

LSTA
NEWSLETTER

LASER



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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.



December 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 you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday and are looking forward to a fruitful holiday season.

It has been a trying year for everyone. I can assure you that LSTA is working on ways to support you through this pandemic. Look for updates on upcoming opportunities from LSTA. One of the most important resources we can offer you is located in the section at the end of the LASER. The resources section is filled with opportunities for grants, workshops, and curriculum materials you might find useful. There are also student opportunities. Please take some time to look through this section.

Next I would like to congratulate two of our Louisiana teachers sent forward as State Finalists in science for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. They are James Evans from Sterlington Middle School in Sterlington, LA and our very own Region 6 Representative Heather Warner from Caroline Dorman Junior High in Woodworth, LA. We are so proud of their accomplishment!

The **2020 LSTA Awardees** have been selected and will be announced soon. For those who took the time to nominate the outstanding science teachers throughout Louisiana, thank you for all you do for your students and for your continued efforts in effecting positive change for science education in Louisiana. Please consider nominating and/or applying next year for the 2021 LSTA awards that will be announced during the summer of 2021!

Congratulations to all of our teachers who participated in the Science Content Leader trainings. LDOE launched The Science Content Leader trainings for the first time this school year. Through this training, science educators received curriculum-embedded professional development focused on deepening their understanding of the Louisiana Student Standards for Science and strategies aligned to the science shifts. In addition, the Louisiana Department of Education recently released the Planning Guide for Science Instruction, which is designed to support teachers in unit unpacking and lesson preparation with use of a high quality curriculum.

For those who attended the NSTA Engage: Fall 2020 virtual conference held November 13-15th, we hope you enjoyed these sessions and speakers. As a reminder, the recorded videos for registered attendees will be available until January 15, 2021. Unfortunately, the National NSTA conference scheduled in Chicago April 8-11, 2021 has been canceled.

As the year draws to a close, the LSTA Board and I would like to wish you a safe and peaceful holiday.

Yours truly,

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.

Nominations Open for Presidential Awards

The 2020-2021 nomination and application windows for Grades 7-12 mathematics and science teachers, including STEM courses, for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) program are now open. The PAEMST awards are the nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education.

Presidential Awardees receive a certificate signed by the President of the United States, a trip to Washington, D.C., to attend a series of recognition events and professional development opportunities, and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation. Awardees also join an active network of outstanding educators from throughout the nation.

Teachers must sign up to apply for or be nominated for the 2021 award by March 1, 2021. The application deadline is April 1, 2021. Sign up to apply for or nominate an educator at www.paemst.org.



Regional News

✦ Region I ✦

The Audubon Zoo will be collecting string lights for recycling between November 29 and December 30 as part of their "Lights for Lions" conservation campaign to save lions in the wild. Most string lights are not bio-degradable and are dangerous to animals if they get tangled in the strands. The public can help by recycling unused or discarded lights and keeping them from going to a landfill. The "Lights for Lions" drop-off box will be located outside of the Zoo front entrance. For more information see: [Audubon Zoo Collecting Discarded Holiday Lights for Lions](#)

GNO STEM's Virtual STEM Winter Workshops make a great holiday gift for budding scientists and engineers! The Virtual STEM Winter Workshops feature 2 hours of daily instruction and activities designed for continued exploration to complete at home. Instructors are available prior to, and following, the daily sessions to assist campers and answer questions. Only \$50 per student and full scholarships are available! All materials needed for the hands-on activities and experiments will be provided in a materials kit in advance of your scheduled workshop; delivered to your home. For more information see: [Virtual Holiday Camp](#)

• **Magnificent Magnetism & Electromagnetism** (10:00am-12pm)

- o Session 1: December 27 & 28
- o Session 2: December 29 & 30

o Suggested Grade Levels: 3-7

• **Winter Wonder Workshop** (10:00am-12pm)

- o Session 1: December 27 & 28
- o Session 2: December 29 & 30

- Suggested Grade Levels: 2-5

The UCAR Center for Science Education has a couple of openings for Region 1 high school environmental science teachers during the online training for Hurricane Resilience. *Hurricane Resilience* is a curriculum for use in coastal locations where hurricanes are common with activities where students make connections between the science of hurricanes, how they affect their community and region, and how they can plan for a more resilient future. The first virtual session will be held January 13th. Interested teachers should contact Jean May-Brett at jam05@bellsouth.net and visit <https://scied.ucar.edu/hurricane-resilience>

STEM Library Lab - The Library Finally Gets Books!

