

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 2021 | 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,
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Louisiana Science Teachers Association Newsletter (www.lsta.info)

President's Message from Pierre LaCaze



Members of Louisiana Science Teachers Association,

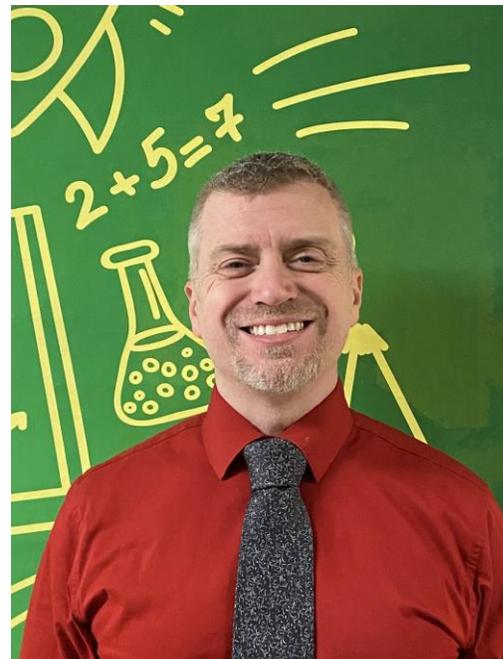
Thank you for electing me to serve as the president of LSTA this term. It is with sincere gratitude that I accept the role of LSTA President. When I first began teaching, I had the privilege to attend an LSTA conference in Shreveport. I was joined with thousands of other educators and the knowledge gained from the conference made a great impact in my class for years to come. It was also evident the role that LSTA plays in science education in our great state. Years later, I became a regional representative and have now served on the LSTA board for six years. Although the times have changed, one thing holds true, LSTA remains committed to enhancing science education in Louisiana.

As president, I vow to continue this commitment. Through our conference and coffee talks, we will offer opportunities for teachers to improve instruction within their classroom as well as offer a chance to connect with a network of like minded professionals. Through our publication, The LASER, we will continue to share news and inform educators of professional development in their area. Through the seats that we hold on boards and commissions, we will continue to give teachers a voice. It is my, and this board's, hope to continue to enhance science education.

I am excited about our board. We have a seasoned team of educators that have decided to serve on the board. Our regional representatives serve in your area. If you have anything great that you are doing in your classroom, or have professional development opportunities you are offering, please feel free to reach out to them to share the news. With a great set of regional representatives, phenomenal appointees, and a strong executive committee, LSTA is destined to do great things.

Please consider nominating a K-6th grade teacher for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The PAEMST Awards are among the highest honors a teacher of math or science may receive. Find more information on the award as well as information for nominating a teacher at: <https://www.paemst.org/>. Nominations close on January 7, 2022.

The LSTA board would like to wish you a happy and safe holiday season.



Thank You,

J. Pierre LaCaze

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 until June 30, 2022. Please share this offer with colleagues.

[LSTA Complimentary Membership Form](#)

Nominations Open for Presidential Awards

The 2021-2022 nomination and application windows for Grades K-6 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics teachers 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 STEM educators. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of STEM 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 2022 award by January 7, 2022. The application deadline

February 6, 2022 Sign up to apply for or nominate an educator at www.paemst.org.



Presidential Awardee and State Finalists Honored

A recognition luncheon was held at the Louisiana Governor's Mansion Blanco Patio on November 4, 2021, to honor the 2019 Awardees and the 2021 State Finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Among the esteemed guests were Louisiana First Lady Donna Edwards, BESE President Sandy Holloway, and Louisiana Department of Education Chief of Staff Dr. Quentina Timoll. The three science honorees were 2019 Presidential Awardee **Paula Callender**, Natchitoches Parish School Board; 2020 State Finalist **James Evans**, Ouachita Parish Schools; and 2020 State Finalist **Heather Warner**, Rapides Parish Schools.

State Finalists represent Louisiana's most outstanding educators and serve an inspiration to students and fellow teachers. Application packets of State Finalists have been submitted for national review. Teachers who are selected as PAEMST awardees receive a trip to Washington, D.C., where they attend a series of recognition events and professional development opportunities. They also get a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation and a Presidential certificate.



