



**1st Quarter LASTEM Advisory Council Meeting**  
**STEM Library Lab**  
**2/6/2025**

# Today's Agenda

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### 1) Roll Call and Welcome

- Todd Wackerman, Executive Director, STEM Library Lab
- Introduction of new LASTEM councilmembers

### 2) Approval of 3rd and 4th Quarter Meeting Minutes

### 3) Update from Region 1 STEM Center, Daphne Barnes, GNOrocs Director

### 4) Jamie Mixon, Computer Science and STEM Supervisor, LA Dept of Education

### 5) Edopportunities Database- Todd Wackerman, Executive Director, SLL

### 6) LASTEM Updates (Board of Regents)

- Legislative Annual Report
- Q4 highlights
- PAESMEM Awardees/LASTEM Application
- FUEL applications from RSCs
- Future events at RSCs

### 7) Adjournment





# Welcome From Host



**Todd Wackerman**  
**Executive Director**  
**STEM Library Lab**

# Welcome To Our New Councilmembers!



**Sara Wolfe**

Asst Director of Grants  
Building Our Region's Future  
BRF



**Jolen Stein**

Sr. Director, People Services  
BASF



**Dr. Suresh Chiruguru**

Teacher, Calcasieu Parish  
School District  
2025 LA Teacher of the Year



**Blake Bertuccelli-Booth**

CEO, Equalify

# Agenda Items

- **Roll Call**
- **Approval of 3rd and 4th Quarter Minutes**



# GNOrocs Q1 Report

Q1 2025 Meeting



**GNO, Inc. Innovation Internship  
2024 Cohort**

**WISE Women NOLA Summer 2024  
Cohort**

**GNO RAAMP 2024 Convening**

**National Space Workforce Coalition**

**GNOrocs 2024 Mini Grants**

**Startup Noir NOLA Launch**

# GNOrocs Internships

The GNO, Inc. flagship GIIP program has garnered regional accolades from business and industry partners, training providers, and interns.

## Internship Program Highlights

- Hosted **104 students**, to date
- **Students have represented schools such as:** Dillard, SUNO, SUBR, and XULA, Southeastern, Spelman College, Notre Dame, LSU and UNO
- **97%** host company retention rate
- ***Attracted and/or expanded participation of 4 additional STEM host companies for the 2025 cohort:*** Ochsner (Pre-Med), Susco, RCOAST, Laitram/Intralox
- ***Attracted 2 additional local host startup companies:*** Jammaround and TechPlug
- ***Attracted Private Equity and Venture Capital Firms:*** Longue Vue Capital, Corridor Ventures





# GNO, Inc. Innovation Internship Program Investment

Over the past 4 years, GNO, Inc., along with BoR and private organizations, has invested **\$411K**, with an additional estimated **\$160K** for Summer 2025, to provide over **108 HBCU students** internships at startups and STEM companies in the GNO region



## Intern Wages

2021: \$28,000  
2022: \$79,200  
2023: \$74,930  
2024: \$115,200

## Training

2021: \$0  
2022: \$17,500  
2023: \$31,000  
2024: 27,500

## Recruitment Costs

2021: \$0  
2022: \$3,000  
2023: \$3,000  
2024: \$4,500

## Housing Costs

2021: Housing not provided  
2022: \$9,900  
2023 and beyond: No longer providing housing

## Programmatic Costs

2021: \$3,000  
2022: \$4,500  
2023: \$10,000  
2024: \$10,000

## Yearly Costs

2021: \$31,000  
2022: \$114,100  
2023: \$108,930  
2024: \$157,200



**GREATER NEW ORLEANS**  
INC  
REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**APPLY  
NOW**



## GNO, INC. INNOVATION INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

### ENGINEERING

This track connects aspiring engineering students with leading firms in mechanical, electrical, software, aerospace, civil, and chemical engineering. Participants gain hands-on learning opportunities in their respective fields, helping to prepare them for successful engineering careers.

### STEM

The STEM track aims to bridge the gap between STEM industry leaders in the Greater New Orleans area and underrepresented STEM undergraduate students. By fostering connections and providing real-world experiences, the program enhances diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEM fields, building a more inclusive talent pipeline.

### STARTUP

This track is designed to boost startup activity among students and graduates in Louisiana by offering hands-on, paid internships. Participants gain exposure to entrepreneurial ideation and business development, helping to foster a culture of innovation and startup success within the region.

### ENERGY

As part of the regionwide H2theFuture initiative, this track allows students to explore careers in clean and renewable energy, with a focus on the Gulf Coast's expanding energy economy. Through immersive internships, students contribute to South Louisiana's efforts to become a global leader in the energy sector.



### VENTURE CAPITAL PRIVATE EQUITY

This track offers students an opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge of the venture capital and private equity sectors by exploring how startups and early-stage companies secure funding. Interns learn the intricacies of investment, risk analysis, and the financial processes that drive business growth for emerging enterprises.

# GIIP Internship Tracks



## GIIP Internship Supporters

### Program Sponsors:



BOARD of REGENTS  
STATE OF LOUISIANA



### Regional Partners:



# GNO, Inc. Innovation Internship Program

The GNO, Inc. flagship GIIP program has continued to garner regional accolades from business and industry partners, training providers, and interns.

## Internship Program Highlights



### Internship Extensions:

A remarkable **65% of our interns were offered internship extensions** through the academic year, a testament to their exceptional performance and value they brought to their host companies.



### Professional Certifications:

Our interns obtained **20 professional certifications**, further enhancing their skillsets and paving the way for promising career paths.



### Major Biomedical Research:

Some of our interns actively participated in **groundbreaking biomedical research**, contributing to advancements in the field of healthcare and improving lives.



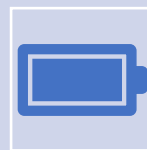
# GNO, Inc. Innovation Internship Program

## Program Highlights



### Revolutionary Battery Efficiency Research:

Another intern worked on revolutionary research projects focused on battery efficiency, **potentially transforming how we harness and utilize energy**



### Innovative Company Marketing Campaigns:

Our talented interns created captivating and effective marketing campaigns for their host companies, which will be utilized **over the next 12 months to enhance brand presence and customer engagement.**



### Enhanced Company Efficacy:

Through their exceptional programming skills, some interns **successfully implemented projects that significantly increased the efficacy of their host companies**, making a tangible impact on their operations.