With funding from the Patrick F Taylor Foundation and local donations, STEM Library Lab has filled out their bookshelves with a florilegium of biographies, resource books and English literature. They now have three unique collections ready for teachers to borrow!

View the collection online at <https://stemlibrarylab.libib.com/i/stem-biography-collection>

[Tulane Center for K-12 STEM Education](#) has created a new page on their website called Tulane STEM at Home presented by Capital One. Be sure to check it out for fun STEM activities you can do at home with your kids right now! This page is part of a brand new "Resources" section for teachers and parents of K-12 kids, which will be updated as new information is being developed. Visit the STEM at Home link: <https://sse.tulane.edu/k12-stem/resources/STEM-at-home>

One of the most exciting new projects the Joe W. and Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation is funding is [Green Light New Orleans](#) Rain Barrel project! In order to continue service learning in a post COVID world, Green Light is delivering rain barrel's to school to be painted and finished. The rain barrel will then be given to a community member in Orleans or Jefferson parish.

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

Louisiana Science Teachers Association Newsletter (www.lsta.info)

✦ **Region II** ✦



The **Louisiana Art and Science Museum** has released LASM 360, a fully immersive virtual experience accessible by computer, smartphone, tablet, and Virtual Reality headset. Hosted at virtual-lasm.org/lasm-360, this free-access digital museum and planetarium experience is the first of its kind and provides educational, entertaining opportunities for all, regardless of health, geographic location, or socioeconomic status. Virtual LASM visitors can explore LASM's 75,000 square foot building, tour the galleries and view objects in stunning high-resolution detail, read or listen to narrated exhibition text, meet the authentic ancient Egyptian mummy in the Ancient Egypt Gallery, watch a full-dome show in the state-of-the-art Irene W. Pennington Planetarium,

engage in programming in the Adalié Brent Auditorium, and more. LASM 360 is also being used as a component of live, presenter-led Virtual Voyage field trips for K-12 students. LASM's virtual experiences are sponsored by Healthy Blue Louisiana, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana, AT&T, and Louisiana Lottery Corporation.

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation is now accepting applications for our Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC) program. Louisiana students 18 or older that are enrolled as an undergraduate for the Spring 2021 semester are eligible to apply. We are very excited to begin our third year, though due to concerns around COVID-19, this year's program will be moved online. Through expert training from today's leaders in conservation, students will increase their knowledge of conservation policy and build skills in leadership and advocacy. For more information and the online application, visit LaWildlifeFed.org.

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** ✦

Teaching Science in a Covid Year

This year has presented some unique challenges to science and STEM teachers. **Yvette Petitjean-Pourciau** teaches sixth grade science and social studies at Magnolia Elementary in Iberia Parish. As a member of the district curriculum committee, she helped plan the units that all sixth-grade teachers in Iberia Parish use to teach science. In planning, the committee bundled groups of standards around five anchor phenomena and used the 5E format to create teaching sequences within each unit of instruction. Teaching sequences included as many student driven, project based learning experiences as possible. **Ms. P** says that feedback from teachers and students has been very positive since implementation three years ago.

However, there are many precautions that teachers need to take to keep themselves and their students safe this year. Students are not able to share supplies and they must be spaced as far apart as possible. This makes doing many activities difficult and some impossible. To keep her students engaged and her teaching as rigorous and authentic, **Ms. P** has had to get creative. She spent much of her summer investigating and incorporating new digital resources into the curriculum units. Some of her favorite sites include PhET, NASA, NOVA Labs, and PBL Works. Because Iberia Parish has a 1:1 technology initiative, all the students have Chromebooks issued to them. She says that this makes collaboration a little easier because the kids comment and collaborate virtually through Google Apps. She feels that one of the best things to come out of this school year is how proficient her students have become using all the new technology. "It's a silver lining, for sure."

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

Louisiana Science Teachers Association Newsletter (www.lsta.info)

✦ **Region V** ✦

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

✦ **Region VI** ✦

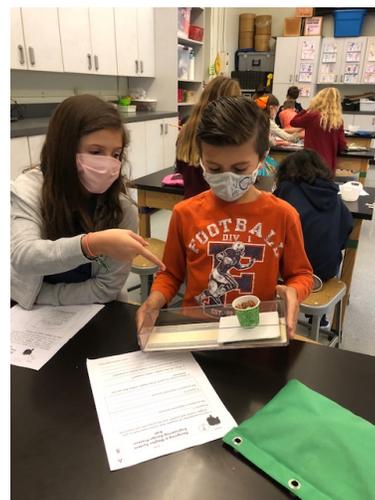
In an effort to learn more about the environmental issues affecting Louisiana's Gulf Coast, students at Julius Patrick Sixth Grade Academy are investigating the effect of salinity on plants. Using a hydroponics system, secured through the QSM grant, students are determining what level of salinity plants would be able to tolerate. The students will then connect this to how salt water intrusion plays a role in the erosion of Louisiana's coast.



