



First Quarter LASTEM Advisory Council Meeting
February 22, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The LASTEM Advisory Council met on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at EBR Career and Technical Education Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Committee Members/Representatives Present

Kaneisha Akinpelumi
Robin Cosenza
Dr. Bianca Deliberto
Emily DiPalma
Paul Helton
Commissioner Kim Hunter Reed
Camille Ivy-O'Connell Bentin
Dr. Lindsey Keith-Vincent
Dr. David Lafargue (arrived after roll call)
Taya Loupe
Dr. Lealon Martin (arrived after roll call)
Jamie Mixon
Ronnie Morris
Dr. Frank Neubrandner
Christen Timmins (Proxy – Jean May-Brett)

Committee Members Not Present

Larry Carter, Jr.
Rick Gallot
Dr. Patty Glasser
Crystal Gordon
Senator Sharon Hewitt
Dr. Calvin Mackie
Melissa Mann
Dr. Francesca Mellieon-Williams
Dr. Wendi Palermo
Representative Vincent St. Blanc

David St. Etienne
Tina Watts
Jaimee Williams
Tom Yura

Staff Members Present

Christina Cheek
Clint Coleman
Anna Roberts
Carrie Robison
Jennifer Stevens

Guests & STEM Center Directors

Mark Arseneault, STEM Center Director
Daphne Barnes, STEM Center Director
Angela Boxie, STEM Center Director
Sue Barrosse, Ochsner Clinical School
Wendy Conarro, STEM Center Director
Summer Dann, STEM Center Director
Jennifer DePriest, STEM Center Director
Andrew Ganuchau, Louisiana Afterschool Network
Heather Kleiner, STEM Center Director
Martha Sealy, Career and Technical Education Center

Welcome and Roll Call

Commissioner Reed welcomed all attendees and called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Dr. Coleman called roll, noting quorum was not obtained.

Next, he introduced Ms. Martha Sealy, Executive Director of the Career and Technical Education Center, to extend her welcome. Following Ms. Sealy's welcome, Dr. Coleman introduced the new Council members and opened the floor for any wishing to say a few words. Dr. Lealon Martin shared that he is new to the area and excited to represent Southern University A&M and contribute to the work of the Council.

Last, Dr. Coleman noted that the Council is required to report annually to the Legislature and indicated that the 2023 report, as well as reports for all years since inception of the Council in 2018, are available on the Regents' website.

Approval of Fourth-Quarter Meeting Minutes

Next, Commissioner Reed noted that with additional members arriving after roll call, quorum had been obtained. Dr. Bianca Deliberto mentioned that she had read in the minutes that the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) and LASTEM received funding for the Engineering is Elementary (EiE) program and asked for more information on how the Regional Centers will support teachers statewide through the program. Dr. Coleman indicated that Regents has contracted with Louisiana Tech University to implement the project and invited Dr. Lindsey Keith-Vincent to expand on its current status. Dr. Keith-Vincent stated that project leadership will schedule the first training event this spring and leverage available funds to allow teachers to travel to training and bring kits to their classrooms. Ms. Jamie Mixon added that LDOE will support with messaging. Ms. Jean May-Brett noted that Dr. Deliberto is a trainer for EiE and great resource. There being no other questions or comments, Commissioner Reed called for a motion to approve the fourth-quarter meeting minutes.

On motion of Mr. Paul Helton, seconded by Dr. Lindsey Keith-Vincent, the Council approved the fourth-quarter meeting minutes.

Update from Capital Area STEM Center

Dr. Coleman introduced Ms. Summer Dann, Director of the Capital Area STEM Network Center (Region 2), who provided an update on the Center, including its work with the Ignite! program in collaboration with LDOE.

LASTEM Summit Review

Next, Dr. Coleman provided a brief summary of the LASTEM Summit and updates on planning for the 2024 event, noting that the event will be held at the Cajundome and Convention Center in Lafayette, Louisiana on October 9, 2024. He announced that the call for presenters and exhibitors had been released today via the LASTEM listserv. To join the list, please contact lastem@laregents.edu.

Ochsner Clinical School

Dr. Coleman introduced Ms. Sue Barrosse, Director of Enrollment Management at Ochsner Clinical School, who presented an overview of a new medical program Ochsner is providing in partnership with The University of Queensland Australia.

Ms. Daphne Barnes asked which grade point average is used for admission if multiple degrees are obtained by prospective students. Ms. Barrosse stated that the most recently obtained degree is used. Ms. Kaneisha Akinpelumi shared that Xavier is in the process of developing a medical school in partnership with Ochsner.

Louisiana Afterschool Network

For the final presentation of the meeting, Dr. Coleman introduced Mr. Andrew Ganuchau, Director of the Louisiana Afterschool Network, who shared information related to the Million Girls Moonshot Flight Crew (announcement of the first crew member from Louisiana – Yaniret Abreu), STEM Next's CARE Framework, and the STEM Literacy Resource Guide. He noted that the Louisiana Afterschool Network is looking for partnership opportunities with LASTEM and has funding available.

Mr. Ronnie Morris asked about transportation for students to join afterschool activities. Mr. Ganuchau responded that transportation is a big expense and a growing issue, but can be added to the proposals for funding. Commissioner Reed asked if Mr. Ganuchau could share all the programs LASTEM Regional Centers are currently participating in and supporting. She also asked when information on the Flight Crew member could be shared on social media and asked everyone to amplify on their social media platforms. Mr. Ganuchau agreed to compile a list of programs for Dr. Coleman to send to the Council members, along with the press package and literacy resource guide. He added that the Council could push the Flight Crew announcement by the end of the month. The organization is working to involve the student in the annual LASTEM Summit and future events. Ms. Camille Ivy-O'Connell Bentin asked if the Network

is working with the Lieutenant Governor's office on opportunities statewide, to engage with fairs, festivals, and parade floats. Mr. Ganuchau indicated he would follow up on these opportunities.

Ms. Jean May-Brett announced that the Board on Gulf Education and Engagement is investing \$5M in the Gulf Research Program for K-8 Youth Through Place-Based Education, including both in-school and out-of-school components. The application submission deadline is April 10th. She added that during the coming year the Board would also provide \$3M in workforce grants.

Commissioner Reed opened the floor for any additional announcements. Ms. May-Brett noted that Gulf Research Program Fellowship Awards for Early-Career Research Fellows in Offshore Energy Safety and Education Research and Early-Career Research Fellows in Human Health and Community Resilience opportunities will close on March 6th. The Early-Career Research Fellows in Environmental Protection and Stewardship will open on April 10th.

Other Business and Adjournment

Commissioner Reed thanked Ms. Dann for her presentation and the region for hosting the Council's first meeting of the year. She shared her experience attending the SPARK Your Summer event at the library and added that she loves having the opportunity to hear about each region, its partnerships, and its work as the Council travels for quarterly meetings. Dr. Coleman noted that the next Council meeting, scheduled for May 2, 2024, will be held in Shreveport, LA at Sci-Port Discovery Center. Mr. Morris announced that Dr. Coleman will present on LASTEM at the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) meeting on March 5th.

Commissioner Reed invited any other comments or new business. With no additional comments or items for discussion, through unanimous consent of the members, the Council adjourned at 11:34 a.m.