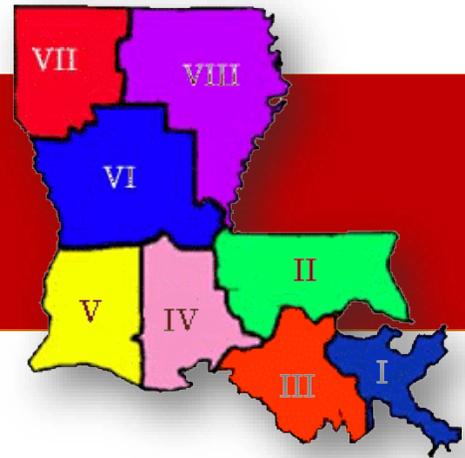


LSTA
NEWSLETTER

LASER



In This Issue

<u>President's Message</u>	3
<u>LSTA News/Awards</u>	4-5
<u>Regional News</u>	6-10
<u>Professional Development Opportunities and Resources</u>	11-15

LOUISIANA SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Louisiana science educators dedicated to the advancement of scientific literacy at all levels,
and encouraging lifelong learning.



August 2020 | Louisiana Science
Teachers Association

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LOUISIANA SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Louisiana science educators dedicated to the advancement of scientific literacy at all levels,
and encouraging lifelong learning.

President's Message from Shauna LeBlanc



Hello LSTA family,

I hope your summer has been restful and that you have been able to do some things that bring you joy and peace. As you are preparing for a new school year, I realize there is still a great deal of uncertainty for you as an educator and for your students. As educators we strive for knowledge, understanding, and the ability to persevere through even the most trying of times. It is this inherent strength and focus for a brighter future that will provide the necessary support you need to clear away the ambiguity of the coming year and focus on what matters most...the safe return to educating children.

LSTA is working to support you in making your return to the new year an effective one by supporting your professional development needs. Now that districts have developed plans for the initial return to school, we want to hear how we can help. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey below to provide us with suggestions for supporting you. ([LSTA Teacher PD Survey](#)).

It is time to nominate and/or apply for the LSTA Outstanding Science Educator Awards for 2020. The deadline is **September 14, 2020 at midnight**. Please consider nominating a worthy candidate for an award before the deadline. Please click the link here for more information. <https://lsta.info/awards>

LDOE is looking to increase their number of K-12 and STEM Teacher Leader Advisors this year and are looking for amazing educators to assist with creating and reviewing instructional materials. TLAs receive additional compensation, professional development and networking with peers across the state. Interested educators should complete the following TLA Application no later than **August 14th at 5:00 PM**. [Click here](#) to access the application and for more information.

Stay tuned to the [NSTA conference-events page](#) and LSTA's Facebook page for the most recent updates regarding upcoming conference opportunities to be offered this fall.

In closing, I would encourage you to review all of the educational resources provided in the LASER. We hope you find something that will help you. Additional information can be found on the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) website as they provide more information in the upcoming weeks. Don't forget to check our Facebook page for lots of innovative ideas, science news, and latest science education information. <https://www.facebook.com/lstascience/>

I wish all the best to you and your families and hope you have a wonderful start to the school year!
Sincerely,

Dr. Shauna LeBlanc

Complimentary LSTA Membership

LSTA understands how difficult these times are for science educators. We want to show that we are with you by doing our part to provide information about as many resources and opportunities that will help to alleviate some of the strain you may be feeling. Please click the link below to fill out an online form to register for your complimentary membership to LSTA (*effective now until February 28, 2021).

[LSTA Complimentary Membership Form](#)

NSTA is offering help to you during this COVID-19 struggle

To support all educators during this difficult time, NSTA is offering a free 30-day membership, providing you with access to more than 12,000 digital professional learning resources and tools. Simply [create an account here](#) and start developing your own personalized digital learning experience.