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

✦ **Region VII** ✦

In November, Fairfield Elementary Magnet in Caddo Parish finished our first engineering unit. 3-5 built maglev transportation systems.



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

Louisiana Science Teachers Association Newsletter (www.lsta.info)

✦ Region VIII ✦

Cathi Cox-Boniol (Lincoln Parish Schools, Retired) and **Missy Wooley** proudly represented LSTA during the NSTA ENGAGE 2020 virtual conference, successfully facilitating their “Cultivating Creativity” presentation. The same presentation has been tapped for inclusion at the virtual 2021 ITEEA Conference that will take place in the spring and Cathi has been attending monthly leadership meetings as part of the ITEEA Engineering by Design Consortium. In addition, Cathi and Missy are also serving as Virtual Challenge Organizers for the 2021 Louisiana You Be the Chemist competition and invite anyone interested in participating to see the information included in this issue of the LASER.

Cathi, **Chris Campbell** and **Lindsey B. Keith-Vincent** (both Louisiana Tech University) served as judges for the 2020 QSM Grant Program and Cathi has been selected as part of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching National Selection Committee where she will join science leaders across the country to determine the recommendation of recipients for the nation’s highest award for math and science teaching.

Ouachita Parish teachers in grades K-12 attended the Technology Fair which offered sessions on applications such as Google Classroom, Edulastic, Kami, Nearpod, and Read & Write for Google. Teachers were about to enjoy collaboration with their colleagues while they learned how to enhance their instruction with technology.



Figure 1 OPSB Technology Fair

Middle School teachers have embraced the OpenSciEd curriculum in Ouachita Parish. In the third year of implementing the tier one curriculum, teachers have fine tuned their strategies and grown more comfortable with facilitating phenomenon-based instruction.



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

Professional Development Opportunities and Resources

Louisiana Science Leaders Corner

Science Leaders' Corner Are you a district science supervisor, science content specialist, science master teacher, Teacher Leader or science coach? If so consider becoming a member of LASL, the affiliate of the National Science Education Leaders Association (NSELA).

By the Numbers

How well do our state's science standards address climate change? Find out here <https://climategrades.org/> In a recently released review by the National Center for Science Education a bare majority — just 27 — of the 50 states and District of Columbia have standards that earned a B+ or better for how they address climate change. Louisiana received a B. The state received relatively good scores for addressing the reality of, seriousness of and hope for solutions to the problem of climate change. Somewhat lower score was given for addressing the human responsibility for climate change.

National Geographic Online Educator Courses

National Geographic's free online courses for educators equip teachers with powerful tools to transform their classrooms. Through these courses, educators build their own skills and knowledge so they can foster the mindset of a National Geographic Explorer in their students. National Geographic online professional learning courses vary in their lengths and schedules so that busy educators can find a program that fits their needs.

Do you enjoy visualizations like maps, putting pen to paper to tackle real-world issues, or acting in real-time through service?

Whatever your preference may be, we have free, online courses to help add new tools to your skillset. Register today for our professional learning opportunities starting in January 2021: <http://on.natgeo.org/6181H156N>

Green Ribbon School Awards:

Entries being Accepted through December 31 The Louisiana Department of Education is now accepting applications for those seeking nomination for the 2021 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (EDGRS) awards. These awards recognize schools, districts, colleges and universities that demonstrate a significant commitment to reduce environmental impacts; improve the health and wellbeing of students, faculty and staff; and provide effective environmental education programs. Applications, due by December 31, should be submitted to environmentaleducation@la.gov as attachments in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Applications should be written in a narrative form documenting progress in the three pillars defined by EDGRS. Please contact environmentaleducation@la.gov with questions. <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html>

If you did not receive something from the LDOE you might want to include the following.

Distance Learning Support for OpenSciEd and inquiryHub Biology

To support school systems and teachers in ensuring continuous student engagement with high-quality science curriculum in fully remote or hybrid school models, the Department continues to release guidance for implementing OpenSciEd and inquiryHub in a remote learning setting on a rolling schedule. The first several OpenSciEd and inquiryHub units are available now.