## Participating Companies

### PAST STEM CONNECT COMPANIES:



### PAST STARTUP COMPANIES:


**ADVANO**

**junum**

LeBLANC + SMITH

**LIFECITY**


Skilltype


**LOOKFAR**  
 IDEA ACCELERATION

**Resilia**
**rasa.o**

**HENLEY**  
 ION, LLC

**Catalyst:Ed**  
 The Expert Hub



**GNO, Inc. Innovation Internship  
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**National Space Workforce Coalition**

**GNOrocs 2024 Mini Grants**

**Startup Noir NOLA Launch**

# WISE Women NOLA

Since 2022, WWN Mentorship Program has served over **80 young women**, and has provided over **\$25,000 in scholarships** to participating mentees and invested over **\$60,000** in program implementation.

## WISE Women NOLA Mentee Highlights

100% of mentee graduates are STEM majors

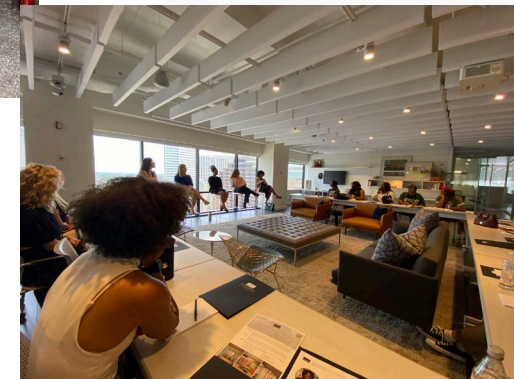
80% of our graduates are attending Louisiana colleges & universities

97% of the mentees attend a Title I school

100% of our eligible students are enrolled in STEM based AP and/or Dual Enrollment courses

92% of our junior level students have participated in competitive, credit bearing pre-collegiate program

85% of total graduates are engineering majors





# WISE Women NOLA 2024 Cohort

Our Summer 2024 cohort of the WISE Women NOLA Mentorship was a HUGE success!

## 2024 Cohort

### Highlights

Program has served 80 young women, to date

2024 cohort: 25 young women representing 7 parishes in the GNO region

100% of last year's graduates are currently enrolled in **STEM based undergrad majors**

90% of last years graduates have declared an engineering major

**Expanded programming:** Financial literacy (OnPath), College/Career and FAFSA planning, Personal Branding, & Life Skills: Vehicle Maintenance, College Tours

**5 WWN graduates** are now GNO, Inc. Innovation Internship candidates for the Summer 2025 cohort



**GNO, Inc. Innovation Internship  
2024 Cohort**

**WISE Women NOLA Summer 2024  
Cohort**

**GNO RAAMP 2024 Sectoral  
Partnership**

**National Space Workforce Coalition**

**GNOrocs 2024 Mini Grants**

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# Greater New Orleans Regional Aerospace & Advanced Manufacturing Partnership

GNO RAAMP

*Convening employers, education, economic development, and community-based organizations to address workforce needs to sustain attraction, retention, and expansion of industry to the region*

Sectoral partnerships are...

- **Industry-driven**
- **Ecosystem-supported**
- **Targeted**

Sectoral partnerships can accelerate the development of new career pathways, support the expansion of existing training programs, and ensure that skilled talent is available to meet the needs of regional employers

GNO RAAMP establishes a “shared table” for employers and workforce development stakeholders to collaborate on aligning programmatic efforts with industry needs



## GNO RAAMP 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GNO RAAMP focused on inspiring and training the next generation of skilled professionals in aerospace and advanced manufacturing to drive innovation and growth in the GNO Region.



### GNO Innovation Internship Program

- Over **100 STEM interns** in the past 3 years through our flagship program
- Expanding the Summer 2025 cohort from **25 to 30 directly supported** to meet growing demand



### Nunez Community College Scholarship Awards

- Through a DRA grant with Nunez, 7 students were awarded scholarships to enter the Aerospace Technician Program



### WISE Women NOLA

- Since 2022, WWN Mentorship Program has served over **80 young women**
- Plan to expand our Summer 2025 cohort from **25 to 30 young women**



# Space Day at the Capitol

GNO RAAMP

*In partnership with NASA and Boeing, GNOrocs planned and executed the 2024 Space Day at the Capitol.*



## **Highlights included:**

- Opening remarks by **Lt. Governor Nungesser**
- Legislative breakfast with NASA leadership
- Workforce panel discussion for high school students w/ **NASA astronaut Josh Cassada**
- Live demonstrations from robotics teams from almost every RSC
- Recognition on both the House and Senate floors



# Artemis II Launch

GNO RAAMP

*In partnership with NASA, GNOrocs collaborated on the planning and execution of the Artemis II Launch.*



## **Highlights included:**

- Local community band, "Roots of Music", led by Grammy award winner Derrick Tabb, providing the opening
- Belle Chasse Navy jet flyover



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# Greater New Orleans Regional Aerospace & Advanced Manufacturing Partnership

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## National Space Workforce Coalition





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# GNOrocs Mini Grant Program

GNO, Inc. has invested **\$45,000** in STEM nonprofits to deepen the diversity of the STEM pipeline, ultimately serving **over 6,000 underserved youth and adults** in the GNO region. Examples include, but are not limited to:



## GNO STEM

Middle school STEM competition to develop animated video highlighting math and/or science concepts  
**Impact: 1,200-3,600 middle school students**

## Second Chance

Supports advanced technology skills program to help formerly incarcerated women obtain technology skills to gain employment  
**Impact: 200 formerly incarcerated women**

## Operation Restoration

Supports Lab Assistant Program which prepares current and formerly incarcerated women to work in lab healthcare settings  
**Impact: 15 formerly incarcerated women**

## Don't Stop Dreaming

Grassroots organization that focuses on empowering at-risk young men and exposing them to skilled professions  
**Impact: 50 young men**

## Excite All Stars STEM Enrichment Camp

Supports students in 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades for Robotics, Coding, and Aviation instruction  
**Impact: 400 students**

## FIRST Louisiana-Mississippi, Inc.

FLL Hardship Grants are provided to teams who are otherwise unable to participate due to financial constraints

**Impact: 420 high school students on Robotics teams**

# GNOrocs Mini Grant Program

The mini grant program launched in 2022 to support and engage Region 1 nonprofit organizations providing STEM education and/or programming to individuals in underserved communities.