LSTA Awards

LSTA Awards Applications are now being accepted

www.lsta.info

Deadline for submission is September 14, 2020

Questions can be emailed to Jan Graff
jlgraff@bellsouth.net



Presidential Awardees

Paula Callender from Natchitoches Central High School was selected as the 2019 Louisiana Science Awardee for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). She is joined by **Tabitha Vu** from Dutchtown High School in Geismar and **Lisa Swenson** from Isidore Newman School in New Orleans who were last fall named the 2017 and 2018 Awardees in science. The Presidential Awards are the Nation's highest honors for K-12 teachers of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM, including computer science). Awardees are selected from schools in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands. Nominations and awards are facilitated by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the National Science Foundation.



Tabitha Vu



Lisa Swenson



Paula Callender



Regional News

✦ Region I ✦

Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge

Year 2 Grand Prize Winner: Middle School Level: Chelsea Clement, Lutcher High School, Lutcher, Louisiana

Chelsea Clement's view of education is deeply rooted in integrated, inquiry-based learning. This innovation enhances the inquiry-based technique by introducing the why, how, and what through entrepreneurship and technology. Her students must take the approach of designing their projects and deciding if the product completes the task by questioning their results. This system of teaching presents an opportunity to maximize student and teacher growth in an evolving society. The lab upgrade has enabled Clement's students to completely engross themselves into the innovation age by creating a multi-level collaborative environment with space and materials to design creative products related to issues the world faces today. The upgrade has allowed for bi-level tabling to giving her students the opportunity to compose, question, and design in a multi-faceted area.

Year 3 Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge Regional Winners

The regional winners each received a school science lab makeover support package valued at \$10,000 (for the elementary and middle levels) and \$15,000 (for the high school level). The winning teachers now advance to the national phase of the competition, where they will have a chance to win an additional \$5,000 of support to attend a future NSTA National Conference on Science Education, where they will be honored at a Shell reception and Teachers Awards Gala.

- Rachel Louque, Cypress Grove Montessori Academy, Lutcher, Louisiana (elementary school level)
- Angela Edwards, Doyle Jr. High School, Livingston, Louisiana (middle school level)
- D'Ann Pinero, Lutcher High School, Lutcher, Louisiana (high school level)
- Margaret Rodrigue, Wildwood Elementary School, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (elementary school level)
- Jennifer Jones, Bullion Primary School, Prairieville, Louisiana (elementary school level)
- Jessica Wilson, St. Amant High School, St. Amant, Louisiana (high school level)
- Madaline Mandon, KIPP Central City Primary School, New Orleans, Louisiana (elementary school level)
- Brandy Thomas, Einstein Charter Middle School at Sarah Towles Reed, New Orleans, Louisiana (middle school level)
- Carmen Mack, Morris Jeff Community School, New Orleans, Louisiana (high school level)
- Jennifer Green, R.K. Smith Middle School, Luling, Louisiana (middle school level)
- Julie Rexford, Harry Hurst Middle School, Destrehan, Louisiana (middle school level)
- Tyler Dufrene, Hahnville High School, Boutte, Louisiana (high school level)
- Nakia Williams, Lukeville Elementary School, Brusly, Louisiana (elementary school level)
- Samantha Mendenhall, Port Allen Middle School, Port Allen, Louisiana (middle school level)
- Brittany Nelson, Port Allen High School, Port Allen, Louisiana (high school level)

Jean May-Brett has been appointed by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine as chair of the *Board on Gulf Education and Engagement*. The Board will provide strategic guidance to the Gulf Research Program (GRP) in the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of studies, projects, and other activities related to education, training, engagement, and outreach. The GRP was created with funds from the criminal settlement following the Deepwater Horizon well blowout. to advance and apply science, engineering, and public health knowledge to reduce risks from offshore oil spills.

Please submit news for Region 1 to **Casey McMann** at cmcmann.research@gmail.com.