Recently published unit guidance includes OpenSciEd Forces at a Distance and inquiryHub Biology Unit 3 Bend 1. All units and additional resources appear on the K-12 Science Planning Page in the Distance Learning Box. Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions. <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/k-12-science-resources>

You Be The Chemist Challenge



The [You Be The Chemist Challenge](#)® is a team-based STEM competition for students in grades 5-8 to explore the excitement and value of chemistry in everyday life — and it's easy (and **free**) to participate! The Challenge consists of two parts: a virtual live science competition (Feb/March) and a [video submission](#).

Why should you [register](#) for the Challenge?

- Can be used as an *asynchronous education tool* for your virtual or in-person classroom
- [Interactive study materials](#) are available for your students once you register
- Can be incorporated as a [classroom assignment](#)
- Only one teacher per school needs to register and pick the competition date (Feb/March)

How do students participate in the Challenge?

- Students participate in **teams of 4** from the *same school/organization*
- *All* students participate in *all* levels of competition
- Students can participate from their own homes or from their classroom

[Register](#) your school before 12/31!

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.brainiaccamp.com/hand2mind/>

**Math Fluency webinar on April 14th. Click the link to

register: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2020682874667298572>

LASM Releases LASM 360, A Fully Immersive Virtual Experience



LASM has released LASM 360, a fully immersive virtual experience accessible by computer, smartphone, tablet, and Virtual Reality headset. Hosted at virtual-lasm.org/lasm-360, this free-access digital museum and planetarium experience is the first of its kind and provides educational, entertaining opportunities for all, regardless of health, geographic location, or socioeconomic status.

"LASM 360 is our creative solution to a significant problem," states Serena Pandos, LASM President & Executive Director. "Many people are not currently able to visit LASM in-person for myriad reasons. Whether you're quarantined or isolated, working late and unable to visit during our public access hours, cannot afford admission, or just want to visit LASM from the comfort of your own home, you can access your museum 24/7 with LASM 360."

Virtual LASM visitors can explore LASM's 75,000 square foot building, tour the galleries and view objects in stunning high-resolution detail, read or listen to narrated exhibition text, meet the authentic ancient Egyptian mummy in the Ancient Egypt Gallery, watch a full-dome show in the state-of-the-art Irene W. Pennington Planetarium, engage in programming in the Adalié Brent Auditorium, and more. LASM 360 is also being used as a component of live, presenter-led Virtual Voyage field trips for K-12 students.

"We have continued to meet unprecedented challenge with unprecedented innovation," Pandos explains. "The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the most difficult time in LASM's history, but our extremely dedicated and passionate staff has continued to engage our community, constantly pivoting to best serve our diverse audience. Jay Lamm, Planetarium Producer & Technical Manager, spearheaded the LASM 360 project and used his technological and photography expertise to develop this exciting new program in record time in conjunction with our Education, Curatorial, Communications, and Operations departments."

"Thanks to generous sponsorship provided by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana, Healthy Blue Louisiana, AT&T, Louisiana Lottery Corporation, and BASF, we have been able to create this program along with our digital learning platform hosted at www.virtual-lasm.org," Pandos continues. "Like many nonprofits, the LASM continues to experience severe financial challenges as a result of government restrictions, but our staff is working tirelessly to continue serving our community with free-access programs. To help keep the good momentum going, and to keep our programs available despite pandemic mandates, we invite you to visit LASM 360 at www.virtual-lasm.org/lasm-360 and make a tax-deductible charitable donation to support these efforts."

Image: This authentic, Ptolemaic-era ancient Egyptian mummy is housed in LASM's Ancient Egypt Gallery, which can be accessed virtually at virtual-lasm.org/lasm-360.

About the Louisiana Art & Science Museum

Housed on the banks of the Mississippi River in a historic railway station in downtown Baton Rouge, the Louisiana Art & Science Museum believes that art and science shape each other, our lives, and the world. The Museum is currently open for modified operating hours: Thursdays & Fridays from 9:30 AM – 2 PM and Saturdays from 9:30 AM – 5 PM. Active duty military members, first responders, and their families receive free admission with ID as part of the Blue Star Museums program, sponsored by Special Risk Insurance, Inc. VFIS of Mississippi/Louisiana.

