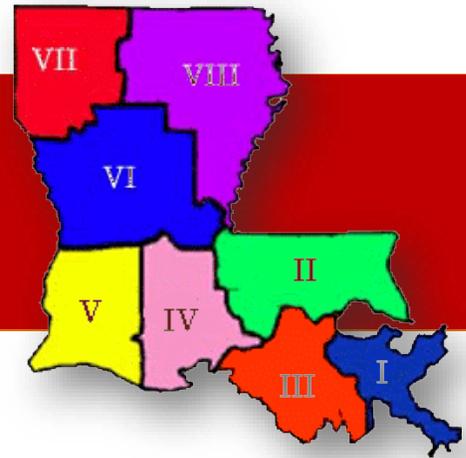


LSTA
NEWSLETTER

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.



April 2021 | Louisiana Science
Teachers Association

LSTA Board and Regional Representatives

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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 Easter holiday. Spring is here and we have had some beautiful weather lately. I hope you have had some time to spend with your families outdoors.

State testing is right around the corner. Please click the following link for [LDOE state testing guidance](#).

Our next "Coffee Talk" will be this weekend April 10, 2021 at 9:00 am. Dr. Bianca Deliberto and Tana Luther will host "[Using LDOE Distance Learning Documents](#)". Coffee Talks are one-hour informal virtual gatherings for professional discussion of science teachings open to LSTA members. Membership is free through August 2021.

Do you want to become more involved in science education in Louisiana? Do you enjoy sharing your expertise with others? Are you ready to take a step into a leadership role? Then LSTA needs you! The 2021-2023 LSTA Board nominations are open! Please consider nominating someone one you know or consider turning in an application yourself. All nomination packets must be postmarked on or before Sunday, August 29, 2021. All electronic packets must be received by midnight Sunday, August 29, 2021. See the "**Call for Nominations**" section in the LASER for more information.

Please take a moment to look at the list of 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 days. 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/>

Thank you for all you do. Happy Spring and we hope to see you this Saturday during our "Coffee Talk".

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 August 31, 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.

Call for Nominations

LSTA Needs You!

Call for Nominations for LSTA Board Positions.

Do you want to become more involved in science education in Louisiana? Do you enjoy sharing your expertise with others? Are you ready to take a step into a leadership role? The Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA) needs you!



Nominations are now open for the next two-year term of office, November 2021-December 2023, for the following positions:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Region 1 Representative
- Region 2 Representative
- Region 3 Representative
- Region 4 Representative
- Region 5 Representative
- Region 6 Representative
- Region 7 Representative
- Region 8 Representative

The LSTA Board typically meets four times each year either face-to-face or virtually. Duties of officers and regional representatives include attending board meetings, participating in various board projects including regional workshops, nominating and supporting colleagues for awards, and working at the annual conference. Regional representatives have the opportunity to serve their regions by informing members about opportunities in science education, sharing local science news for publication in each issue of the LASER, and facilitating regional workshops. Persons applying for the office of LSTA President are required to have previous Board experience.

Nomination packets should include the following:

- letter with a statement from the nominee accepting the nomination, the reason the nominee is interested in serving as an LSTA officer, what experience and knowledge the nominee would bring to the office, and how the nominee envisions the role of LSTA in science education;
- resume which includes but is not limited to teaching experience and current position; and
- maximum of three letters of support (not to exceed one page each);

President, Vice President, Secretary positions only:

- brief bio (100 words or less) explaining how they can benefit science educators as a leader of LSTA
- photograph is preferred

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

Nomination packets should be sent to:

Patrice Mire
15537 S. Liberty Farm Rd.
Kaplan, LA 70548

Electronic copies should be sent to: patricemire16@gmail.com. All nomination packets must be postmarked on or before Sunday, August 29, 2021. All electronic packets must be received by midnight Sunday, August 29, 2021. Nominees will receive acknowledgment of receipt of their nomination. The nominating committee, chaired by LSTA Past-President, Patrice Mire, will select two nominees per office for the final ballot. Ballots will be distributed to active LSTA members in October via electronic message. Election results will be announced at the 2021 Virtual LSTA Awards Event in November or December and officers will immediately assume their positions.

Coffee Talks

The Louisiana Science Teachers Association board would like to spotlight a few announcements for this year.