✦ Region II ✦

During the month of June, the **Louisiana Art & Science Museum's Education Team** facilitated virtual camp sessions for students from the 21st Century Learning Centers at **Glen Oaks Park Elementary** and **GEO Prep Mid-City** as part of UREC's Summer Bridge Program, which helps to prevent learning regress in schoolchildren. LASM's partnership with Urban Restoration Enhancement Restoration Corporation (UREC) provides programs to communities in need.



LASM also offered a Virtual STEAM Camp for the general public during June, which focused on the topics Egypt & Forensic Science, Astronomy, Art & Engineering, and Dinosaurs & Geology. Each camp included a supply kit with unique materials for hands-on activities. Young artists and scientists ages 6-12 enjoyed guided virtual tours, hands-on activities, experiments, and more during these LASM Educator-led, interactive 2.5-hour camps.

Please submit news for Region 2 to **Dr. Bianca Deliberto** at bianca.deliberto@zacharyschools.org.

✦ Region III ✦

Please submit news for Region 3 to **Wendy Delgado** at wendy_delgado@houmachristianschool.com.

✦ Region IV ✦



Not to be deterred by the quarantine, UL Lafayette and the Center for Excellence in Education offered students in Acadiana a chance to engage in quality summer STEM enrichment through their annual Advancing Mathematics and Science Excellence Camp. The camp is funded in part by the National Science Foundation and is focused on strengthening Math and Science teaching and learning in Acadiana. This year 138 students participated in online sessions addressing mathematics, chemistry, biology, and engineering concepts. All sessions were led by certified local teachers and assisted by ULL students majoring in STEM content areas. Campers collected household items and logged in to four classes a day for five days. Even though this was the first time the camp was entirely online, it was definitely a success!

Please submit news for Region 4 to **Annie Barras** at kabarras@iberia.k12.la.us.

✦ Region V ✦

Please submit news for Region 5 to **Vincent Caldwell** at vincent.cadwell@cpsb.org.

✦ Region VI ✦

Northwestern State University hosted its annual Virtual STEM Robotics Camp June 24-26 for children ages 8-14. Activities during the robotics camp were intended to generate interest in STEM career fields. This program was sponsored by the Department of Engineering Technology at NSU and Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce Education Fund. The project winners received gift cards and certificates, as well as, had their posters displayed in Williamson Hall.



- 1st Place: Rayleigh Bertrand
- 2nd Place: Jacob Hypes and Pierce Hyans
- 3rd Place: Nathaniel Young and Jake Broadway

For more information about other STEM related activities and the Engineering Technology Dept., contact Department Head **Dr. Jafar F. Al-Sharab** at (318) 357-6751 or email: et@nsula.edu

NSU STEM Camp participant Rayleigh Bertrand demonstrated her spider robot on an inclined surface on the last day of camp.



Congratulations to this year's SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment Outstanding Environmental Educator of the Year, **Mrs. Lacey Hoosier!**

Mrs. Hoosier has been teaching science for 14 years and currently teaches at Buckeye High School in Deville, La.



The SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment Environmental Excellence Award recognizes the outstanding efforts of students, teachers, and community leaders across the country who are working to protect the environment and making a difference for wildlife by inspiring our next generation of conservation leaders. The award consists of \$10,000 and an expense-paid trip to attend the NSTA National Conference.



A team of students from Northwestern State University and the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts successfully defended their LaACES (Louisiana Catalysts Experiences for Students) DemonSats-1 payload before LaSPACE and NASA officials, earning permission to launch their payload into space via sounding balloon. The LaACES student ballooning program was developed to train a new generation of scientists and engineers for the aerospace industry and the general STEM workforce.

LaSPACE students were exposed to aerospace project development from the design, fabrication, testing and operation of small payloads on a latex sounding balloon vehicle that will carry the experiments to the edge of space, an altitude of 32-35 kilometers. The launch, originally scheduled for early

July, was delayed due to weather and will be launched at a later date. The project was funded by the LaACES project grant through LaSPACE, which is a consortium in the NASA National Space Grant and Fellowship network.