The Museum, founded in 1962, is home to the Irene W. Pennington Planetarium, the largest and most advanced planetarium in Louisiana and one of the largest in the southeastern United States; a permanent collection including over 4,000 objects; one of the only permanent ancient Egypt galleries in the southeastern United States, housing an authentic, Ptolemaic-era mummy; and displays changing art exhibitions of local and international acclaim. Access to the Museum's digital learning platform for at-home art and science experiences is available at virtual-lasm.org.

A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, the Museum relies on the support of donations to operate; support the Museum's COVID-19 relief fund at lasm.org. Stay in touch at lasm.org and on social media!

Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge



 **WIN A SCIENCE LAB**
Support Package for Your School

WHO: K-12 teachers of science located in regions of Shell assets

WHAT: The 2020–2021 Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge, a program of NSTA

HOW: Share your exemplary approach to science lab instruction in your school using limited school and lab resources

WHY: Over \$420,000 in prizes will be awarded, including three principal and science teacher grand prize trips to NSTA's National Conference on Science Education

WHERE: For more information, visit <https://www.nsta.org/shell-science-lab-regional-challenge> or write to ShellScienceLab@nsta.org

Shell Science Lab
REGIONAL CHALLENGE  

Deadline: January 22, 2021
Learn more about this rich professional development opportunity at <http://www.nsta.org/shell-science-lab-regional-challenge>

ACRES**HOW IT WORKS**

Each module consists of three two-hour, virtual sessions, over the course of several weeks. Each module follows the following outline:

Session 1: Participants are introduced to a skill and spend time experiencing and practicing the skill among peers. Participants then return to their program where they capture a short clip of the strategies in action.

Session 2: Participants share their clips, reflect on their practice, and share feedback with one another. They then return to their program to record a second round of practice.

Session 3: Participants gather for another coaching session where they share their second clip, reflect on their practice, and share feedback with one another.

CONTACT

acres@mmsa.org
www.mmsa.org/acres

To date, over 500 out-of-school time educators have taken part in an ACRES cohort in order to hone their STEM facilitation skills.

ACRES coaching is FREE, and you can earn a \$100 stipend when you complete a survey before and after the program!



By joining an ACRES cohort, you'll be part of a supportive group of other out-of-school professionals (i.e. Afterschool Providers, Museum Educators, Library Staff, Scout Leaders, etc.), and you'll get ideas and feedback for facilitating STEM in your program. Each cohort meets for three 90-minute active Zoom sessions and focuses on one specific STEM practice.

“ Here's what participants have said: ”

“This course is well suited for anyone that works with youth in a group setting. While the topics covered are geared towards STEM activities, I found the information useful for other activities that I do with youth.”

“The greatest strength of the ACRES course was being able to share videos and receive input from peers. Seeing how others implemented what we were learning, and how kids responded, was an invaluable learning tool.”

For more information, check out the [ACRES video and webpage](#).

There are ACRES cohorts starting soon, so sign up today!

See reverse for dates.

Each cohort meets three times. The expectation is that you will be live at all three sessions and an active member of the cohort.

VIRTUALIZING YOUR OUT-OF-SCHOOL OFFERINGS

Have you felt like the last few months of remote learning during COVID-19 were hectic and stressful? Well you are not alone with those feelings. It doesn't have to feel that way going forward. Join this cohort to reflect and practice strategies for virtualizing your offerings.

TUESDAYS

10:00AM-12:00PM EASTERN

12/1/2020

12/8/2020

12/15/2020

REGISTER WITH CODE: MX35VL

TUESDAYS

10:00AM-12:00PM EASTERN

1/19/2021

2/2/2021

2/23/2021

REGISTER WITH CODE: MX36VL

READY-SET-STEM!

Are you ready to bring meaningful STEM learning into your program? This module offers educators who are new to facilitating STEM, the opportunity to build supportive relationships with other educators, while exploring the principles of STEM learning. This module combines an introduction to STEM facilitation with the skill of Asking Purposeful Questions.

THURSDAYS

12:00-2:00PM EASTERN

12/3/2020

12/10/2020

12/17/2020

REGISTER WITH CODE: MX32SR

ASKING PURPOSEFUL QUESTIONS

Questions are the beginning of a path towards discovery, imagination, and STEM exploration. How can we help youth expand and clarify their thinking and develop their reasoning through the questions we ask them? This module is designed for educators who have some experience facilitating STEM learning and would like to grow in their practice within a supportive group of other educators.

