know he will go a long way in his career!

#innovation #breaknewground #STEM #STEMCareers


WISE Women NOLA Mentorship Program

Women in the STEM Economy
W.I.S.E. Women NOLA is a mentorship program designed to engage young women in authentic conversations regarding STEM careers, inspire them to pursue STEM programming in their schools, and ultimately in their occupations, and encourage them to choose STEM pathways, where they are patently underrepresented, to increase diversity and inclusion within the STEM business ecosystem of the Greater New Orleans region.

Program Highlights:
- Received over 200 applications from high-school-aged young women across 7 GNO parishes; 22 young women selected
- Mentees visited 10 STEM workplace sites to gain exposure to STEM occupations accessible at various educational levels
- Partners included: Obatala Sciences, MSY Airport, NASA’s Michoud Assembly Facility, NOTEP, Build Strong Academy, AOS Interior Environments, The Ranch Movie Studios, Chalmette Refinery and Cornerstone Chemical
GNO, Inc. x Son of A Saint STEM Initiative

The collaboration between GNO, Inc. and Son of A Saint is focused on creating a strong talent pipeline for underserved, minority young men to explore STEM career opportunities and to obtain networking, mentoring, and work-based learning opportunities to successfully pursue a STEM career pathway.

Program Highlights:
- STEM programming began Summer 2022 for young men in grades 5-12
- Aligned career focus areas with current, research-based regional STEM opportunity areas:
  - Technology
  - Advanced Manufacturing
  - Trade & Logistics
  - Health Sciences
  - Environmental Management
  - Energy
  - Offshore Wind
GNou Summit Overview

To meet the evolving workforce needs of the GNO region, it is important to bring together workforce partners and employers to build stronger pipelines from training to employment. In this spirit, GNO, Inc. is thrilled to host the inaugural GNOu Workforce Summit!

This one-day event will accomplish the following:

- Unite cross-sector partners in workforce development & industry across the state
- Hear industry trends, talent needs, and partnership opportunities
- Learn best practices to developing innovative training programs meeting industry demand.

SAVE THE DATE
GNOu WORKFORCE SUMMIT
Conference Center on 11 at Pan American Life Center
601 Poydras Street, 11th Floor
New Orleans, LA 70130
Followed by Happy Hour from 5pm - 7pm

SEPTEMBER 29, 2022 • 8:45 AM - 5:00 PM

Learn more at www.gnousummit.com
GNOu Summit Sponsors

AARP Foundation
For a future without senior poverty.

Chevron

EDA
U.S. Economic Development Administration

GNOED
Higher Education Consortium

Tulane School of Professional Advancement

*As of 08/12/2022*
THANK YOU

Daphine Barnes
Greater New Orleans, Inc.
Director of STEM and Economic Mobility
dbarnes@gnoinc.org
Regional STEM Center Renewal Process

• The 2022-2023 fiscal year marks the final year of the initial three-year Regional STEM Center agreement

• Plan to update the original Request for Applications (RFA)
  • Incorporate internal and external feedback from first three years

• All recommended changes will be presented to the Council at the Q4 2022 meeting

• Upon approval, the RFA will be published in December 2022
  • Applications will be due by March 1st, 2023

• Selected centers will be presented to the Council at the Q2 2023 meeting
The regional directors, LDOE STEM team, and the BoR LaSTEM team will meet tomorrow for the Second Annual Directors' Retreat.

Focused on building a sustainable, cohesive LaSTEM:
- What metrics are important for our centers (regional) and state?
- Incorporate into centers' quarterly performance reports

Superintendent Shannon Lafargue (CPSB) will present ‘Flippin Arrows’

Subcommittees announced at Q2 2022 meeting have been delayed until after the retreat

Deliverables from Directors' Retreat will be presented to the Council at Q4 meeting.
Update from Louisiana Science Teachers Association

- Jean May-Brett, proxy for Christen Timmins
- Quality Science and Mathematics
- Presential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching
Third Quarter LaSTEM Advisory Council Meeting
August 18, 2022
Introduction

Greg Gray
Site Manager LyondellBasell Lake Charles Polymers

- 30 years of experience in Petrochemical Manufacturing
- Have worked for LyondellBasell for 21 years
- Career roles include Production Engineer, Process Engineer, Laboratory Manager, Technical Manager and Operations Manager
- Originally from San Antonio, Texas
- Earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University

Participate on:
* Lake Area Industry Alliance Executive Board (Secretary/Treasurer)
* Louisiana Chemical Association Board of Directors
* Louisiana Manufacturers Political Action Committee Board of Directors
* Junior Achievement of SWLA Board of Directors
Formed in 2000 to provide one voice for industries in Southwest Louisiana.

LAIA is a channel of communication between industries and the community, civic leaders, elected officials, educators and non-profit organizations.

23 member and associate member companies.

Member companies represent over 7,500 direct employees and over 3,500 embedded contractors.

LNG growth expected to add over 1,000 additional direct employees.
Community

Lake Area Industry Alliance member companies are proud to participate and lead the way in many community endeavors including:

* Community Advisor Panels
* Partners in Education
* Paint Recycling
* Chem Expo
* Environmental and Sustainability Initiatives
Area industries and their employees are among the most generous corporate citizens in Southwest Louisiana, giving millions in donations. According to a survey of plant managers in 2018, local industries gave over $30 million to area organizations in the last five years. The United Way of Southwest Louisiana reports that Calcasieu Parish industrial employees gave $13.5 million in the last five years.