Pictured left to right are 2020 State Finalist James Evans, 2019 Awardee Paula Callender, LSTA President Pierre LaCaze, and 2020 State Finalist Heather Warner



Regional News

✦ Region I ✦

Submitted by GNO STEM

The Greater New Orleans STEM Initiative has been busy in the Region I area! GNO STEM partnered with Jefferson Parish Parks and Recreations in November to assist in their after-school programs at Johnny Jacobs and Jesse Owens playgrounds. The students engaged in fun activities with Ozobots to develop their computer programming skills.



Students participating in an Ozobot challenge with GNO STEM at JPPR after-school program.

GNO STEM also partnered with Jefferson Parish Public Schools to deliver a workshop on November 15 where middle school teachers engaged in activities focusing on bioplastics. Teachers received an Engineering Everywhere kit to bring back to their classrooms.



Jefferson Parish Schools teachers engaging in bioplastics activities with GNO STEM.

GNO STEM participated in International School of Louisiana's Annual Family Science Night Extravaganza on November 30th by hosting an exhibit where elementary and middle school students learned about seed germination by creating their own seed germination necklaces.



ISL students participating in GNO STEM's seed germination activity at ISL's Annual Family Science Night Extravaganza.

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

The Kenner Planetarium and Science Space Station held an open house Saturday November 20th around the new NASA Space Telescope. Director Heidi Glorioso welcomed guests to the planetarium showing along with the presentations and activities. The Center also showcased two new interactive exhibits on solar flares and the auroras. The Kenner Planetarium and Science & Space Station welcomes school groups, camp programs and visitors for shows and instructional programs. LASER shows are also scheduled.



Please submit news for Region 1 to **Cecilia Gillam** at cgillam@stcharles.k12.la.us.

✦ **Region II** ✦

Hello! I am Tricia Trinco. I am so excited to be the representative for Region 2. I have an Educational Specialist degree and have been teaching Science for 22 years. I have taught in Plaquemine Parish, Jefferson Parish, Tangipahoa parish and presently, St. Tammany parish. We are currently looking for unique ideas for lessons, activities, and staff development activities that you or someone you know is facilitating in or participating. We hope that this newsletter can serve as a resource for yourself and others, as well as a way to network with other science teaching professionals across the region and state. I look forward to hearing all of your wonderful science happenings..

Please submit news for Region 2 to **Tricia Trinco** at tricia.trinco@stpsb.org.

✦ **Region III** ✦



Students at Houma Christian School built energy efficient homes in Mrs. Wendy Delgado's 8th grade Earth Science class. They were challenged to build and insulate a house using a budget and building code. Energy House is part of the project N.E.E.D. curriculum.

E.D. White Catholic High School
Biology II (Anatomy and Physiology)
Grade: 12

This is a project and problem-based unit that focuses on the circulatory system. It immerses students into real life learning and practical applications. Students learned about the key structures of the circulatory system and their functions before designing heart models from real life anatomy and physiology. Students were engaged throughout the project and were required to problem solve, evaluate, think critically, and reflect.



Chemistry
 Grades: 10 and 11

Students use a VandeGraff generator to explore electrostatic changes.



Dr. Chad Young, professor at Nicholls State University, uses liquid nitrogen to supercool a semiconductor. (This was part of his annual Chemistry RoadShow.)

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

✦ Region IV ✦

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

✦ Region V ✦

My name is Cammie Benoit, the newest Region 5 representative for the Louisiana Science Teachers Association. I have been a teacher for 8 years and recently earned my Master's degree in Educational Leadership. I was born and raised just south of Lake Charles, Louisiana, and currently teach in Cameron Parish. I am very excited to serve and represent Region 5. My goal is to showcase the amazing work that teachers are doing and the opportunities that are being provided to enhance learning through science and STEM after the challenges of the pandemic and two major hurricanes.



In Region 5 news, the Junior High students in the Recycling Krewe at St. Margaret Catholic School in Lake Charles are currently running a recycling completion. In the recent week, they collected a total of total of 61 pounds of paper and 30 pounds of plastic.



In November, kindergarten through 2nd grade students finished up their animal research units that included studying the habitats, life cycles, food chains, and behaviors of endangered animals. Senior Audreanna

Richard, who works at Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries' Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge, brought in baby alligators. The students were able to engage up close and personal with the reptiles and apply the knowledge they accumulated over the unit with these previously endangered creatures.

Please submit news for Region 5 to **Cammie Benoit** at cammiembenoit@gmail.com.