WEDNESDAYS

10:00AM-12:00PM EASTERN

01/13/2021

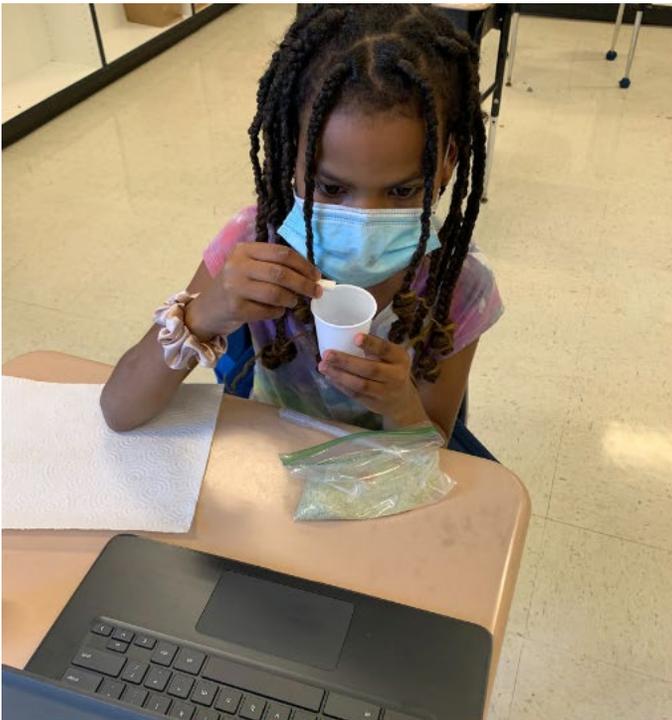
01/27/2021

02/10/2021

REGISTER WITH CODE: MX31PQ

Additional cohorts for both new and returning ACRES participants are posted regularly here: <https://mmsa.org/projects/acres/join-a-cohort/>

Tulane Center for K-12 STEM Education



— TULANE —
CENTER FOR
K-12 STEM
EDUCATION

**VIRTUAL GIST/BATS
SPRING 2021
-MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!**

***January 30
February 13
March 20
April 24***

**Registration will open in
the New Year!**

Biology Olympiad

Biology Olympiad Prep/ *with BSC*

IBO
USABO
BBO
INBO
MCAT
NEET
AP Bio

Test Questions · Live Lectures · Q&A

Weekly Livestream from October 1st Week to February 1st Week!
(Date and time will be announced based on signup preference)

Link to SIGN UP!



BSC



Land Loss Lookout Project

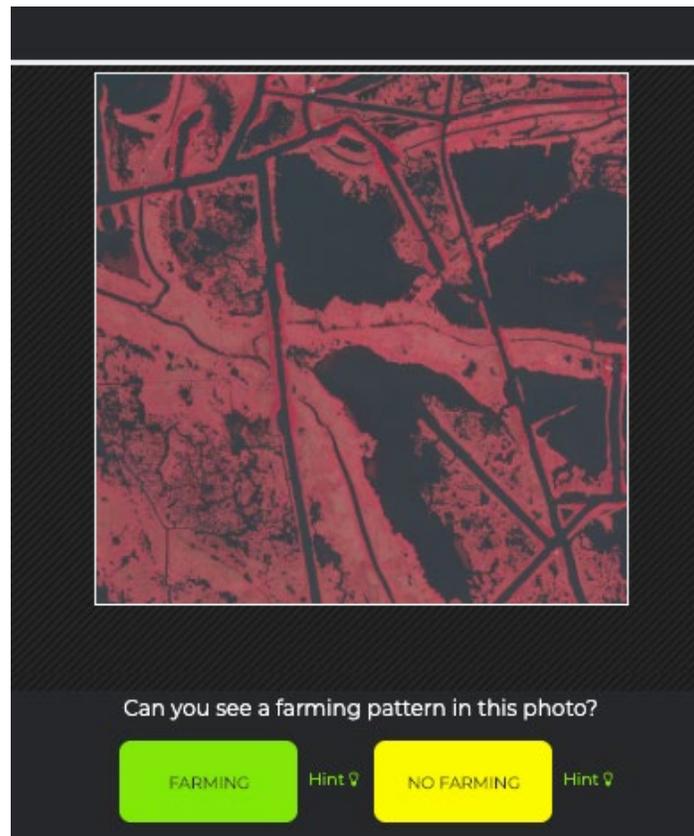
Hello friends! My name is Naomi, and I am on the Science Team staff at [Healthy Gulf](#). I want to tell you about an exciting new website that illustrates coastal land loss in Louisiana, and helps us to understand this urgent issue. The website gives users a chance to interact with photographs of coastal lands, and we all benefit by learning about the coast. I hope you will join us in looking out for our coast.

