



Second Quarter LaSTEM Advisory Council Meeting
April 28, 2022
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

The LaSTEM Advisory Council met on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at the LSU Center for River Studies in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Committee Members/Representatives Present:

Bianca Deliberto
Michael Gaudet
Jawanda Givens
Crystal Gordon
Commissioner Kim Hunter Reed
Lindsey Keith-Vincent
David Lafargue (Proxy – Charles Stewart)
Kenya Messer
Ronnie Morris
Frank Neubrandner
Janet Pope (Proxy-Robin Cosenza)
Breigh Rhodes (Proxy – Jaime Mixon)
Susana Schowen
Scott Stevens
Christen Timmins
Rachel Vincent-Finley
William Wainwright

Committee Members Not Present:

Mahyar Amouzegar
Larry Carter, Jr.
Patty Glasser
Jim Henderson
Sen. Sharon Hewitt

Calvin Mackie
Melissa Mann
Kellie Taylor-White
Rep. Polly Thomas
Tina Watts
Jaimee Williams
Tom Yura

Staff Members Present:

Christina Cheek
Clint Coleman
Christine Norton
Carrie Robison
Jennifer Stevens

Regional STEM Center Directors Present:

Mark Arseneault
Daphine Barnes
Cathi Cox-Boniol
Angela Boxie
Jennifer DePriest
Heather Kleiner
Christie Landry

Welcome, Roll Call, Agenda, and Updates

Dr. Reed welcomed members and guests to the Second Quarter LaSTEM Advisory Council meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Next, Dr. Coleman called roll and noted that a quorum was present. Dr. Coleman thanked everyone at the LSU Center for River Studies for hosting LaSTEM and invited the director, Dr. Clint Willson, to say a few words.

The next agenda item was the approval of the meeting minutes from the first quarter meeting on January 20, 2022.

There was a motion from Dr. Wainwright and a second by Ms. Schowen to approve the First Quarter meeting minutes. With no opposition, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Dr. Coleman then introduced the first guest speaker, Ms. Jacqueline Richard, Dean of STEM at Fletcher Technical Community College, to present on the CWPPRA/LaSTEM Caminada Headlands project. This overview included a review of the interactive virtual field trip of the Caminada Headlands, designed to bring students to the coast and teach them about the importance of coastal issues and restoration, as well as serve as general public outreach.

Questions and comments regarding this presentation addressed availability (already free online and staff are currently working with CWPPRA and LaSTEM to create classroom boxes/kits), length of time to develop (ten months, but should be quicker moving forward as some of the complications have been worked through during this first round), future projects (next will be BS-11 in Plaquemines Parish), and a suggestion to link each field trip to a potential career pathway (have some in the curriculum already but are looking to provide more in future field trips). Finally, Mr. Gaudet announced that East Baton Rouge Parish School System currently has an agreement with Louisiana State University, which will be opening a high school (grades 6-12) with a focus on coastal restoration in August. The CWPPRA/LaSTEM Caminada Headlands virtual field trip can be viewed at <https://caminada.centralcreativity.com/caminada/>.

The next presentation was by Ms. Lucia Berliner, Regional Manager and Specialist of the Louisiana Region, who provided an overview the Microsoft TEALS program. Her presentation covered the need to increase access to computer science in schools. She noted that this was the first year for the program in Louisiana, and it served 240 students in six schools. Ms. Berliner can be contacted at lucia@tealsk12.org.

Questions and comments regarding this presentation included a discussion of engagement of volunteers in higher education (have connected with Xavier and Tulane and sent emails to computer science departments, but have established very little engagement across the state so far), age groups served by the program (high school students), how the program defines computer science (programming of computers, no hardware components), location of the new participating schools (mostly in the New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas, with one starting in Shreveport), and the creation of AP computer science courses in the New Orleans region. Dr. Reed suggested Ms. Berliner connect with Dr. Kenya Messer, LAICU, and Dr. William Wainwright, Northshore Technical Community College, in order to engage more institutions in providing volunteers. In addition, she informed the Council that Senator Hewitt's SB 190, the Computer Science Education Act, was going through the legislative process, and that SB 191 has passed the Senate and is pending in the House Education Committee.