Please submit news for Region 6 to **Heather Warner** at heather.warner@rpsb.us.

✦ **Region VII** ✦

Please submit news for Region 7 to **Stefani Farris** at Shfarris@caddoschools.org.

✦ **Region VIII** ✦

Congratulations to Choudrant High School for taking top honors for Louisiana in the national You Be the Chemist Challenge. Under the direction of CHS teacher **Jeff Nugent**, the team first won top honors at the Lincoln Parish challenge before capturing the state championship. This made it the sixth consecutive year that Lincoln Parish has captured Louisiana gold. Though the national event scheduled for Houston, Texas, was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and thus kept the Choudrant team from advancing to the next level, Nugent plans to be ready for next year as Lincoln Parish continues hosting the exciting competition.



Figure 1 The Choudrant High School Champion "You Be the Chemist" Team in Action

Cathi Cox-Boniol (Lincoln Parish, retired) completed the 10-month Safety Micro-Badging series presented by the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association and was also recertified as an ITEEA Authorized Teacher Effectiveness Coach. In addition, Cathi was named as the Louisiana Affiliate Representative for the Engineering by Design Consortium. Cathi and **Missy Wooley** (Lincoln Parish STEM Center) presented a STEMinar for ITEEA entitled "Integrated STEM for All: The Lincoln Parish STEM Center."

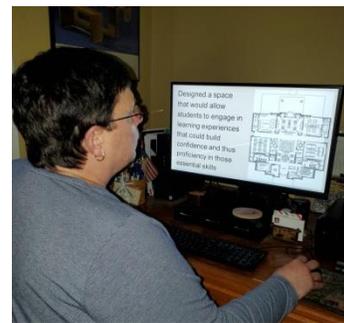


Figure 2 and 3 Cathi Cox-Boniol ITEEA STEMinar

Both Cathi and Missy were joined by **Diane Madden** and **Chris Campbell** (both Louisiana Tech University SciTEC) for a four-day virtual training on the latest OpenSciEd units. Cathi and Diane facilitated a three-day virtual workshop for LA GEAR UP participants through the Louisiana Tech University project and focused on safety and Universal Design for Learning (UDL).



Figure 3 and 4 Missy Wooley, OpenSciEd Training- Chemical Reactions

Cathi also participated in the After School STEM Hub virtual session on equity and social justice.

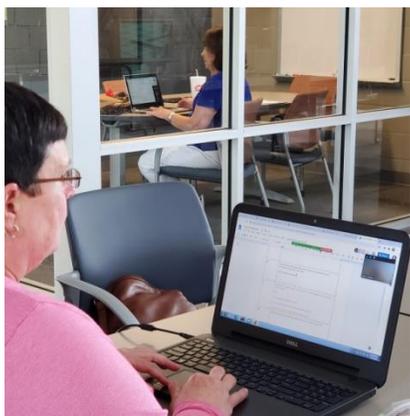


Figure 4 LA GEAR UP Virtual Training

Ouachita Parish Science teachers have been working hard this summer to prepare for the upcoming school year. Close to 50 elementary, middle, and high school teachers have been creating online assessments, building Google Classrooms, and finding creative ways to engage their students through technology while teaching a tier 1 curriculum.



Figure 5 OPSB Google Summer Training

Please submit news for Region 8 to **Garrah Leshe** at leshe@opsb.net.

Professional Development Opportunities and Resources

LASM has new virtual offerings for you and your students to explore!