- Free membership has been extended to all current members until August 31, 2021.
- Any non-members can join LSTA for free with membership expiring August 31, 2021. Please encourage colleagues to sign-up through the [LSTA Complimentary Membership form](#).
- Members have the ability to log-in to the LSTA website to **update their contact information**.
- **Monthly virtual “Coffee Talk” sessions** will be offered to LSTA members the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 -10:00 am. **Registration is required**, and the registration form is only accessible by logging into the LSTA website ([Log in instructions](#)).
- Any non-members that would like to register for a “Coffee Talk” session should register to become a member through the [LSTA Complimentary Membership form](#). Membership confirmation emails will be sent once processed. Then, new members can register for a “Coffee Talks” session.



Grab a cup of joe and join us for a morning session of collaboration, sharing, and fun!

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL GUEST



AGENDA

- Introduction to state resources for hybrid and distance learning
- Open Mic

April 10, 2021 - 9:00 - 10:00 AM

Free to members!

Not a member of LSTA? [Join now!](#)

Regional News

✦ Region I ✦



Teacher **Kathy Boucvalt** and **John Curtis Christian** STEM Club members have been investigating important questions in and out of their classroom this year.

Josh Dudenhoeffer demonstrated a hexane Flaming Ramp and explained about how hexane vapor travels down to the candle and ignited the ramp.

Do antibacterial wipes really “clean” your cell phone? Madison Valenti investigated student cell phones before and after disinfection for microbial growth for her science fair project

Zoe Curtis collected water and beach sediment samples from Lake Pontchartrain to test for the presence of micro plastic pollution. She worked with the Lake Pontchartrain Conservancy to help bring awareness to this growing problem in our local waters.



Cole Landry; Madelynn Massicot; Luke Meyers and Nicholas Ward construct matchbox rockets and make modifications to compete in an upcoming competition.

8th grader, Kate Curtis was the Grand Sweepstakes Region IX GNI Science and Engineering Fair recipient in February 2021. She compared bird diversity and behavior between River Ridge LA and Ithaca, NY using Cornell University's live webcam. She set up a similar bird feeder arrangement to Cornell and observed and recorded species and behavior on an ethogram.



Lake Forest Charter School had 21 students place in various categories of the 2021 Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair, and 12 will move on to the Louisiana State Science and Engineering Fair.

The School had the following major student award winners:

- Najae Watson, 8th grade, won First Place for the National American Psychological Association Award and the Tulane Brain Institute Award;
- Devin Butler, 8th grade, won First Place for the New Orleans MENSA High IQ Society

Award;

- Raymond Duplessis, 8th grade, won First Place for the National U.S. Metric Association Award and First Place for the Women for a Better Louisiana recognition;
- Tu-Uyen Hoang, 8th grade, won First place for the New Orleans American Chemical Society Award;
- Angela Nguyen, 8th grade, won First Place in the National NASA Earth System Science Award, Second Place for the New Orleans Geological Society and received the local chapter of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Award;
- Nancy Do, 8th grade, won First Place for the national Society of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology Award; and
- Joseph Luu, 8th grade, won First Place for the Delta Chapter of Society of Petroleum Engineers, Inc. Award.

And Lake Forest teachers were winners, too:

- **Dr. Sharika Hagan** won the Delta Chapter of Society of Petroleum Engineers, Inc. Teacher Award;
- **Dr. Hagan** and **Ms. Marla Watts** won the Junior Division/Teacher Mentor Award for going the extra mile to support their students in the Junior Division; both are multiple year winners.

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

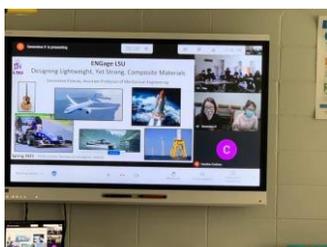
The [Tulane Science Scholars Program \(TSSP\)](#) gives high school students the opportunity to take college-credit courses during the summer in science and engineering at Tulane before high school graduation. TSSP is a selective program for rising 11th and 12th-grade students who have exceptional talent in the sciences, engineering, and mathematics. TSSP will be offering **eight different online course** this summer. For a list of course descriptions, please click [here](#). **The application completion deadline is May 3rd.**

For 2021, TSSP has three-week **online only** courses available. There are **two separate** online sessions available this summer: **June 28-July 16, and July 12-30**. During the three-week program, TSSP students will experience a taste of college life: spending part of their day attending lectures and labs by Tulane faculty and graduate students, listening to presentations by industry professionals, and meeting with Tulane undergraduate students majoring in science and engineering fields.