✦ Region VI ✦

Passionate, excited, committed are just a few words to describe two teachers from central Louisiana. These two teachers encompass what education is all about. Not only do they know their subject matter but they ensure that their students are learning the material so that they are prepared for life after high school.



Mrs. Heather Warner, teacher at Caroline Dormon Jr High in Rapides Parish, has been teaching for 20 years. She began her career in elementary but happenstance put her in middle school life science soon after. This is where she found her niche. **Mrs. Warner** has accumulated many awards and accolades for her teaching, mentoring, and dedication to education as well as her students. **Mrs. Warner** is devoted to conservation. She has worked with the LSU-Ag center each summer and served as a Wetlands Project Instructor with the focus of preserving, protecting, and restoring our natural resources.

When asked about her plans for her future, **Mrs. Warner** stated "to continue making a difference in the classroom while inspiring my students to make a difference in the world." "Children are our greatest investment and will one day cure devastating diseases, land on distant planets, solve the hunger crisis and lead us into the next stage of technological advancements. My ultimate goal is to provide the means necessary for them to make the world a better

place, to think beyond their capabilities and to recognize that learning from one another, through discovery, is the key to making things happen."



Mrs. Paula Callender is a National Board-Certified Teacher that enjoys acting, playing music, and writing. She has been an educator for 20 years and has accrued many awards and certifications. For the past three years, she has taught ninth grade biology at Natchitoches Central High School and is the biology lead teacher. Throughout her career, **Mrs. Callender** has focused her STEM education teaching on the application of science concepts and how these concepts impact society both culturally and economically.

In 2010, **Mrs. Callender** spent time at St. Jude Hospital with her daughter. “That experience defines this award to me. There, I saw STEM modeled by people from different cultural and economic backgrounds. Winning PAEMST draws attention to the importance of this type of collaboration in science. Rural, minority students must be given opportunities to engage in speaking, listening, and writing, skills vital to STEM. Only then will doors open for equal participation in convergent science discussions.” She and her family are dedicated to their church, community and fundraising for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital - where their daughter Allison is a patient.

Most recently, **Mrs. Warner (2020)** and **Mrs. Paula Callender (2019)** became finalists for the The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching or PAEMST. The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) are the highest honors bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teaching. The award recognizes those teachers have both deep content knowledge of the subjects they teach and the ability to motivate and enable students to be successful in those areas. Awardees reflect the expertise and dedication of the Nation’s teaching corps, and they demonstrate the positive impact of excellent teachers on student achievement. In 2019, **Mrs. Paula Callender** was awarded the honor!!

Congratulations to both **Mrs. Warner** and **Mrs. Callender** for the outstanding work that you do!!! You are both an inspiration to us all.

Please submit news for Region 6 to **Dr. Ladale Bernard** at ladale.bernard@rpsb.us.

✦Region VII ✦

Several Caddo educators have recently received recognition for their outstanding service to STEM education. Caddo Career & Technology Center instructor **Gary Weese** is a \$50,000 recipient of the 2021 Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence. **Weese** has been an automotive technology teacher with CCTC for 22 years and an ASE Certified Master Automotive Technician for the last 45 years. This national award recognizes his outstanding instruction in skilled trades in a U.S. public high school and is awarded to teachers who inspire students to learn skills in preparation for life after graduation.



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

K. Renae Pullen was a committee member for the new report by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Science titled [Engineering in Preschool Through Elementary Grades: The Brilliance of Children and the Strengths of Educators](#). The report asserts that science and engineering education needs should be prioritized from preschool through fifth grade, and state policymakers should ensure these subjects are taught comprehensively, frequently, and consistently in preschool and elementary schools.

Amanda Dolph from Caddo Parish Magnet High School was among the honorees a recognition luncheon held at the Louisiana Governor's Mansion on December 2. The event honored the six 2021 State Finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

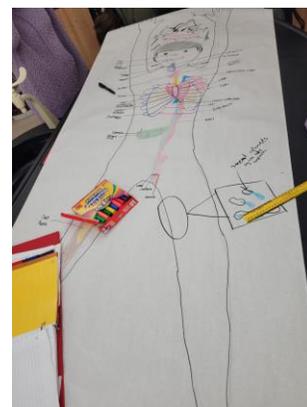
Please submit news for Region 7 to .