**The maximum award amount was \$2,500.00.**



## Greater New Orleans Science Fair

Supports the International Science and Engineering Fair

**Impact: 600-1000 students**

## Don't Stop Dreaming

Grassroots organization that focuses on empowering at-risk young men and exposing them to skilled professions

**Impact: 50 young men are mentees**

The GNOrocs Mini Grant program has served **2,235 individuals** during the 2022-2023 inaugural launch.

The 2023- 2024 grant period has served approximately **3,952 individuals**, a **77 %** increase from our inaugural year.



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# Startup Noir NOLA Launch Event

The SNN Launch Event featured curated events aimed at driving engagement and fostering innovation.



## Opening Event

**Startup Noir NOLA Launch Reception**

## Partner Event

**OHUB- Climate Tech @ NETI 100K Pitch Competition**

## Ecosystem Building

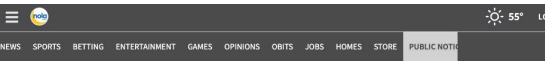
**OHUB- Accessing Capital Meetup**

**Startup to Scale-Up: Navigating Growth For Black Founders**



# SNN- Media Highlights

## STARTUP NOIR NOLA



### Startup Noir NOLA aims to support Black entrepreneurs and funders in New Orleans

BY RICH COLLINS | Staff writer   Nov 20, 2024   2 min to read   [Subscriber Exclusive](#)



JammAround's founders, from right to left, Brent Craigie (CEO), Marlon Butler and Donovan William.  
*Courtesy JammAround*

### BLACK ENTERPRISE



NEWS | by Kandiss Edwards - November 24, 2024

### STARTUP NOIR NOLA AIMS TO CLOSE FUNDING GAP FOR BLACK ENTREPRENEURS IN NEW ORLEANS

Startup Noir NOLA wants to be where the money resides.

### POCIT PEOPLE OF COLOR IN TECH

November 29, 2024

### Startup Noir NOLA Supports Black-Led Startups In New Orleans



Startup **Noir NOLA** is setting a new standard for empowering Black entrepreneurs and investors in New Orleans.

This initiative, launched by **Greater New Orleans Inc.** (GNO Inc.), provides resources and opportunities to support the success of Black-led startups in a region brimming with potential.



HOME • BUSINESS

### Startup Noir NOLA launches bold initiative for Black entrepreneurs

The program is designed to create a supportive ecosystem for Black founders

BY AMARI APPLE   NOV 25, 2024   9:33 AM



Photo credit: Shutterstock.com / Lightfield Studios



## SNN- Media Highlights



# THANK YOU

**Daphne Barnes**

Executive Director of Economic Mobility  
Greater New Orleans, Inc.

[dbarnes@gnoinc.org](mailto:dbarnes@gnoinc.org)

**Denise Washington**

Executive Assistant Business Development  
STEM Project Manager  
Greater New Orleans, Inc.

[dwashington@gnoinc.org](mailto:dwashington@gnoinc.org)



INITIATIVE OF



# 1st Quarter LASTEM Council Meeting

## LDOE Update



February 6, 2025

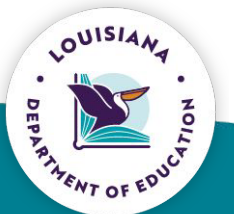


# Standards Revision



# History and Context

- The Louisiana Content Standards for English language arts and mathematics were last revised in 2015-2016.
- BESE policy in *Bulletin 741 - Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, §2301 states, “The Louisiana content standards shall be subject to review and revision to maintain rigor and high expectations for teaching and learning. Such review of each content area shall occur at least once every seven years.”



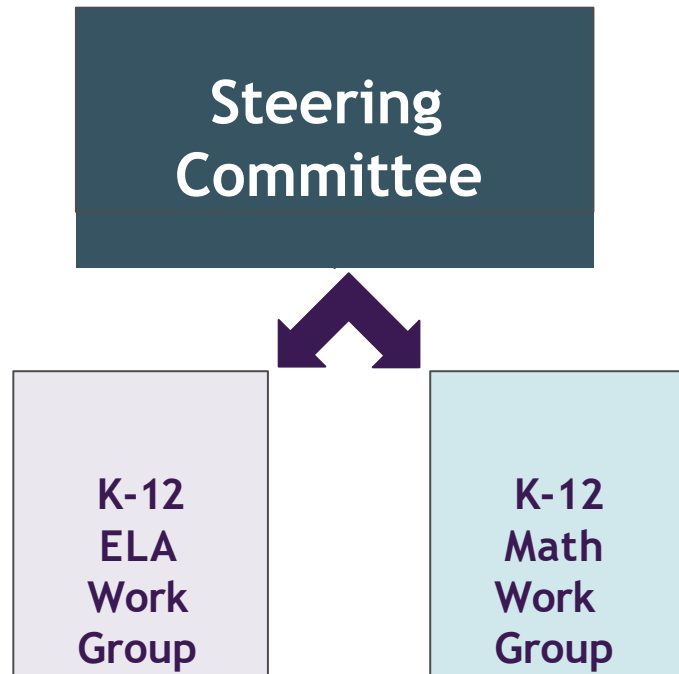
# Content Standards Review Goals

- English language arts (ELA)
  - Strengthen the foundational skills standards progression throughout grades K-5 to ensure alignment with the Science of Reading.
  - Reinforce a specific, measurable progression of language standards, including grammar, usage, and mechanics, in grades 9-12.
  - Provide world, American, and Louisiana reading text complexity, quality, and range exemplars for each grade band.
- Mathematics
  - Strengthen foundational skills standards progression to ensure the development of advanced skills, including logic and reasoning.
  - Identify relevant mathematics pathways for students in grades 9-12, aiming for success in college, career, or service.