There are limited scholarship funds available for TSSP participants. Scholarships will be given out on a first-come first-served basis with preference given to Louisiana residents. **In order to be considered for scholarship opportunities, students must submit both their program application and their financial aid application by May 3rd.**

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

✦ Region II ✦



In March, 40 **Iberville STEM Academy** middle school students in grades 6-8 and 4 teachers participated in **ENGage LSU**. LSU had over 15 engineering professors committed to either providing a virtual lab tour, demonstration, or hands-on activity for our middle school students! Since the event was 100% virtual, the materials were mailed to us!

The **Louisiana State Science & Engineering Fair** was held in a virtual format on March 22-26, 2021. Congratulations to the Top School winners in the Junior Division: **Glasgow Middle School** and in the Senior Division: **St. Joseph's Academy**. The full list of winners is

located at the links below:

- Junior Div: <https://is.lsu.edu/newDOCE/Judging/Archives/2021STJR/winners/winners.asp>
- Senior Div: <https://is.lsu.edu/newDOCE/Judging/Archives/2021STSR/winners/winners.asp>

10 **Iberville STEM Academy** middle school students participated in the **ExxonMobil's Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day** on campus. The students watched a keynote speaker, listened to a panel discussion, and even made their own hand sanitizer.

The **Louisiana Science Olympiad** will be holding its state competition on Saturday, April 17th. It will be in a virtual format. For more information visit the site [here](#).

Iberville STEM Academy Master Teacher coordinated a hands-on science experiment with one of our virtual guest speakers, the **National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE)**. High school students learned about the importance of STEM careers and the chemical structure and synthesis of polymers. They also enjoyed using Borax, food coloring and glue to make their own silly putty.



The **Louisiana Art & Science Museum (LASM)** has been presenting virtual content to students in myriad ways, such as weekly Virtual Voyage field trips for **Capitol Elementary**, **Capitol Middle School**, and **IDEA Innovation Charter School** that will continue through May 2021. Additional virtual field trips, which provide engaging, educational experiences for students during this unprecedented spring semester, are generously funded by BASF Corporation and Healthy Blue Louisiana & Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana.

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

Virtual Voyages are facilitated by Museum Educators, including **Linda Gauthier**, who is a **NASA Solar System Ambassador** that volunteers with **LASM** through the generous sponsorship of the **ExxonMobil Volunteer Involvement Program (VIP)**. Funded by the ExxonMobil Foundation, the VIP Program encourages employees, retirees, and other eligible participants to actively contribute their time and talent to charitable organizations by also providing monetary contributions on their behalf. The commitment of our corporate sponsors to STEM education in our community especially serves those schools in most need of support and illustrates how amazing things happen when school systems, corporate partners, and community organizations work together to benefit our students!

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

✦ **Region III** ✦

Terrebonne Science and Engineering fair winners

Junior Division Overall awards

1st Place Grand Prize Overall Andy Hale **Houma Junior High**

2nd Place Runner Up Overall Gracie Bourg **Houma Junior High**

Senior Division Awards

1st Place Grand Prize Overall Zack Dupre **South Terrebonne High**

2nd Place Runner-up Overall Yoselin Enriquez **South Terrebonne High**

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

✦ **Region IV** ✦

“Sensing” Science



Students in **Ms. Shannon Baker’s** fourth grade class at **L. Leo Justice Elementary** in Lafayette Parish recently learned about human and animal senses. They engaged in five Sensory Stations to explore how organisms use their sensory structures to gather information about their environment.



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

✦ **Region V** ✦

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

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

✦ Region VI ✦



Congratulations **Jeff Kenimer**, science teacher at Rapides High School, for being named Louisiana's 2022 Semi-Finalist Teacher of the Year!

In **Coach Roslyn Jones's** Biology 2 class, Peabody Magnet High School students were studying the parts of the brain by labeling the lobes and hemispheres.



Ready, set, roll! **Joseph Welch's** AP Physics class designed cars to measure kinetic energy. Alexandria Senior High School students used their knowledge from the energy unit in class to build an efficient vehicle and then tested how far the cars traveled.



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 ✦

Following her work with the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, **Cathi Cox-Boniol** (Lincoln Parish, Retired) was asked by the National Science Foundation to serve on the National Selection Committee for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Mentoring. Cathi worked with colleagues from across the country to identify outstanding individual and organizational mentoring efforts for recognition by the White House.