✦ Region VIII ✦



Hello fellow educators! My name is **Marci Bryant**, and I am the new representative for Region 8 I of LSTA. My career started in 2013 with a degree in Elementary Education from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, but quickly moved to Ouachita Junior High where I fell in love with the middle school students. I have always loved Science and was heartbroken when the shift of education moved away from Science being a focus in the classroom. I have integrated my love of Reading and passion for problem solving in my classroom and had great success. Because of the love my students have shown and the growth they experienced, I wanted to encourage other teachers to do the same. I have presented in numerous professional developments in my parish, state, and nationally. I feel this is important because as educators we should always be changing because the world is always changing. When I am not focused on Science education, I am focused on my three girls, who constantly keep me running, and my husband.

I am excited about fellowshipping and learning with the state's Science educators and professionals. As Region 8 we always have exciting things happening. In my own school, **Ouachita Junior High**, our sixth grade Science teacher, **Brandi Townsend**, incorporated a little holiday spirit in her unit on forces. She made candy cane catapults. The students loved to tie in the abstract leaning to the concrete having "ahHa" moments during this time. **Beverly Campbell**, a Biology and Chemistry teacher at West Monroe High School, used a unique assessment after her iHUB curriculum on body systems. She incorporated art, students' learning styles, and scientific knowledge to allow the students to show their interpretations of different body systems. We are excited about the upcoming year to learn and grown with each and every one of you.



Cathi Cox-Boniol (Region 8 LaSTEM Center, Louisiana Tech University) attended the Fall Leadership Forum for directors within the Engineering by Design Consortium of the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association as well as the Million Women Mentors—Louisiana Network Quarterly Meeting. She was part of the LaSTEM team that met at the Raising Cane Center in Baton Rouge to continue plans for the upcoming LaSTEM Summit scheduled for February 8, 2022. Cathi judged the science fair for Ruston Elementary School before attending Louisiana Tech's College of Education and College of Applied and Natural Science Research Coffee Hour. She attended the LaSTEM Council meeting held at SciPort in Shreveport and joined the other LaSTEM Directors for a retreat hosted by CENLA LaSTEM and held on the campus of Northwestern State University's CENLA campus in Alexandria. Cathi participated in the LACAL STEM Committee Meeting and attended the Energize Your Destiny Virtual Conference hosted by Shell. She wrapped up November by participating in both the CSSS/NSELA Webinar on Preschool through Elementary Science and Engineering as well as the Energizing STEM.

Please submit news for Region 8 to **Marci Bryat** at marcibryant@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 Leadership Association (NSELA).

All science leaders should consider downloading a FREE copy of the National Academies publication [Teaching K-12 Science and Engineering During a Crisis](#). Become familiar with the 5 principles shared in the book. Events require ongoing changes in how the K-12 education system functions. Students and teachers must figure out how to handle teaching and learning differently with all the educational components and families working overtime. This is extremely difficult and stressful work in the time of a global pandemic, In addition students with disabilities, students of various ethnic backgrounds some of them immigrants and ELL, and students from under-resources communities are affected differently, both by the pandemic and instructional shifts.

EdReports seeks educators for high school science reviews

We wanted to share a great opportunity, from our friends at EdReports, for deep professional learning on the Next Generation Science Standards with a national network of skilled educators aimed at supporting other educators with information to help them find quality science instructional materials. Currently 1,240 districts have benefitted from the work of EdReports educator reviewers, supporting almost 14 million students.

EdReports is a non-profit organization with a mission to empower educators with independent, credible, evidence-rich information about instructional materials to ensure students have what they need to be college and career-ready. They are [accepting applications for reviewers](#) for inaugural high school science review beginning in early April 2022.

Who is EdReports looking for? EdReports is a by educator, for educator organization. Currently, classroom educators, district specialists, state specialists, non-formal educators, retired educators, and those pursuing advanced science education degrees participate in reviews. The profile of a science reviewer includes expertise in the Next Generation Science Standards and a commitment to quality instructional materials.

What can I expect if selected to be a reviewer? EdReports plans to review five biology NGSS programs in the inaugural review. If selected, you will sit on a team of five reviewers who will be examining one set of materials with the support of EdReports' science team. Reviewers can expect the following:

- New teams will begin with an in-depth training in April
- Each reviewer spends about 5-10 hours per week throughout the process, including attending a one-hour virtual call with their team
- A second event may be scheduled approximately halfway through the review to continue calibration and to provide cross-review team support for the inaugural high school reviews
- Reviews are expected to be completed late 2022
- Reviewers receive a host of benefits including more than 25 hours of professional development, a stipend per series reviewed ranging from \$1,750 - \$2,500 depending on the role you play on a review team, opportunities to learn with national experts in the field, and much more.