# K-12 ELA & Math Standards Review Committee: Organization and Roles



## Steering Committee

- 15 members
- Guides process and updates
- Votes to send draft to LDOE
- ***Requests that LDOE make final recommendation to BESE***

## Content Area Work Group

- Reviews public comments
- Contains members who serve on Steering Committee
- ***Reviews Standards***

# ELA and Math Standards Steering Committee

2

- The 15 member steering committee will be composed of members from each of the proposed content work groups.
  - K-2 English Language Arts Classroom Teacher
  - K-2 Math Classroom Teacher
  - 3-5 English Language Arts Classroom Teacher
  - 3-5 Math Classroom Teacher
  - 6-8 English Language Arts Classroom Teacher
  - 6-8 Math Classroom Teacher
  - 9-12 English Language Arts Classroom Teacher
  - 9-12 Math Classroom Teacher
  - SPED Teacher/Leader (2)
  - (School System Leader (Math)
  - School System Leader (ELA)
  - Higher Education English Language Arts Representative or BoR
  - Higher Education Mathematics Representative or BoR
  - Louisiana Parent
- The steering committee will work to guide the process, assure that the content updates from the work groups align to BESE's review goals, and receive and review public comments.



# ELA and Math Standards Work Groups

K-12 English language arts (24)	K-12 Mathematics (24)
(16) Classroom Teachers <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (4) K-2</li><li>• (4) 3-5</li><li>• (4) 6-8</li><li>• (4) HS</li></ul>	(16) Classroom Teachers <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (4) K-2</li><li>• (4) 3-5</li><li>• (4) 6-8</li><li>• (4) HS</li></ul>
(1) Special Education Teacher	(1) Special Education Teacher
(4) English Language Arts School System Staff	(4) Mathematics School System Staff
(1) Louisiana Reading Association Representative	(1) Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics Representative
(1) Higher Education English Language Arts or BoR	(1) Higher Education Mathematics or BoR
(1) Parent	(1) Parent





# Application Scoring Process

- Eight individuals from four different divisions within the LDOE will review the applications and blind-score based upon a rubric.
- The rubric will be based upon the revision goals, content knowledge, and experience.
- Ranked applications will be separated into regions to assure stakeholder representation from all across Louisiana.



# Timeline

Month	Goal
December 2024	K-12 ELA and math standards vision, process, and timeline submitted to BESE for approval.
December 2024	Application to serve is released.
March 2025	Committee member recommendations submitted to BESE for approval.
April - July 2025	Committee convenings occur.
July - August 2025	K-12 ELA and math standards posted for public comment.
October 2025	Standards are presented for BESE consideration.
2025-2026	IMR rereview and LDOE teacher PL for implementation in the 2026-2027 school year.



# Computer Science in Teacher Education Programs





# Louisiana Computer Science and Teacher Education Programs

According to Act 211 of the 2024 Legislative session, teacher education programs will “include instruction on teaching students computer science, which may be incorporated into an existing course of study.”



Office of Teaching and Learning

## Louisiana K-12 Computer Science Education Plan

Comprehensive Action Plan

### Introduction

"In Louisiana, the fastest growing industry is Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services which is composed of much of the technology industry. Software developers and network administrators are among the ten fastest-growing occupations in the state requiring a college education, yet the state is producing fewer than half of the graduates needed to fill computer science-related jobs. Successful completion of rigorous post-secondary computer science programs requires a thorough foundation at the elementary and secondary education levels. It is in the public interest that a comprehensive computer science education initiative be undertaken to ensure Louisiana has citizens who have the expertise to perform the technology skills embedded in most professions, who can meet the ever-increasing workforce demands in the technology sector, and who can envision and grow the next generation of technological advances." (Computer Science Education Act, 2022)



# Computer Science Pre-Service Requirements

The coursework shall include but need not be limited to the following

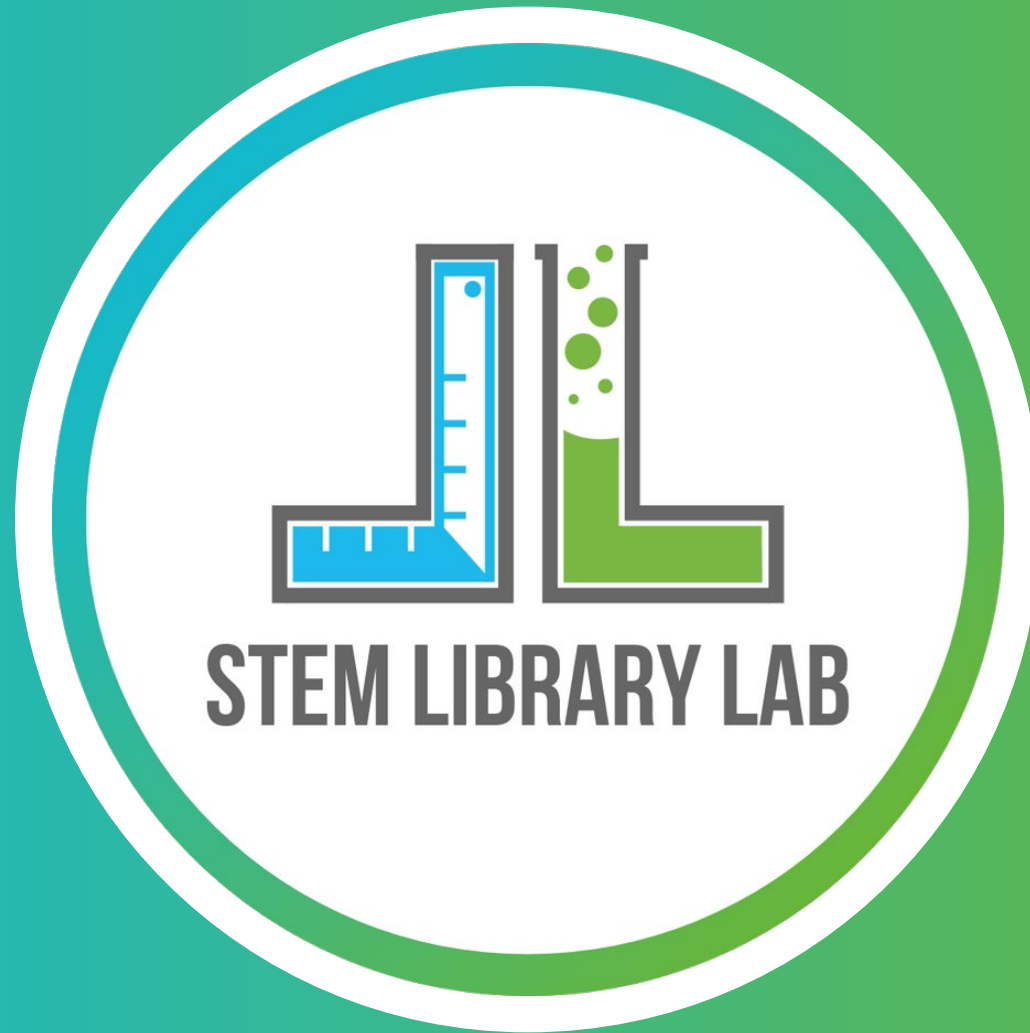
- a. an introduction to the K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science;
- b. an overview of computational thinking and computer science content, including broad knowledge of computing systems, internet safety, and data analysis to enhance student learning within and across all grade levels; and
- c. an overview of standards-based instruction based on the core concepts and practices found within the Louisiana Computer Science Framework.