Cathi then went on to serve on the judging panel for the Spring 2021 QSM Grants as well as the Louisiana Tech University 2021 Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Cathi and **Missy Wooley** (Director, Lincoln Parish STEM Center) have been busy planning the first slate of summer STEM camps that will be offered at the Lincoln Parish STEM Center beginning in June. Over eight weeks, camp themes will include digital media, fairytale STEM, energy, and game design along with the presentation of nationally recognized Camp Invention and Girls That Code programs with sessions customized for grade bands from k-2 to high school.

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Cathi and Missy also attended the 2021 ITEEA Conference and presented an interactive breakout session on “Cultivating Creativity in the Classroom” as well as completed the pilot program for the OpenSciEd Micro-Credential for the Anchoring Phenomenon Routine, successfully receiving their credential badge.

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



Grab a cup of joe and join us for a morning session of collaboration, sharing, and fun!

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL GUEST



Bianca Deliberto
Region 2 Rep
&
Tana Luther
LDOE

AGENDA

- Introduction to state resources for hybrid and distance learning
- Open Mic

April 10, 2021 - 9:00 - 10:00 AM

Free to members!

Not a member of LSTA? [Join now!](#)

Professional Development Opportunities and Resources

Louisiana Science Leaders Corner

LASL 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).

Elementary Resource

New Hampshire's DoE did work advancing the Framework for our students including a 3-Dimensional storyline embedded through a New Hampshire PBS video-production. This advanced more student-centered opportunities for young children to question and wonder. It is based on Grade 1 Life Science DCIs (Traits...where they come from and how they help animals survive and thrive). The NH DoE saw this as an opportunity to help bring phenomena-based strategies to our early elementary teachers and daycare providers and is happy to share resource and link.

<https://stemfromthestart.org/lesson/mission-awesome-animals>

From STEMconnector

The State of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in STEM: 2021

This report shines a light on the numbers behind America's STEM talent crisis. STEM continues to be a critical driver of innovation, economic growth and individual opportunity.

As the first installment in a yearly report on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, this report will focus primarily on gender diversity and racial / ethnic diversity data — two topics very much in need of discussion. But diversity goes beyond just gender and race. Future reports will also look at other aspects of diversity such as age, (dis)ability, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, and more.

https://www.stemconnector.com/download-resource/the-state-of-diversity-equity-inclusion-in-stem-2021/?utm_source=SC&utm_medium=PR&utm_campaign=DEI

Instructional Partners on Rethinking Intervention

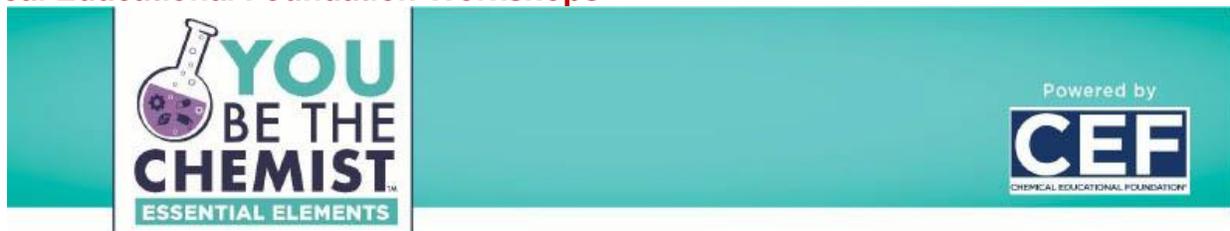
Last spring Instruction Partners launched Rethinking Intervention, a project that explored what drives and challenges intervention as well as how to accelerate student learning after significant disruptions in schooling. The full interviews they conduct are linked [here](#) and the series they are building will be around the six big takeaways from the conversations:

- Relationships and learning are inseparably connected.
- What teachers expect of their students influences what students expect of themselves.
- Students engage and learn best from work that is challenging, relevant to their lives, and helps them understand and impact the world.
- Moving forward into new content with support will advance learning more than stopping and going back.
- Even a great plan will not work for all students; continuously monitoring, understanding, and meeting needs will.
- The way teachers support students mirrors the way leaders support teachers.

Subscribe to the [#RethinkingIntervention mailing list](#) to have the latest videos in your inbox every week.



Chemical Educational Foundation Workshops



What is You Be The Chemist Essential Elements?

Essential Elements is a professional development workshop series for K-8 educators. During the workshops, participants dive into the 5E Instructional Model and science topics and learn best practices to implement inquiry-based activities in their own classrooms while engaging all learners. Educators of all backgrounds and experience levels can benefit from these workshops. Every participant receives resources so they can implement hands-on learning the very next day. Essential Elements workshops are offered at NO COST to educators and schools thanks to the generous support of CEF's industry partners.