How do I apply? [Visit EdReports' website](#) to learn more about becoming a reviewer and complete an application. Once you apply, an application task will be sent requesting demonstration of your NGSS knowledge. Following receipt of the application task, EdReports will schedule a 30-minute interview to learn more about you and share more about the upcoming review.

2022 STEM Education Summit: *Building a Coalition for Attracting and Retaining a Diverse STEM Teaching Workforce*

To confront the underrepresentation in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) teaching and leadership, the Smithsonian Science Education Center is hosting our annual STEM Education Summit **March 19 – March 26, 2021**, as a virtual convening. This summit is the sixth of its kind to be offered by Smithsonian and the second to be held virtually.

Research shows that by increasing the diversity of the STEM teacher workforce, students from underrepresented populations are more likely to become interested in STEM and ultimately be better prepared for the career opportunities available to them.

At the STEM Education Summit, 20 teams of educators from diverse regions across the nation embrace their roles as change agents to create plans for attracting and retaining STEM teachers from underrepresented populations at the school, district, or state-level. Selected teams are matched with a mentor who is carefully selected to fit the unique composition and needs of their team.

Mentors paired with a team bring an array of skills and professional STEM experiences to their assigned team. Previous mentors have held positions as nonprofit executive directors, veteran classroom teachers, school and district leaders and university professors with deep-rooted interests in STEM education equity and systemic change. They support all team members to become leaders and provide feedback to their team to guide them through developing and achieving goals. **Visit [here](#) to view mentor expectations and application!**

Prior to the STEM Education Summit, teams will get acquainted with their mentors as they prepare themselves for the Summit. During the Summit, teams continue to work with their mentor to develop a logic model to address a challenge in attracting and retaining teachers from underrepresented populations into their teaching workforce. Following the Summit, teams are supported by mentors to implement the action plans described in their logic model in the subsequent school year.

Program Overview

Saturday, March 19, 2022: First Day of STEM Education Summit

Monday – Friday, March 21 –25 2022: Teams and Mentors Supplemental Work and Sessions

Saturday, March 26, 2022: Second Day of STEM Education Summit

- Do you have questions? [Register](#) to attend an information session that will be hosted **December 1, 2021.**

Apply for the 2022 STEM Education Summit today! **(Deadline: Friday, January 21, 2022)** <https://www.ssec.si.edu/event/stem-education-summit-building-coalition-attracting-and-retaining-diverse-stem-teaching>

This work is made possible by an advisory committee composed of education thought leaders including experts from PK–12 and postsecondary education, minority-serving institutions (MSIs) and nonprofits collectively working to build a coalition to attract and retain STEM teachers from underrepresented groups resulting in 30,000 new and existing teachers by 2030.

This program is made possible by funding from Shell Oil Company.

Be the catalyst of change in your education system and [apply](#) for the STEM Education Summit today! **(Deadline: January 21, 2022)**



Nicole Harvey named 2021 Louisiana Outstanding Biology Teacher.

The National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) has named Nicole Harvey of Zachary High School as the 2021 Louisiana Outstanding Biology Teacher Award winner. She will be honored at the 2021 Annual Conference of NABT in Atlanta in November.

Nicole is a Biology and AP Biology teacher at Zachary High School. She received both her BS in Secondary Biology Education and MS in Natural Science from Louisiana State University. Outside the classroom, Nicole contributes to science education by acting as a Teacher Leader for Zachary Community Schools and a Mentor Teacher and Teacher Leader Advisor for the Louisiana Department of Education.

Her coworkers describe Nicole as “always willing and eager to give all that she can for her students and her school” and say that she is constantly “searching for new and innovative teaching strategies”. Nicole’s students say that she is “caring and engaging” and that they never have to wonder how her lessons will be applicable outside of the classroom. There is no doubt that Mrs. Harvey has made a huge impact upon the students at Zachary High School and across the state.

The National Association of Biology Teachers and Louisiana Science Teachers Association are extremely proud to recognize the contributions made by Nicole Harvey. Such accomplishments and awards should make Nicole’s school district and the entire state of Louisiana proud. She is a priceless member of our education community.