Our new website is "[Land Loss Lookout](#)", developed in partnership by Healthy Gulf and Cartoscope. It's a citizen science project, so everyone's work contributes to our in-depth understanding of the issue. We made Land Loss Lookout to give regular folks without access to boats or planes the opportunity to look over patterns of wetland loss in Louisiana's Gulf Coast.

Coastal Louisiana is losing land rapidly. There are several reasons for this. Climate change and sea-level rise are already drowning certain areas, and this will be the primary cause of marsh loss into 2067.

In other areas, drilling and producing oil and gas has often damaged the land. Canals and trenches have been dug and cut, often disrupting the natural flow or drainage of water. Once the water does not flow freely, areas that were once land begin to drown from these impoundments.

In Land Loss Lookout, observers will learn about these and some of the other causes of coastal land loss, by looking at aerial infrared photographs. By using Land Loss Lookout, not only will observers gain valuable knowledge about wetlands and coastal land loss, but they'll get to see some cool places in the Gulf, from a bird's eye view!



You can check out the project at <http://cartosco.pe/landloss>.

STANYS supported White Paper on EFFECTIVE SCIENCE TEACHING: ADDRESSING COVID-19 CHALLENGES

<http://click.skem1.com/click/acvr-2b2o6v-r5cq6d-7vsavmb9/>

National Geographic Launches COVID-19 Remote Learning Emergency Fund for Educators

Fund supports teachers designing innovative resources and methods during the pandemic

[October 6, 2020] WASHINGTON, D.C. – Educators are among the many on the frontlines of COVID-19. During a time of immense disruption, they are adapting their teaching methods, testing new skills, and discovering new solutions to advance learning in profoundly new ways. To support these efforts, the National Geographic Society is launching a fund for K-12 educators who are designing instructional resources to help other educators teach in remote- and hybrid-learning environments.

The fund aims to support at least 50 teaching professionals, including formal and informal classroom educators, with grants ranging from US\$1,000–8,000. Applicants can apply individually, in collaboration with other educators, or with National Geographic Explorers. Once developed, the resources will be freely available on the National Geographic Society [education website](#) and within the National Geographic education communities on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), for use across different schools and communities, to support as many educators and students as possible.

“The role of teachers has never been more important as they work tirelessly to engage and inspire their students in a socially distant world,” said National Geographic Society Chief Education Officer Vicki Phillips. “Our goal is to equip educators with the resources and support they need to continue creating, innovating and pioneering new ways of teaching so their peers and their students can continue growing.”

The fund places particular emphasis on remote- and hybrid-learning resources, methodologies, and practices that use the power of science, social studies and geography to help students understand the significance of current and complex challenges such as a global pandemic.

Other priorities include, but are not limited to, resources that:

- Adapt one of National Geographic’s science or social studies units for elementary, middle, or high school students (refer to our [Resource Library](#) for reference) to address each group’s curricular needs and for use in a hybrid-learning environment; and develop a complementary teacher’s guide.
- Design innovative ways to bring the world to students and help them bridge their personal experiences to a more global perspective on critical issues (such as sustainability, climate, social or environmental justice, and racial justice).
- Draw on the concepts and pedagogy in the National Geographic [Learning Framework](#) or the National Geographic [Geo-Inquiry Process](#) to design instructional resources or projects that meet the goals of this opportunity.

To see all application guidelines, educators are encouraged to apply at [NatGeoEd.org/covidgrants](https://natgeoed.org/covidgrants). All submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis and applications may be submitted until further notice.

Priority will be given to teachers working in communities that have been particularly hard hit by the pandemic, and who have not previously received National Geographic funding. We strive to identify, support and elevate a range of educator voices, perspectives and communities.

To provide additional guidance during the application process, the Society is offering weekly virtual “Design Labs” for educators to talk directly with their peers and Society staff for ideation, inspiration and technical support. Educators can also ask questions by visiting @NatGeoEducation on [Twitter](#). To see the full list of support options for teachers, visit [NatGeoEd.org/covidgrants](https://natgeoed.org/covidgrants).

Louisiana Science Teachers Association Newsletter (www.lsta.info)

The emergency fund for educators is part of National Geographic's ongoing effort to support its global community of scientists, explorers, educators and storytellers during these challenging times. In March, the National Geographic Society announced the [COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Journalists](#) to support local coverage of the pandemic and its impact on communities. The announcement ultimately prompted more than 2,300 applications, resulting in over 150 grant recipients, representing over 50 countries.

Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors

The ongoing historic wildfires across the West, the extremely active hurricane season, and the devastating Midwest derecho this summer, are constant reminders that no location is immune from extreme weather, water, and climate events. Our hearts are with the communities tirelessly working to recover and regain a sense of normalcy.

As we come to the end of [National Preparedness Month](#) and enter the final season of 2020, consider the following opportunities for your ambassador organization to help make communities across the country better prepared. We still have two more months of hurricane season. Fires are still active. Severe weather, including tornadoes and other high wind events, typically ramps back up in October and November as warm and cold air masses clash. Being "Weather-Ready" is a 365-day/year activity.

(1) Fall Weather Safety Campaign Continues

<https://www.weather.gov/wrn/fall-safety>

This season's theme is "Small Decisions Can Have a Big Impact"

Sometimes the difference between safety and tragedy is a small decision at the most critical time--delaying travel, slowing down, or knowing where your safe place is.

(2) Take advantage of our WRN infographics...include them on social media posts, emails to employees, or even print out for displays.

Here is one of our favorites to post over social media. Trees, when exposed to high winds and/or heavy rains, can create dangerous situations. Taking action to minimize the risk can save lives.



(3) Get to know your local Weather Forecast Office and River Forecast Center

- Feedback on local weather safety activities/content
- Success stories and best practices from the recent high-impact events
- Any questions about products/services

<https://www.weather.gov/stormready/contact>

<https://water.weather.gov/ahps/rfc/rfc.php>

(4) Help promote Citizen Science opportunities.

https://www.weather.gov/media/wrn/citizen_science_page.pdf

ITEEA March 2021 Conference to be 100% Virtual

After extensive consideration and deliberation, including feedback from a variety of conference stakeholders, ITEEA has determined that its 2021 conference will take place in a 100% virtual format.

The conference dates remain unchanged, March 24-27, 2021, but some daily scheduling may be altered to better accommodate virtual attendees and presenters.

Concerns regarding hosting a Face-to-Face or hybrid conference in March of 2021 became clear as a result of ITEEA's recent survey, as well as through direct communication from leaders in the field from around the world. Only a fraction of survey respondents felt confident about the ability to travel and attend an in-person conference. Meanwhile, the vast majority expressed interest in attending virtually due to the level of certainty and predictability that a virtual conference provides during the ongoing pandemic.

Large numbers of ITEEA members are educators with real and specific concerns about attending in person, including travel safety, travel restrictions, funding limitations, health risks, and the requirement to quarantine for two weeks before returning to their classrooms.

Feedback from individuals who have had the opportunity to participate in virtual conferences over the past few months has been overwhelmingly positive. ITEEA will continue working to provide a meaningful conference experience for our attendees and feel confident that the virtual format offers a comfort level for those who may not have been willing or able to attend in person.

ITEEA President, Dr. Philip Reed, shared, "The feedback overwhelmingly guided us to move the conference to a virtual format for 2021. This change will 'meet educators where they are' by showcasing excellence in virtual technology and engineering education. This is an opportunity you don't want to miss!"

2021 Conference registration is expected to open in October and will offer reduced virtual rates. More information about programming and other conference-related news will be released as it becomes available.

BESE Tuition Program for Teachers

The LDOE STEM team is excited to announce the upcoming application window for the spring 2021 BESE Tuition Program for Teachers. The BESE Tuition Program for Teachers is a competitive program that funds tuition for one continuing education course for a certified Louisiana teacher at a Louisiana university. For full details, visit the LDOE's [Continuing Education page](#).

Applications for the spring 2021 semester will be available on the [Continuing Education web page](#) beginning October 30, and applications will be accepted through November 20. All interested teachers are encouraged to apply.



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, including the upcoming March 25 web seminar [Science Update: COVID-19: Don't Panic But Know the Science](#).
- 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.

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;

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- 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://t4pcenter.ed.gov/> and learn how Title IV-A can help build student success nationwide!

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](#)

Assessment Literacy Modules

Here is a newly developed assessment literacy digital workbook that some may be interested in taking a look at...

<http://www.scillsspartners.org/scillss-resources/>

One needs to scroll about 3/4 the way down the page to find... **Digital Workbook on Educational Assessment Design and Evaluation: Creating and Evaluating Effective Educational Assessment

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