Council Discussion

The Council next considered a recommendation for fund reappropriation. Dr. Coleman informed the Council of a surplus of funds in the LaSTEM administrative budget for the current fiscal year. All nine regional directors were notified via email and asked whether they could make use of the funds within the following parameters: no new projects, no travel, and supplies approved only if locally sourced. Three of the nine centers requested additional funds as outlined below:

- Region 1 (\$7,500) - to include stipends for students to attend the HBCU STEM Connect event, supplies for the WISE Women program, and supplies for summer enrichment programs
- Region 3 (\$8,000) - to include catering and supplies for the Girls Design for Good event and supplies to construct 1,500 Rube Goldberg Energy transfer experiments for an outreach event
- Region 4 (\$74,500) - to support 900+ children waitlisted for summer camps

There being no questions or comments from the Council, a motion was made by Ms. Schowen, seconded by Dr. Messer. The reappropriation of funds was approved as submitted.

Next, three new STEM Center Directors were introduced and provided the Council with background details on their careers and overviews of current projects in their regions.

- The new director for Region 2 (LSU), Summer Dann, was unable to attend the meeting and plans to speak at the Third Quarter meeting.
- Region 4 (ULL), Angela Boxie (angela.boxie@Louisiana.edu) noted that she is in her 20th year in education, having taught middle school math for 16 years, served for three and a half years as a middle school assistant principal, and been appointed Director in February 2022. Ms. Boxie noted that she is currently working to reach out to homeless and migrant students in order to remove barriers to their success. Dr. Reed asked Ms. Boxie how she reaches these students. Ms. Boxie responded that she reaches them through the school system. Mr. Morris asked if there were opportunities to engage undergraduate students in higher education to support or substitute for current teachers. Ms. Boxie said that there is a summer camp opportunity which pairs teachers with graduate or undergraduate students. Dr. Reed asked Ms. Boxie to keep the Council updated on which methods work and which do not.
- Region 7 (Sci-Port), Interim director Dr. Heather Kleiner (hkleiner@sciport.org) noted that her work includes creating the North Louisiana STEM Alliances programs, including GSK Science in Summer, Be a Biologist, prison outreach, and others, which are free for underserved individuals.

Mr. Morris asked what work processes are in place to connect school districts with the regional LaSTEM networks and how those ideas can be shared with others across the state. Dr. Coleman noted that LaSTEM is working on building a marketing plan to include a revamp of the LaSTEM website to be more outward-facing and user-friendly for the general public. Dr. Reed stated that STEM Directors should be connected to their superintendents, if not already, and offered assistance from BoR in helping them to connect. Ms. Mixon commented that LDOE meets weekly with the directors to help support them. In addition, several of the regional directors shared opportunities they use in their regions to connect with school districts.

The next agenda item was the formation of subcommittees to drive the work of the Council over the coming year and better support the regional STEM centers. The two subcommittees were 1) External Funding Opportunities and 2) Metrics/Pathways. Three Council members and three directors were asked to volunteer for each subcommittee. Mr. Gaudet suggested having an LDOE representative sit in a formal position on the Metrics/Pathways subcommittee and Ms. Mixon agreed. Council members were asked to reach out to Dr. Coleman at Clint.Coleman@laregents.edu if interested in joining a subcommittee. Dr. Coleman provided a timeline of the subcommittee work for the summer, which would lead to presentation of subcommittee recommendations at the Third Quarter meeting in August.

Other Business

Ms. Schowen made an announcement that on May 16th she will be moving from LED to the LCTCS office.

The remaining 2022 quarterly meeting dates are as follows:

- Thursday, August 18, 2022
- Thursday, November 17, 2022

There being no other comments or business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Crystal Gordon and seconded by Ms. Susana Schowen. With all in agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.