Organized by grade level, LASM's digital learning platform hosted at <https://www.virtual-lasm.org/> has dozens of fun ways for your students to engage with art and science at home or in the classroom. You can access LASM's resources, which include hands-on activities, interactive videos, informative blog posts, and more, online at any time at virtual-lasm.org. LASM is also now offering live, presenter-led virtual field trips! These **Virtual Voyages** for K-12 students focus on the themes of **Egypt & Forensic Science**, in which students will view and learn about LASM's ancient Egyptian mummy; **Astronomy**, which includes a presenter-led tour of the seasonal sky; **Art & Engineering**, which includes a tour of the art exhibition *Frank Hayden: Lift Every Voice* that emphasizes the artist's design process; and **Dinosaurs & Geology**, which includes an encounter with an authentic *Triceratops* skull. Virtual field trips will also include engaging demonstrations and hands-on activities facilitated by LASM educators. Contact reservations@lasm.org for more information, fees, scheduling, and to customize your virtual experience!

STEM activities and videos from hands2mind

The teach@home website <https://www.hand2mindathome.com/> has STEM activities and daily videos by Brooke Brown. Free lessons: <https://www.hand2mind.com/brands/learning-at-home> & videos: <https://www.hand2mind.com/resources/videos>

**Virtual Manipulatives 30 Day free download: <https://www.brainingcamp.com/hand2mind/>

NSTA August E Blast

[Check out the August E Blast for science news, awards, and grant opportunities.](#)

ITEEA Elementary STEM Council Design Challenge: Now Open!

[Click here for more information](#)

Remote Learning Solutions from Vernier

The team at Vernier has put together a variety of [remote learning resources](#) for teachers to use with students who are learning from home. I would appreciate if you could share these links with your networks.

- [Vernier Video Analysis](#) is a physics-focused tool where students can use their mobile devices to insert their own videos with recorded motion, mark points to track the object in motion, and set the scale of the video. This app brings physics and video analysis to all your students regardless of their location. A free trial is available that is good through June.
- [Pivot Interactives](#) is a video-based science learning environment. With over 200 interactive activities, the high-quality videos from Pivot Interactives give your students the opportunity to observe and study hard-to-replicate experiments and phenomena no matter where they are. A free 30-day trial and reduced subscription pricing are now available.
- [Analyze Experiment Data at Home with Graphical Analysis 4](#) To help ensure students continue to sharpen their critical-thinking skills and learn key scientific concepts during this precarious time, Vernier has put together over 80 free experiments with sample data files covering many subjects that you can distribute to your students at home. Though students won't be performing the experiments themselves, they can perform their own analysis of the sample data using our free Graphical Analysis™ 4 app and answer questions based on their results.

Introducing NSTA's Daily Do

Teachers and families across the country are facing a new reality of providing opportunities for students to do science through distance and home learning. The [Daily Do](#) is one of the ways NSTA is supporting teachers and families with this endeavor.

Each weekday, NSTA will share a sensemaking task teachers and families can use to engage their students in authentic, relevant science learning.

Check out the [NSTA Daily Do here](#). This week we will have resources for all ages, kicking off with separate activities for elementary and secondary students where they are using and developing a model of social distancing to understand how it slows the spread of the coronavirus.

NSTA Free Membership and Resources

- Free NSTA membership, simply [create an account here](#) and start developing your own personalized digital learning experience.
 - Learning Center Collection of [online resources](#)
 - Free and engaging NSTA [Interactive eBooks+](#)
 - Weekly [web seminars](#) on a host of topics
 - NSTA Press [free book chapters](#) with lesson plans, curriculum ideas, and so much more.
 - Free resources from our vendors [here](#)
-

NSTA's New #LearningTogether Initiative

Remote education has quickly become the reality for millions of people nationwide. As we navigate this uncharted territory together, we are asking you—the greater education community—to join our #LearningTogether initiative.

To participate: Visit the [#LearningTogether](#) web page ; [sign in](#) or [create](#) a free Learning Center account; and add your ideas, tips, and strategies for teaching K–12 students online to the simple form. Check out what others are doing, view their profiles, and send messages of reassurance, praise, and support. For further discussion on how to implement the resources for teaching online, visit the [Remote Teaching Forum](#).