For more information or questions please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov)

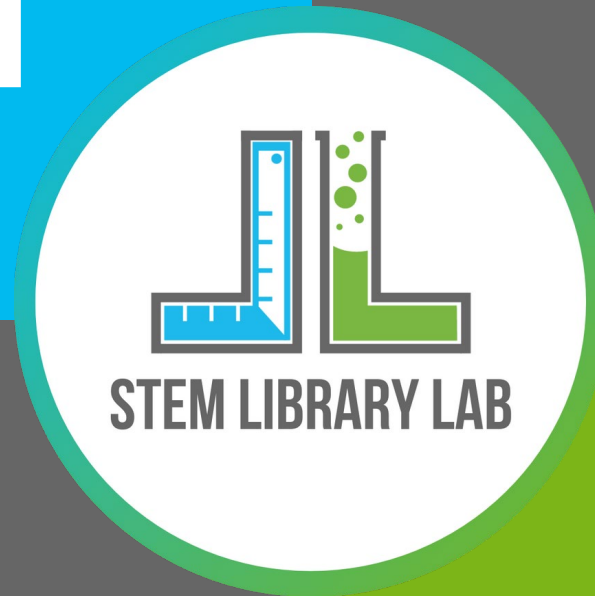




Equipping Teachers to Inspire Students

# OUR MISSION

**Students in every classroom  
have exposure to quality  
educational experiences that  
prepare them for a 21st  
Century future.**



**STEM Library Lab fosters high-  
quality active learning by providing  
teachers with access to equipment,  
programs, experiences and STEM  
instructional support to drive  
student success.**

# OUR VISION

# STEM LIBRARY LAB IMPACT



## 2024-2025 School Year:

- 1,287 teacher users
- 245 schools
- 13 parishes
- 66,000 student touchpoints
- \$350K saved in equipment



# PROGRAMS & SERVICES

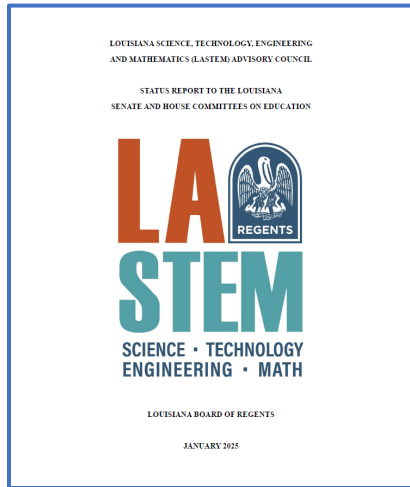
- Equipment Lending Co-op
- Service Learning
- Teacher Free-Store
- Professional Development
- EdOpportunities Database



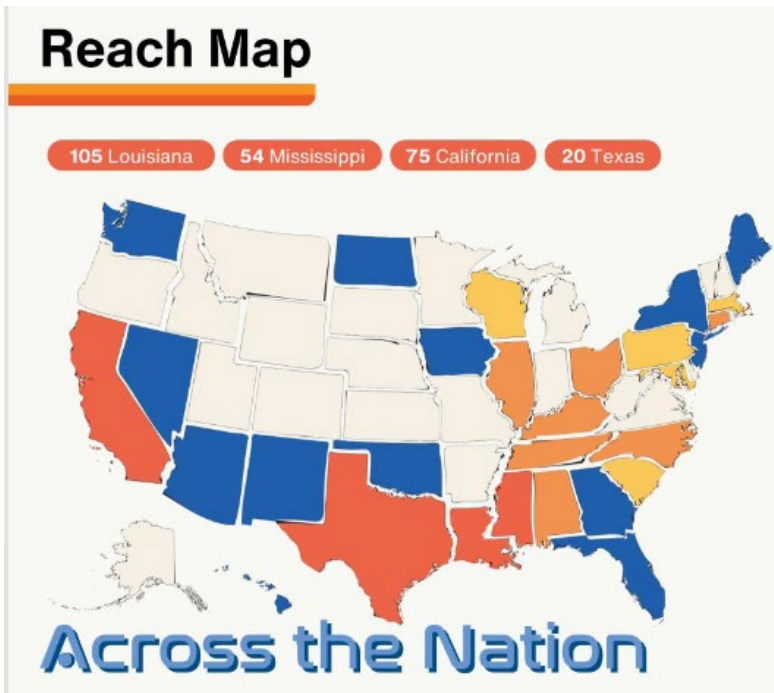
Social Media: @stemlibrarylab

Website: [www.stemlibrarylab.org](http://www.stemlibrarylab.org)