How do I participate in an Essential Elements workshop?



Completing a workshop and earning a continuing education credit is now easier than ever as we have four workshops available online! Our teacher professional development workshops give educators the confidence they need to bring hands-on science to their students. Workshops focus on the 5E Instructional Model, Weather, Life Sciences, and Space. These are available on demand and completing the full workshop can earn you a continuing education credit.

How will I receive my continuing education credit?

Click on the titles on the following page to access the registration page for each workshop. You will be required to watch the whole pre-recorded workshop and complete a pre- and post-workshop survey as well as an implementation survey to receive a continuing education credit.

I was told about a \$250 incentive, what is that about?

If you were given information about our virtual Essential Elements workshop by a Certified Instructor, you have an opportunity to win a \$250 Amazon gift card. All you have to do is participate in the workshop and on the pre-workshop survey, select the name of your referring Certified Instructor, **Cathi Cox-Boniol**, from the dropdown menu. A random drawing will happen in June for the prize! The more workshops you complete, the more times your name will be entered (maximum of four).



Workshop Titles and Links to Each Virtual Presentation

Introduction to the 5E Learning Model

[Click here](#) to access the registration page for this workshop

Weather and Sustainability

[Click here](#) to access the registration page for this workshop

Life Sciences

[Click here](#) to access the registration page for this workshop

Space

[Click here](#) to access the registration page for this workshop

LASM

Explore the Irene W. Pennington Planetarium & Enjoy Educational Resources!



The Louisiana Art & Science Museum's immersive Irene W. Pennington Planetarium, which is the largest and most technologically-advanced planetarium in the state of Louisiana and among the largest in the southeast, is an awe-inspiring experience for all ages and is the perfect destination for an educational family outing! Planetarium programs focus on a broad range of topics—from astronomy to engineering to entomology. Plus, many programs include K-12 Educator Guides, including:

- [In Saturn's Rings](#)
- [Flight of the Butterflies](#)
- [Dream Big: Engineering Our World](#)
- [America's Musical Journey](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) for a full list of planetarium Educator Guides! These guides are great resources for your classrooms.

LASM is currently open to the public on Thursdays & Fridays from 9:30 AM to 2 PM and Saturdays from 9:30 AM – 5 PM.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the full Irene W. Pennington Planetarium schedule!

Louisiana State Energy Office

Great Opportunity – Classroom Energy Visits from the Louisiana Energy Office:

The Louisiana Energy Office is offering classroom teachers (K-5) an opportunity to sign up for virtual visits from Energy Office staff. The visit will showcase a hands-on lesson (supply lists will be sent ahead of time) from the NEED Project curriculum.

Below are the virtual energy lesson* offerings:

*Please note students/teachers will need to find a few simple supplies from the classroom or home to participate. The Louisiana Energy Office can join on the school's virtual platform or use the Energy Office's virtual platform.

1. Renewables and Nonrenewables, Oh My!

Play an interactive quiz game of Kahoot! on renewable and nonrenewable energy. Then students play *Candy Collector*, a sweet way to introduce students to the energy terms renewable and nonrenewable. Wrap with Q&A with the Louisiana Energy Office team.

2. Exploring Oil

Play a petroleum-themed interactive quiz game, Kahoot! Then a student (and teacher) favorite, NEED's *Getting the Oil Out* activity! Will it be easier to bring up liquid with a long tubing system, or a short tubing system? A fun and excellent engineering visual for students to learn about the relationship between well depth and effort to recover resources. Then play *Petroleum Ponder* for students to learn just how many everyday items are made with petroleum, a real eye opener. Wrap with Q&A with the Louisiana Energy Office team.

3. Cooking with Solar

Students make a solar cooker for a temperature challenge to learn about radiant energy into thermal energy. Play a solar energy-themed Kahoot! while the food cooks. Wrap with Q&A with the Louisiana Energy Office team.

4. Saving Energy!

Begin with the interactive quiz game, Kahoot! focused on energy saving questions. Students then complete *The Energy I Used Today* to identify their energy-using behaviors. Take an Energy Saving Pledge for students to further identify behavior changes to share with their families and community members. Wrap with Q&A with the Louisiana Energy Office team.

We hope you take advantage of this fun opportunity! You may sign up through this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VirtualLessonsLA>. Please email Kimberly Swan at kswan@need.org with any questions.

Interact with PC's New Education Videos!