NSTA: Learning Science at Home With Online Resources #COVID19

As students continue their science instruction online and at home, the [Lab Out Loud podcast](#) shares some free resources from NSTA and beyond. Co-hosts Brian Bartel and Dale Basler also get a chance to talk to Fred Ende's kids—referred to as "6" and "9"—as they share their experiences in science education and connecting with people online.

Invent it. Build it.

This event has been cancelled due to COVID-19

Students participate in a hands-on engineering experience with members of the Society of Women Engineers.

While the girls are having fun building and inventing, parents and educators learn about engineering careers, scholarships, college admission, and resources.

All attendees learn about engineering clubs, camps, after-school programs and competitions at the Invent it. Build it. EXPO.

Event Overview

Invent it. Build it. is an experience designed to encourage girls to choose a career in engineering. This is achieved through a three-pronged approach:

1. SWE Girls Program
2. Parent Educator Program (PEP)
3. EXPO

All girls registered for the SWE Girls Program will participate in a hands-on engineering experience with members of the Society of Women Engineers. While the girls are having fun building and inventing, parents and educators will learn about engineering careers, scholarships, college admission and resources.

Both groups will learn about engineering clubs, camps, after-school programs and competitions from a wide variety of exhibitors at the Invent it. Build it. EXPO.

<https://swe.org/k-12-outreach/invent-it-build-it/>



New T4PA Center Website

The Title IV, Part A Technical Assistance Center (T4PA Center) operates on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education (ED), Office of Safe and Supportive Schools to provide State education agencies (SEAs) with dedicated support for implementing the Title IV, Part A (Title IV-A) Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) program. The T4PA Center provides SSAE State coordinators (SCs) assistance across the program's diverse content areas, namely, promoting a well-rounded education, improving the safety and health of students, and supporting the effective use of technology. In partnership with ED, the T4PA Center works with SCs to identify grant implementation needs, develop a tailored plan to address these needs, and broker support to build capacity at the state and local levels to help ensure Title IV-A programmatic success. Supports include the following:

- Identifying and creating resources and professional learning opportunities on priority areas;
- Operating a Help Desk for technical assistance inquiries from the field;
- Networking and coordinating with Federal and other organizations to leverage support to SEAs;
- Developing a national network of subject matter experts; and
- Operating a comprehensive Website, including a SC-dedicated Community of Practice.

The brand-new T4PA Center Website includes:

- A carousel of noteworthy news, easy-to-access menus of announcements of relevant resources and offerings, upcoming events, and spotlights on grant activities;
- A [resource library](#) with free, relevant and useful information;
- [SEA profiles](#) that give Title IV-A program information for each state, such as SC contact information, funding data, links to state-sponsored Title IV-A Websites, and more;
- A list of [Federal partners](#) from different agencies, programs, and offices that focus on Title IV-A program-related work;
- A deep dive via a [searchable statute](#) to learn more about Title IV-A; and
- A password-protected section dedicated to only SC use that includes a Community of Practice, calendar, and resource-sharing area.

Our Website also features an [online technical assistance request form](#) to submit requests for technical assistance - we are happy to help find needed information or resources, or connect with other partners in the field to augment efforts.

Please join us at <https://t4pacenter.ed.gov/> and learn how Title IV-A can help build student success nationwide!

Online resource listings

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NUKLZN7hGSu1Hzm70kfzBKs-lsSELaEMggS60Bi2O2l/htmlview?usp=sharing&fbclid=IwAR3CHaDMB6fALoalj5bj2nKkC_1WlQX7ydHaOKj--H-aUok4gFzN82jDSM4&sl=1&pru=AAABcPIN7eQ*IKe6OINV7teP59e-1clpaA

Framework for Leading NGSS Implementation

An excellent resource for districts, is available at
<https://www.wested.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Framework-for-Leading-NGSS-Implementation.pdf>

Free NGSS-Designed Curriculum Available!

[SCALE Science Website is Live](#)

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