# 2025 LASTEM Legislative Report

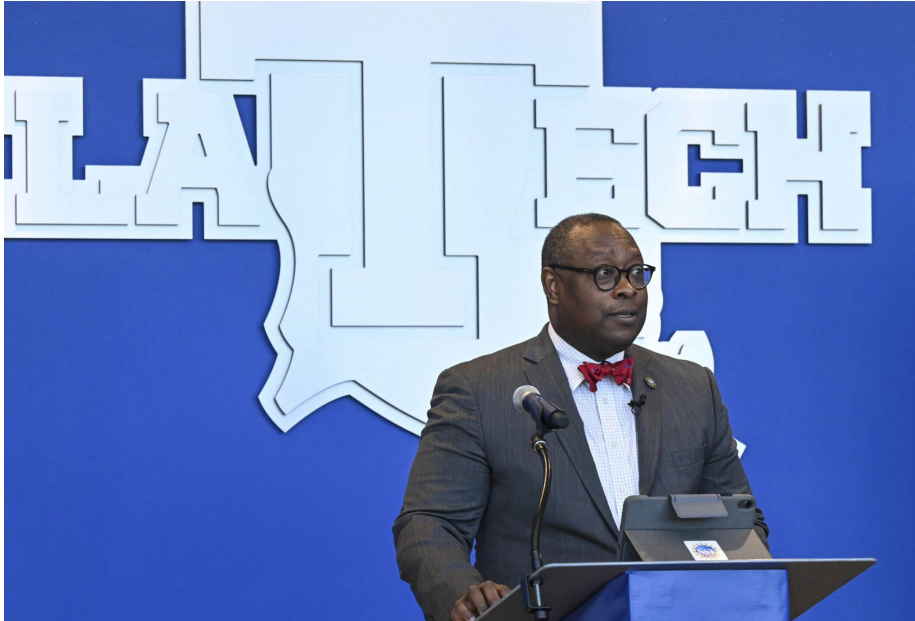


- Required by Act 392 of the 2017 Regular Session
- Highlights the Work of LASTEM and the Regional STEM Centers
- Some 2024 highlights include:
  - **Student Engagement:** 50,000+ students engaged through RSC field trips, camps, and hands-on STEM activities across Louisiana
  - **Teachers Trained:** Over 1,200 teachers received computer science training at the Ignite! and Energize programs, led in coordination with LDOE.
  - **EiE Program Implementation:** 141 teachers (~30% of target) trained through 12 workshops.
  - **Louisiana NASA Astro camps:** 105 locations in Louisiana (California has the second-highest count, with 75. LASTEM supports approximately 50% of Louisiana camps.



# LASTEM Q4 Highlights

- **Held in Coordination With NSF Education Advisory Committee at LA Tech (11/14/2024)**
  - First-ever NSF Education Advisory Committee meeting held outside Washington, D.C., led by Dr. James Moore, Asst Director for STEM Education (EDU)
  
- **Key Outcomes:**
  - Dr. Bonnie Green, NSF Expert, praised LASTEM's network model for expanding STEM access across Louisiana
  - Bars without Barriers" program recognized as scalable innovation:
    - Connects incarcerated parents with families through STEM activities
    - Provides workforce skills training
    - Potential model for national implementation





# Presidential Award for Excellence in STEM Mentoring



**PRESIDENT  
BIDEN  
AWARDS  
STEM  
NOLA**



**STEM NOLA**™



**PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS  
AND ENGINEERING MENTORING**



# Presidential Award for Excellence in STEM Mentoring



**Krissi Allen**  
**Sterlington, LA**  
**K-6, Mathematics, 2022**



**Regena Beard**  
**Zachary, LA**  
**K-6, Science, 2022**



# Presidential Award for Excellence in STEM Mentoring



**Thomas Wright, Jr.**  
**New Orleans, LA**  
**7-12, Mathematics, 2021**



**Angela Hoosier**  
**Deville, LA**  
**7-12, Science, 2023**



**Lainey Hodge**  
**Monroe, LA**  
**7-12, Mathematics, 2023**



# FUEL UPDATE

- Seventy-four grant applications were recently submitted for funding opportunities:
  - **SEED** grants for new STEM/Energy-Focused education-workforce programs, and
  - **SCALE** grants for expanding existing programs.
- Awards are expected to be announced by **February 28**.



## **SEED (up to \$20k)**

- Region 9: Entrepreneurial Mindset in Clean Energy Careers

## **SCALE (up to \$100k)**

- LASTEM: Expansion of Drax Energy Camps Across Louisiana
- Region 2: Fueling the Future Workforce: Expansion of the LASTEM Energy Camp

# In Memoriam

## Dr. Lindsey Fields

**President-elect of the National Association of Biology Teachers**

Biology Professor, Department Chair  
Butler Community College, El Dorado, KS

Lost on American Airlines flight 5342

Professor Lindsey Fields brought biology to life through her infectious enthusiasm and innovative teaching methods

A gifted educator who transformed students' lives, turning routine field work into unforgettable learning experiences



# 2025 Opportunities

## Outreach & Access

- **Expanded Summer Camp Programming**
  - NASA TEAMS II Grant
  - Energy Camps (FUEL)
- **Region 7's Bars without Barriers Initiative**
  - NFL Players Association
- **NASA Museum in a Box Program**
  - Separate TEAMS II submission
- **SeaPerch funded for 3 more years (DODSTEM)**

## New Initiatives for 2025

- **National STEM Honor Society** (NSF grant)
- **National STEM Teacher Corps** (NSF grant)
- **Chief Science Officers Program** (student voice in LASTEM)
- **CS4ALL grant led by LSU** (Region 2)





# Upcoming SeaPerch Events



## Competitive seaperch™ Interest Meeting

### Competing Team Benefits:

- Free ROV Kit
- Free Lab access to build
- Free registration to the R5 SeaPerch Regional Competition held on April 12th.
- Support in other competitions in the state of Louisiana

With:  
**The Region 5 STEM  
Center**



5 pm



Jan 29th & Feb 26th



1509 Enterprise Blvd,  
Lake Charles, LA 70601

**REGISTER NOW**



**1/29: Interest Meeting, Region 5 STEM Center**

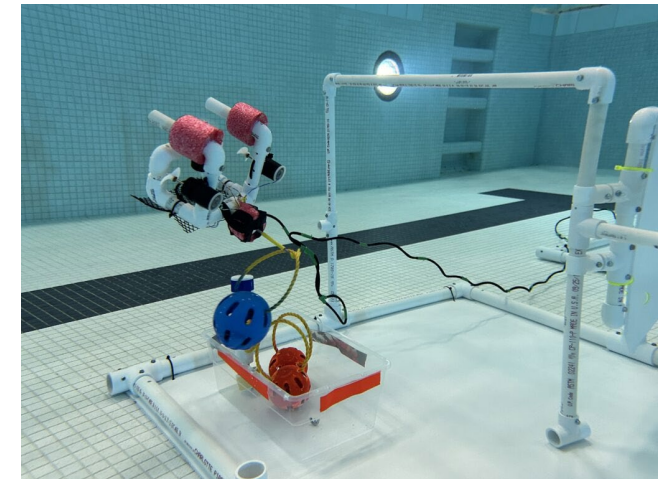
**2/26: Interest Meeting, Region 5 STEM Center**