Join Pontchartrain Conservancy's [Education Department](#) in a series of videos that encourage participants to learn more about their local environment. These videos are interactive, with places for viewers to pause and answer questions, make predictions, or design and test their own experiments. Students and anyone interested are invited to participate in fun interactive ways, from writing down answers to building models!

There are currently four videos in the series that cover an array of environmental topics. The Coastal Land Loss Video Survey explains what the primary causes of land loss are and what can be done about it. The Ecosystems of the Pontchartrain Basin Survey covers what an ecosystem is and the animals and plants that live in ecosystems near the Pontchartrain Basin. The Hydrological Modifications Video Survey explains what hydrological modifications are and their main functions. The MLODS Video Survey teaches the Multiple Line of Defense strategy and its impacts on coastal communities. <https://scienceforourcoast.org/pc-programs/education/interactive-videos/>

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/>

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

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

NASA 2021 ASTRO CAMP® Announces Community Collaboration Opportunities

The NASA Southeast Regional Office of STEM Engagement and NASA Science Mission Directorate – Science Activation (Sci-Act) Program have announced community collaboration opportunities, open to all youth-serving organizations, for 2021 ASTRO CAMP® sessions.



NASA's ASTRO CAMP® Community Partners Program collaborates with universities, schools, museums, libraries, and youth service organizations to provide unique STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) engagement activities and experiences to youth, families, and educators in their own communities. Through the program, NASA works to provide trained community educators and facilitators for all students to have access to authentic NASA science experiences and resources, ASTRO CAMP® approaches, and STEM activities.

ASTRO CAMP® activities are aligned to Next Generation Science standards and include engineering challenges. Resources are particularly focused on reaching learners in under-served and under-represented communities.

The collaboration offers real-world opportunities for every student to join in, and contribute to, NASA science missions, enhance science understanding, and build NASA connections, all with a goal of inspiring lifelong learners and explorers. It highlights current and past NASA missions, while using hands-on activities to expand STEM interest and activities in astrophysics, Earth science, heliophysics and planetary science. The approach seeks to teach camp participants to work together in order to complete missions, relying on methodology developed during 29 years of ASTRO CAMP® sessions held at Stennis Space Center.

The theme for this year's ASTRO CAMP® is "*We Go ... Finding our Place in Space with NASA Science!*" The program highlights the Artemis generation, with NASA Moon to Mars Next Gen STEM modules and various science collaboration opportunities, such as the R.O.A.D.S. (Rover Observation and Drone Survey) on Asteroids Challenge. The R.O.A.D.S. on Asteroids challenge focuses on developing and executing a mission to the asteroid Vesta through the use of mapping skills, a robotic rover, and drone, while searching for signs of life. Additional resources include *PLANETS*, STEM activities from Northern Arizona University, and access to NASA subject matter experts.

ASTRO CAMP® provides collaborators with professional development, the 2021 ASTRO CAMP® Facilitators Guide, activity supply lists, on-line resources, NASA completion certificates templates, and the on-line support of education specialists (as needed). Collaborating organizations **must** provide: 1) a program leader/facilitator, 2) support staff, 3) facilities, 4) supplies/materials and 5) program management for each camp site. Program leaders and facilitators **must** take part in a one-day Educational Professional Development workshop provided by NASA education specialists in order to be designated as an official NASA 2021 ASTRO CAMP® Community Partners Site.

For more information about becoming a community collaborator contact:

Kelly Martin-Rivers, kelly.e.martin-rivers@nasa.gov or 228-688-1500

or Maria Lott at maria.l.lott@nasa.gov or 228-688-1776

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

For more information on the ASTRO CAMP Community Partners Program, visit:

<https://science.nasa.gov/science-activation-team/astro-camp>

For more information about Stennis Space Center, visit:

www.nasa.gov/centers/stennis/



Youth Wetlands Program Online Learning Platform

Youth Wetlands Program online learning platform was now available. Teachers can sign up for free to gain access to lesson, activities, and other distance-learning resources. I'm including a link to the press release that went out from LSU AgCenter about the site. (<https://www.lsuagcenter.com/profiles/jmorgan/articles/page1611327199513>)

Ecology Project International

You may have heard of [Ecology Project International](#) (EPI); they have been engaging teachers and students in experiential, place-based science learning since 2000—in Yellowstone, Mexico, Galapagos, Hawaii,...

EPI would like to start offering more PD to teachers, and want to know what would be most useful for them. Please share this information with teachers you know who might appreciate place-based, experiential, ecologically-based PD.

