



BOARD of REGENTS
STATE OF LOUISIANA

Kim Hunter Reed, Ph.D.
*Commissioner
of Higher Education*

Gary N. Solomon Jr.
*Chair
2nd Congressional District*

T. Jay Seale III
*Vice Chair
1st Congressional District*

Darren G. Mire
*Secretary
2nd Congressional District*

David J. Aubrey
At-Large

Misti S. Cordell
At-Large

Christian C. Creed
5th Congressional District

Blake R. David
3rd Congressional District

Stephanie A. Finley
3rd Congressional District

Robert W. Levy
5th Congressional District

Phillip R. May Jr.
1st Congressional District

Kennedy M. Orr
Student Member

Wilbert D. Pryor
4th Congressional District

Terrie P. Sterling
At-Large

Collis B. Temple III
6th Congressional District

Felix R. Weill
6th Congressional District

Judy A. Williams-Brown
4th Congressional District



Fourth Quarter LASTEM Advisory Council Meeting November 14, 2024 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The LASTEM Advisory Council met on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at the Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana.

Committee Members/Representatives

Present

Kaneisha Akinpelumi (Proxy – Dr. Ashwith Chilvery)
Mark Bond
Commissioner Kim Hunter Reed (Proxy – Carrie Robison)
Dr. Lindsey Keith-Vincent
Dr. David Lafargue
Jean May-Brett (Proxy – Chris Campbell)
Dr. Francesca Mellieon-Williams (Proxy – Dr. Wilford Claville, arrived after roll call)
Jamie Mixon
Christen Timmins

Committee Members Not Present

Larry Carter, Jr.
Robin Cosenza
Emily DiPalma
Crystal Gordon
Dr. Patty Glasser
Camille Ivy-O’Connell Bentin
Taya Loupe
Dr. Calvin Mackie
Melissa Mann
Dr. Lealon Martin
Senator Beth Mizell
Ronnie Morris
Dr. Frank Neubrandner

Dr. Wendi Palermo
Representative Vincent St. Blanc
David St. Etienne
Richard Vath
Tina Watts
Jaimee Williams
Tom Yura

Staff Members Present

Clint Coleman
Anna Roberts
Carrie Robison
Jennifer Stevens

Guests & STEM Center Directors

Dr. Bonnie Green, National Science Foundation
President Jim Henderson, Louisiana Tech University
Mayor Ronny Walker, Ruston
Mark Arseneault, STEM Center Director
Angela Boxie, STEM Center Director
Cathi Cox-Boniol, STEM Center Director
Jennifer DePriest, STEM Center Director
Dr. Heather Kleiner, STEM Center Director
Christie Landry, STEM Center Director
Jordan Smith-Kenning, STEM Center Director

Welcome and Roll Call

Ms. Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Research and Sponsored Initiatives at the Louisiana Board of Regents, welcomed all attendees and called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Dr. Coleman called roll, noting quorum was not obtained. Next, he invited Dr. Jim Henderson, President of Louisiana Tech University, to provide welcoming remarks. Following, Dr. Coleman introduced Mayor Ronny Walker of Ruston to extend his own greetings to the Council.

Approval of Third-Quarter Meeting Minutes

Next, Ms. Robison noted quorum was not obtained and approval of the third-quarter meeting minutes would be taken up during the first-quarter meeting of 2025.

Update from Region 8 STEM Center

Dr. Coleman introduced Ms. Cathi Cox-Boniol, Director of the Region 8 STEM Center, who provided an update on current and upcoming programs that are bringing STEM to the region. She also introduced Melissa Le, Miss Louisiana's Teen, who advocates for the promotion of girls in STEM. Ms. Le told the story of her life-long engagement in STEM and the initiatives she has developed to broaden participation.

Update from Louisiana Department of Education

Dr. Coleman introduced Ms. Jamie Mixon, Computer Science and STEM Supervisor for the Louisiana Department of Education, who provided an update on Louisiana's K-12 Computer Science Education Plan.

Dr. LaFargue asked whether this would be a component of the Jump Start initiative. Ms. Mixon stated there will be high school computer science requirements, including both Jump Start and TOPS diploma students. The goal is for not just high school but all K-12 students to receive computer science education.

National Science Foundation

Dr. Coleman introduced Dr. Bonnie Green, Expert in the Directorate for STEM Education with the National Science Foundation, who provided an overview of NSF programming, priorities, and funding.

LASTEM Report Out

Ms. Robison provided a budget overview, explaining how LASTEM is funded and the legislative process for allocation of dollars. She noted that higher education had been asked to provide reduced budgets for FY 2025-26, in the event that state revenues decline. She noted that the ongoing Special Legislative Session, set to end on November 25th, was called to address changes to state funding, so it was impossible to anticipate future budgets with any certainty. She added that substantial budget reductions to higher education will affect LASTEM, but that more information about the extent of any funding shortfalls will not be known until the Regular Legislative Session in spring. She pledged to keep the Council informed as the budget picture clarifies.

In addition, Dr. Coleman provided a report-out and updates related to the 2024 LASTEM Summit, national STEM Learning Ecosystems Community of Practice (SLECOP) conference, National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) conference, workshops and upcoming requests for proposals from the FUEL grant, and 2025 opportunities. He invited Dr. Kleiner, STEM Center

Director from Region 7, to showcase the Museum in a Box initiative, an opportunity piloted in her region. Dr. Kleiner demonstrated the concept, walking through the contents of the box and noting that these would be distributed free of charge to targeted student populations.

Other Business and Adjournment

Ms. Robison 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 3:00 p.m.