Consider these statistics:

- $5.8 million in financial contributions by local industries to the McNeese State University Foundation
- 10 endowed scholarships at McNeese State University
- 11 endowed professorships at McNeese State University
- $1 million donated for equipment and program support at SOWELA in the last five years
- $1.4 million for capital projects at SOWELA in the last five years
- $198,000 for scholarships to SOWELA in the last five years
Industry Careers

Jobs available at local industries offer great salaries and benefits, giving employees the ability to have a good quality of life and raise their families here in Southwest Louisiana.

Local industries are the area’s third largest employment sector, which translates into a big impact on our economy.

Some form of advanced training beyond a high school diploma is usually needed for most industrial jobs. This could be a completion of a skills course, two-year associate’s degree, or a four-year college degree.
Industries need a pipeline of new employees and the LaSTEM program and SOWELA are critical to the current and future success of industrial projects.

We have a very successful multi-year long relationship with SOWELA and our P-Tech committee.

We are participants in the newer, but also essential M-Tech program.

We are grateful to have a great partner like SOWELA to help provide the workforce we need.
Adjournment

Enjoy lunch with Lake Charles Mayor Nic Hunter and the tour that follows!
SWLA Strong

A Reflection & Path Forward Two Years Post-Hurricane Laura

MAYOR NIC HUNTER
CITY OF LAKE CHARLES
“The Most Weather-Battered City in America”
8.27.20...Hurricane Laura Makes Landfall as a Category 4 Storm with Winds of 150 mph

Only Eight other Hurricanes since 1851 Made Landfall with a Speed of 150+ mph
HURRICANE LAURA

Hurricane Laura Ties Record for Strongest Winds at Landfall in Louisiana

Only Texas has seen more major hurricanes make landfall than Louisiana

By Samantha Davies • Published August 27, 2020 • Updated on August 27, 2020 at 5:49 am

Hurricane Laura made landfall early Thursday morning at 1 a.m. as a major Category 4 hurricane with winds of 150 mph in Cameron, LA.

This is the strongest hurricane that residents of Louisiana have seen in their lifetimes, based on wind speeds. Laura is the seventh major Hurricane to hit the state of Louisiana since records began in 1851. A major hurricane is a hurricane of Category 3 strength or higher.

Based on wind speed, Hurricane Laura ties for the strongest hurricane ever to make landfall in Louisiana. In 1856 the Hurricane called 'Last Island' made landfall as a Category 4 with 150 mph winds.

“strongest hurricane residents of Louisiana have seen in their lifetime”
Over the Course of Nine Months following Hurricane Laura...

Hurricane Delta (Category 2) Made Landfall 43 Days after Laura

Once in a Generation Freeze February 2021

“One Thousand Year Flood Event” in May 2021
Small Business Stabilization Fund

Water Bill Relief Program

Mortgage & Rental Assistance Program

Occupational License Fee Reduction

Mental Health Partnership

PPDR

Help SWLA Now
Building Back More Resilient & a Sample of Funding Sources

Multi-Agency Drainage Partnership

Updated Water Meter Technology

Resiliency

New LCFD Campus
New Public Works Campus
New Water Plant
Wind Design Load Increased on City Assets
Eliminating Rooftop HVAC on City-Owned Buildings
Elevating Key Wastewater Lift Stations
Enhancing Generators at Water Plants
Updated Building Codes

Resiliency

ARP
State TIF
FEMA
FEMA 428
FEMA BRIC
Federal Infrastructure Bill
HMGP
Water Sector
State Capital Outlay
HRRP Partnership
CDBG-DR

Funding
The Long Road to Supplemental Disaster Aid

Hurricane Laura... 500+ Days

What about those who still need help?
Unique Aspects Have Returned
Reinvestment
Reinvestment
New Investment Abounds
New Investment Abounds
New Investment Abounds
New Investment Abounds
New Investment Abounds
McNeese LNG Center of Excellence

Jason French: New training facility to help establish area as liquefied natural gas industry thought leader
Caesar’s Entertainment Horseshoe Casino
Port Wonder, Crying Eagle & Parking Garage
Downtown development

$35M housing unit to be built

By John Goldner
American Press

Local officials and a New Orleans-based real estate company partnered on Wednesday plans for 600-unit apartments at the Woodring Apartments in downtown Lake Charles.

The $35 million project, located on the 400 block of Fifth Street, will provide affordable units at $1,500 and includes a new building on the site.

"The city has continued to work with new residents in the area," Louisiana Housing Corporation Community Development Block Grant Director said. "We're excited to see this development move forward."
City plans to build new senior housing development in North LC

Published 2:52 pm Tuesday, July 5, 2022

By Crystal Steverson

Lake Charles Mayor Nic Hunter and Calcasieu Council on Aging Chief Executive Officer Jacqueline Green announce their partnership for a new senior living facility in North Lake Charles. (Special to the American Press)

By Emily Burleigh

The city of Lake Charles announced Tuesday its plan to build a new senior housing development
LA National Guard Readiness Center at Chennault
CANFOR Lumber Mill
INTERFOR
Reopening
Lumber Mill
New Rice Mill in Lacassine
What’s to Come? The Continued Path to Recovery

FEMA Process is Slow but Essential. City is Utilizing FEMA Funds with an Eye to the Future

Housing Recovery

Money Should be Hitting the Streets Before End of this Year

Housing Recovery

Continued Advocacy for Housing Tax Credits for SWLA

Economic Revitalization

Economic Development Districts & Incentives to Attract New & Diverse Businesses

Choice Neighborhood Grant Application

City Bond Proposal

Master Plan for Recreation

Additional Support for Arts & Culture
What’s Our Greatest Asset?
Our People...and their Resiliency, Tenacity, Grit & Compassion
Mural at L’auBerge Painted by Local Artists Jeremy & Hannah Price