This [survey](#) should take 10 minutes to complete. It will be used to help EPI create PD opportunities that will fit teachers' needs.

Those who complete the [survey](#) will be entered to win one of several raffle prizes: \$100 off an upcoming EPI Educator course, \$25 gift card to EPI's online store, or a free EPI hydro flask.

Environmental Educators Survey

My name is Tatiana Height and I am a doctoral student in the Agricultural and Extension Education Program at NC State University. I am currently working on my dissertation and would like to invite environmental educators who are associated with your organization to participate in my study by completing a survey for research purposes.

If consented, participants will be asked to complete an online survey which should take 20-45 minutes to complete. Participants will also have the option to opt-in to be considered for a follow-up video interview that would take around an hour to complete.

This research is of minimal risk to participants and there is no direct benefit to participants. Those who complete all research activities will be entered into a drawing for one of four \$25 electronic gift cards.

Would you be willing to share the study invitation with environmental educators via Qualtrics using this link? https://ncsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3KmsAIRW7MknFNY

LDOE Science Content Bias Review Committee

The LDOE is recruiting teachers for the upcoming Science Content/Bias Review Committees. The link to register can be found on our website here: https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/assessment-guidance/assessment-development-educator-review-committees.pdf?sfvrsn=3bbe931f_48.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries



WETSHOP 2021

Dates: July 11 - 16, 2021
Location: LDWF Marine Research Lab, Grand Isle, LA

Number of Participants: 20 Teachers
Registration Fee: \$50.00
All COVID-19 guidelines will be followed

Application Deadline: May 5, 2021

What is WETSHOP?

A week-long coastal awareness workshop for teachers. Through WETshop, teachers work with scientists and educators to learn about Louisiana's coastal wetlands and become wetland stewards. Implementation of a six hour wetland stewardship project for students, teacher and/or community in your parish after completion of the summer workshop is encouraged.

Highlights & Experiences:

- Fisheries management
- Research trawling and seining
- Barrier islands and their role in coastal health
- Coastal botany and ornithology
- Visits to transitional coastal ecosystems
- A tour of one of the largest oil ports in the US
- Visits to coastal restoration and oil spill impact sites
- The role of invasive species in coastal land loss

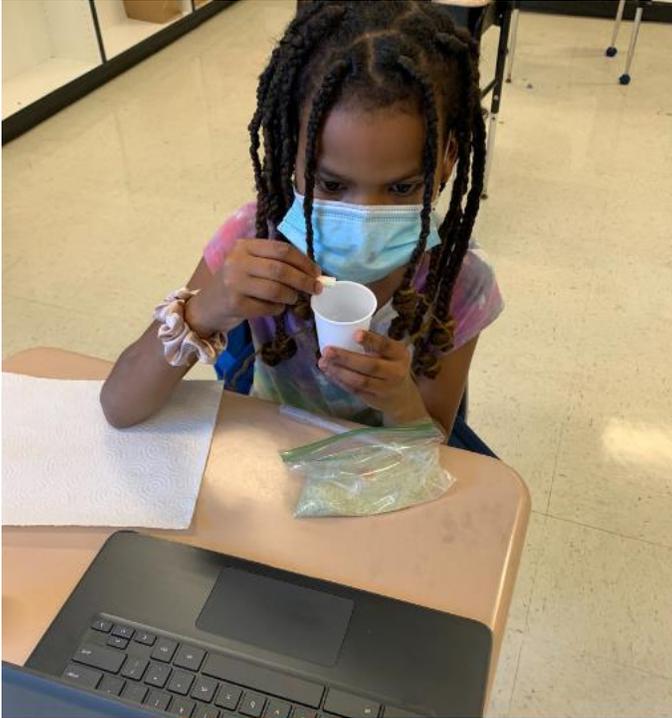
Participants Will Receive:

- Wonders of Wetlands Teacher Guidebook
- Up to 55 professional contact hours
- Numerous classroom resources



Contact: Heather David at hdavid@wlf.la.gov
Apply at www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/for-teachers

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!**

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. 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.

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.

Free Teacher Environmental Workshop

Be a change maker. Teach children to love and care for their community.

Keep Louisiana Beautiful invites non-formal and formal educators K-5th to attend a free environmental education workshop. The workshop will introduce teachers to an environmental education program focused on helping students become good environmental stewards. The program contains 11 environmental lesson plans, hands-on, interactive activities, fun worksheets, grade level student standards, and supplemental resources. Topics include defining litter, timeline of trash, litter decomposition, watershed, clean water, effects on wildlife, plastics pollution, reducing, reusing, recycling, marine debris, and civic responsibility.