**3/7: Regional Competition, SCILS Region 8 Center**

**3/22: Regional Competition, YMCA Bogalusa**

**3/29: Regional Competition, Northshore STEM Center**

**4/12: Regional Competition, McNeese Rec Complex, Region 5**



# SkillsUSA (#CTEisSTEM)

## February is Career and Technical Education Month

**LASTEM Collaborating with LCTCS for 2025 Annual SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Conference:**

- Directors can showcase their programs and hands-on activities aligned with SkillsUSA categories
- Seeking additional exhibitors for no-cost participation:
  - Student groups
  - Non-profit organizations
  - Other hands-on activity providers
- Contact Alison Bordelon or myself for more information
- Post-conference collaboration opportunities will be explored to strengthen future initiatives

» **SAVE THE DATE** «  
**STATE LEADERSHIP &  
SKILLS CONFERENCE**



The 2025 Annual SkillsUSA Louisiana  
Leadership and Skills Conference & TECHSPO  
**March 26th-28th 2025**  
New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center  
900 Convention Center Blvd.  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130



Alison Bordelon  
alisonbordelon@lctcs.edu



504-723-6002



# Ignite and Energize Initiatives Continue...



**For K-5 Elementary Teachers**

24 hours of professional development workshops in computational thinking, block programming, and cybersafety at no cost

Earn a \$200 stipend

**Cohort 1**

Dates postponed and rescheduled.

**Cohorts 3, 4, & 5**

Training Dates:

March 17 - 20

March 24 - 27

(3 hrs Virtual, includes make up sessions)

**Cohort 2**

Teacher Training Dates:

February 8 (6 hrs Virtual)

February 11, 13, 18, & 20 (3 hrs Virtual)

February 15 (6 hrs Virtual)

**Cohort 6**

Trainings Dates:

June 2 - 4 (In-Person)

Hosted in Region 2

Register Today!



## COMPUTER SCIENCE PRAXIS TRAINING

For Louisiana Public & Public Charter School  
In-Service Teachers of Grades 6-12

**Get Certified to Teach Computer Science!**

### 3 Cohort Options

**Virtual**

- 16 weeks (1/21-5/10)
- Saturdays
- 9am-10:30am via Google Meet
- For all skills levels
- 50 person capacity
- Apply by 1/10

**Online**

- 8 weeks (03/17-05/19)
- Asynchronous
- For self-motivated beginner to advanced skill levels
- 200 person capacity
- Apply by 3/07

**In Person**

- 4 days face-to-face
- June 2-5 (9am-4pm)
- at Southeastern
- For experienced CS teachers
- 30 person capacity
- Apply by 5/23

**Learn More**  
[Southeastern.edu/Energize](https://Southeastern.edu/Energize)



Computer Science  
SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY



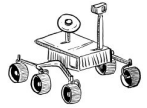
LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION



College of Education  
SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY



# VEX Statewide Tournament



## VEX Robotics Competitions



Capital Area STEM Network Center and  
LSU's Gordon A. Cain Center  
are excited to host the  
2025 VEX Robotics Regional and State Competitions!

Competitions will be held in Patrick F. Taylor Hall on the  
Louisiana State University campus.

**Regional:** January 24 & 25, 2025

**State:** February 21, 22 & 23, 2025

We are expecting close to 1000 3rd thru 12th grade students and their  
parents to attend over these two weekends.

**We are looking for volunteers to assist with different roles at each  
competition. No experience is necessary.**

**Multiple times are available.** Please fill out the forms below to join us.

Regional



Volunteer Today!

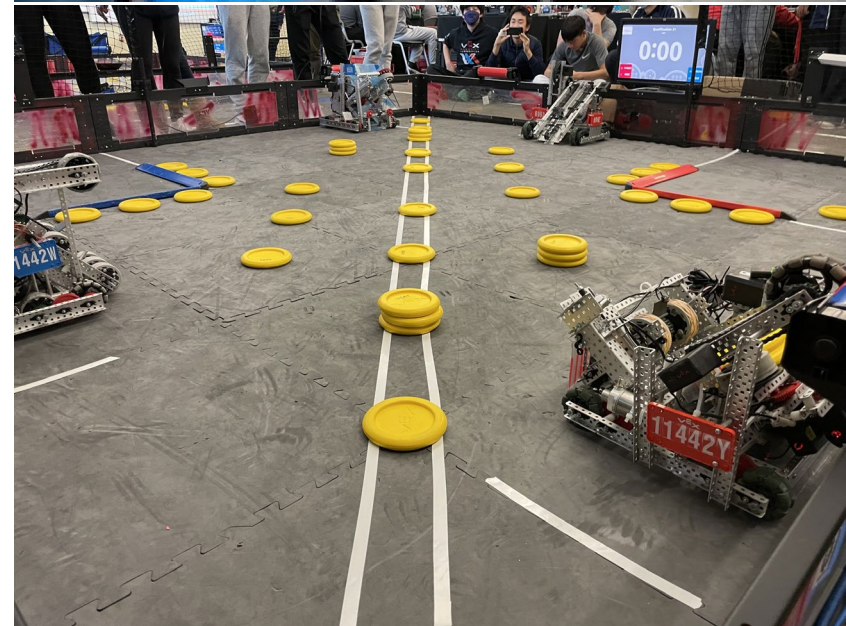
State



Don't want to volunteer? Consider becoming a **Sponsor!**

Learn more at <https://capitalareastem.org/our-programs/vex-robotics.html>

Contact Natalie Ray at [nray12@lsu.edu](mailto:nray12@lsu.edu)



# EiE Followup

## Engineering is Elementary (EiE) Implementation Status

- \$1M federal investment supporting engineering education across Louisiana, targeting 525 teachers and 10,500 students
- **Progress to Date (October 2023 - December 2024):**
  - 141 teachers trained (26.9% of target), impacting approximately 3,525 students
  - 12 professional development workshops completed
  - Strong participant satisfaction (89% "strongly recommend")
- **Strategic Focus for 2025:**
  - Expanding training across RSCs
  - Transitioning to Louisiana-based trainers for sustainability

The SCILS Region 8 LASTEM Center Announces

**YES** | **EiE**  
Youth Engineering Solutions™

# TRAINING COMING SOON

Wednesday, February 5, 2025  
Wright Elementary School  
Tallulah, Louisiana  
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
No Cost Involved, Stipends and Lunch Provided, and Kits Distributed!