FREE Teacher Environmental Workshop

*Terrebonne Parish Library
151 Library Dr. Houma, LA 70360
Saturday, May 1, 2021
10:00 am – 3:00 pm*

Space is limited to the first 25 teachers to register. Attendees will receive a \$100 stipend, CEU and lesson manual for attending for full workshop.

All teachers must register at

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/KeepLouisianaBeautiful1/Registration>

Registration will not be accepted any other way.

Teachers are asked to bring their own lunch and a reusable water bottle.

For more information, contact Alma Robichaux at education@keeplouisianabeautiful.org.

Free Engineering PD

FREE ENGINEERING PD FOR TEACHERS OF GRADES K-12

AN ASM MATERIALS EXPERIENCE

2021 VIRTUAL CAMPS

AN ENGINEERING BOOT CAMP FOR TEACHERS

Engage with science and engineering practices of NGSS through real-world applications of engineering and hands-on activities you can incorporate in your classroom.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- K-12 teachers and pre-service teachers with an interest in science, engineering, industrial, career and technical education.

WHY ATTEND?

- Engage in hands-on, low-cost activities that you can integrate into your classroom immediately.
- Help your students discover career opportunities in science and engineering, and meet practicing engineers.
- **NO CHARGE, A \$1,200 VALUE** (Made possible through generous donations to the ASM Materials Education Foundation)
- **GRADUATE CREDITS** (Available, at participant's expense, to those who attended a virtual camp in 2020 and will be attending again in 2021)

To best serve teachers in 2021, the ASM Materials Education Foundation will hold Virtual Materials Camps. This allows the Foundation to plan curriculum and commit resources for the best possible programs. Thank you for your continued understanding, support, and participation.

MATERIALS CAMP OPTIONS AND PREREQUISITES

- *Virtual Teachers Camp* (1st Year)
- *Virtual Teachers Camp* (2nd Year) - attended virtual teachers camp in 2020
- *Virtual Advanced* (Year 2) Teachers Camp - attended in-person teachers camp; Have incorporated activities learned from camp or currently teaching (or planning to teach) Materials Science
- *Virtual K-5 Teachers Camp*
- *Virtual Teacher Institute* (Special Topic: Sustainability of Materials) - attended a teachers camp

I literally rewrote my physics semester 1 scope and sequence as a result of this camp. I know so much more about how to connect things to the real world and make the physics/chemistry connections that I knew were there but couldn't quite elucidate before." Virtual Teachers Camp 2020 participant

**LOG ON TO LEARN NEW WAYS TO CONNECT SCIENCE TO YOUR STUDENTS ONLINE
AND IN PERSON WITH HANDS-ON REMOTE LABS!**

REGISTER NOW! asmfoundation.org/teachers/camp-schedule/

QUESTIONS?

Jeane Deatherage, Administrator of Foundation Programs
jeane.deatherage@asminternational.org | 800 336 5152, ext. 5433



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.

STEM Teaching Tools for Climate Science Education

Teaching and learning about climate change, its impacts, and how to take action can be difficult. But it is also vitally important. Young people have the right to know about the intersecting environmental impacts and solutions that affect them, especially if they are from communities of color and poverty-impacted communities that are being disproportionately affected.

Students need to be learning in science class about how to meaningfully take action on climate change in solutions-focused ways. This helps deliver on the NRC *Framework* vision: "A major goal for science education should be to provide all students with the background to systematically investigate issues related to their personal and community priorities."

To support educators in this work, we are developing many new STEM Teaching Tools on justice-centered approaches to climate science and environmental science education. This spring, we published the following tools:

- [STEM Teaching Tool #68: Keeping Climate Science Learning and Instruction Focused on Creating Solutions and Building Community Resilience](#)
- [STEM Teaching Tool #69: Using Local Phenomena to Communicate Climate Solutions](#)
- [STEM Teaching Tool #70: How can environmental educators practice intersectional environmentalism?](#)

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

Online resource listings

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NUKLZN7hGSu1Hzm70kfzBKs-lsSELaEMggS60Bi2O2I/htmlview?usp=sharing&fbclid=IwAR3CHaDMB6fALoalj5bj2nKkC_1WlQX7ydHaOKj--H-aUok4gFzN82jDSM4&sl=true&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](#)

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

NASA EXPRESS



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