[region8lastem@gmail.com](mailto:region8lastem@gmail.com)





# STEM Scholars Program

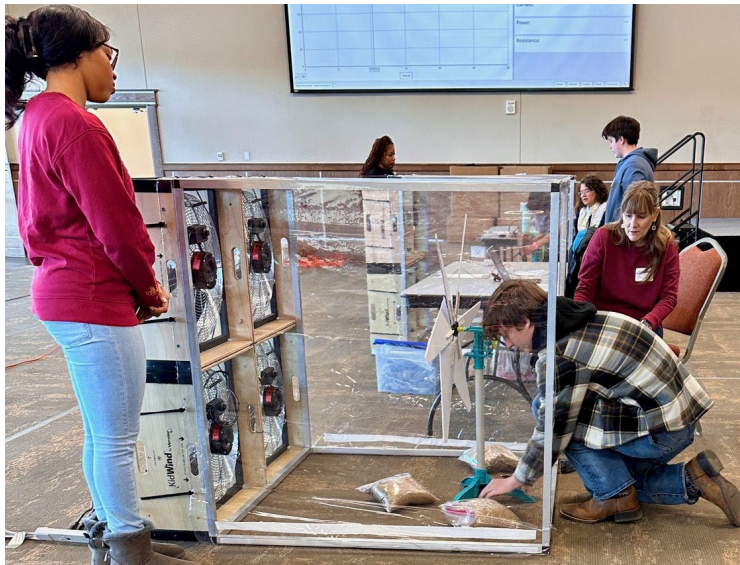


- **Southeastern University's STEM Scholars program provides students who have expressed interest in pursuing STEM careers with experiences that are vital to success in their career pathways.**
  - Current cohort is 100 high school students
- **The Region 9 STEM Center is positioned to expand this successful model in February 2025**
- **The launch of the STEM Scholars: Energy Academy**
  - collaboration with GNO, Inc.



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual KidWind Challenge

- The KidWind Challenge at ULM demonstrates rapid growth in STEM engagement, doubling participation to over 120 students in 2025
  - Pattern Energy providing travel stipends for winning teams to compete at the World Challenge in Phoenix
- KidWind program allows students to design and test wind turbines, connecting classroom concepts to real-world renewable energy applications
- KidWind represents a successful cross-sector collaboration between industry (Pattern Energy), higher education (ULM), and regional STEM networks (SCILS)



# RECIPE for Rural STEM Day (2 Dates in 2025)

## RECIPE for Rural STEM Day 2025

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025

Time: 9:00AM - 2:00PM

Lunch Break: 11:00AM - 12:00PM

Location: Alexandria Mega Shelter

We are excited to invite you to bring your 5th and 6th graders to the  
**2025 RECIPE for Rural STEM Day!**

By participating, you'll provide your students with a unique opportunity to explore the diverse STEM fields available right here in our community. Together, we can ignite curiosity, foster a love for learning, and introduce young minds to the possibilities that STEM careers offer.

**Let's work together to shape the future—one student at a time!**



### A Collaborative GUMBO

Geographically United in Making Better Opportunities

Each school is responsible for providing food and drinks for their students and teachers.

REGISTER TODAY BY  
SCANNING THE QR CODE OR  
USING THE LINK BELOW!



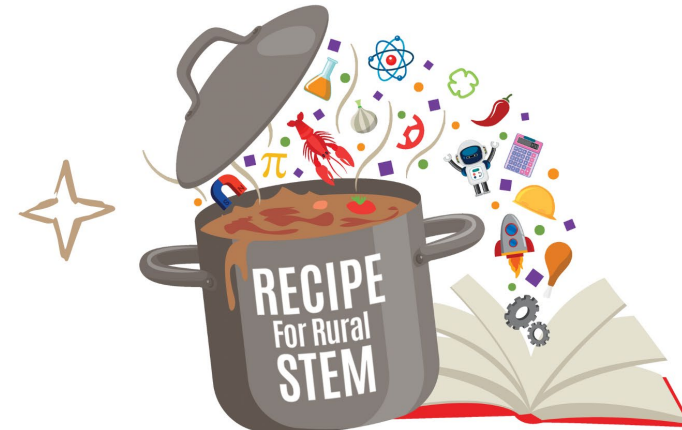
[School Registration Form](#)

Have a question?  
Contact Jennifer DePriest  
Phone: (318) 206-1368  
Email: [depriestj@nsula.edu](mailto:depriestj@nsula.edu)



Sponsored by the Region 3, 6 & 8 LaSTEM Centers & Hosted by LSUA.

The SCILS Region 8 LASTEM Center in Partnership with the Region 6 LASTEM Center and the University of Louisiana at Monroe Presents its Inaugural RECIPE for Rural STEM Day



WHEN February 27, 2025

WHAT TIME 9 AM - 12 Noon

WHERE ULM Bayou Pointe

[region8lastem@gmail.com](mailto:region8lastem@gmail.com)



# Statewide STEM Competition

**FUTURE Engineers**  
PRESENTS  
**Can We Live On Mars?**

STUDENTS WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD A CIVILIZATION AND DETERMINE A PLAN TO MAINTAIN LIFE ON MARS.

March 15th 2025  
8am-2pm  
@ Louisiana  
Region 5 STEM  
Center

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER:

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:  
gillian.craddock@cpsb.org

**STEM** education LLC **REGION 5** STEM CENTER

**National STEM Competition 2025**

**CAN WE SURVIVE ON MARS?**

**STEM** education LLC **WROX**

- The "Can We Live on Mars?" STEM Contest provides a structured platform for integrated STEM learning across grades 1-8, aligned with LASTEM's mission to build strong STEM foundations.
- LASTEM's regional network can amplify this competition's impact, expanding authentic STEM experiences through established K-12 partnerships.



# Adjournment

See you on May 1<sup>st</sup> in Baton Rouge at the Claiborne Building for the Q2 LASTEM Meeting

Lunch is Served, Followed by Small Group Tours of the Facility