US Green Ribbon Schools

The LDOE is accepting applications from schools and school systems seeking nomination for the [U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools \(EDGRS\) awards](#). Successful applications will provide a narrative that demonstrates the three EDGRS pillars:

- Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs
- Improved Health and Wellness
- Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

Applications should be submitted in Word or PDF format by January 18, 2022.

Please contact environmentaleducation@la.gov with questions or to submit an application.

States' Deadlines for Green Schools Applicants Fast Approaching!

Many states' application periods for 2021-22 cycle nominees to U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) will be closing around the holidays. These deadlines vary by state. State education agencies often collaborate with other state agencies and partners to administer the program and will ultimately nominate their selections to the Department by Feb. 18, 2022 (an extension from the original Feb. 1 state submission deadline). Check to see if your state participates in ED-GRS by [locating your state recognition award administrator](#). Alternatively, you can contact your [chief state school officer](#) or [state higher education executive officer](#). Often, hearing from interested schools, districts, and postsecondary institutions helps states determine whether to make nominations.

STEM education nonprofit ChemTalk makes chemistry accessible to everyone

ChemTalk reimagines chemistry education, launching the ChemTalk website and social media channels.

ChemTalk, a grassroots 501(c)(3) science education and outreach non-profit based in Thousand Oaks, CA, announced today the official launch of the organization and the ChemTalk website. To date, the all-volunteer organization has received donations from several organizational and private donors including the American Chemical Society and CABRI foundation, and today launched a \$50,000 GoFundMe [fundraising campaign](#).

Over 60 high-school and college students from across North America have participated in ChemTalk's national internship program, becoming advocates for science while honing their own skills and knowledge. This number is expected to climb exponentially over the next 12 months.

In the ten months since ChemTalk's website was created, traffic has climbed to over 93,000 visitors per month, making it one of the fastest-growing education websites of 2021.

Social media channels were launched on TikTok, Instagram, Twitter, Youtube, Facebook, and LinkedIn. One video, possibly the first video to show a [maze being solved](#) by chemistry using a pH gradient, received over 800,000 views on their new TikTok channel. The [ChemTalk podcast](#) has interviewed over a dozen professors, scientists, and Nobel laureates to expose young people to role models, early in their lives.

ChemTalk is located in Southern California in the heart of a burgeoning biotech and life-science cluster growing in the region surrounding biotech giant Amgen. Brent Reinke, Founder and Chairman of the Bioscience Alliance located in nearby Westlake Village, CA, stated that *"It's exciting to see a fast-growing STEM education nonprofit located right in the middle of our region's rapidly expanding life science cluster. ChemTalk's mission fits extremely well with the goals of BSA. That's why we are excited to announce the organizations have agreed to become sponsors of one another to further support our mutual efforts. ChemTalk will play an integral role in ensuring there are highly sought after STEM workers for the growing number of young companies in our area."*

ChemTalk received donations from the American Chemical Society (Los Padres Chapter), CABRI Foundation (Cayman Chemical), KPM Accelerate, Bluewater Travel, and Ortheus Inc, a great show of support for a brand new grass-roots organization. They have already raised 25% of the \$50,000 GoFundMe goal to fund their operations and programs for the next several months.

In addition to fundraising through donors and sponsors, ChemTalk is actively seeking writers, volunteers, partners, and advisory board members. Achieving ChemTalk's fundraising goals will allow it to easily reach over 2,000,000 students in 2022, helping to create the next generation of the STEM workforce.

ChemTalk Contact

Scott Gietler
Executive Director
scottg@chemistrytalk.org 310-904-3112

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>)

New and Updated Resources for OpenSciEd Middle School Pilot

To assist teachers, schools, and systems with piloting OpenSciEd for middle school, the Department has updated existing resources and released new pacing documents.

These resources include

- [Grade 6](#) and [Grade 7](#) pilot guides updated with pacing guidance for the first three units in each grade;
- [Grade 7](#) and [Grade 8](#) pilot guides updated with links to newly released public units;
- [OpenSciEd Distance Learning](#) guidance updated to include Grade 8 Natural Selection; and
- [OpenSciEd Purchasing and Professional Development](#) updated kit purchasing information for revised units.

Additionally, ten units are now available in the [National Instructional Materials Access Center \(NIMAC\) Inventory](#) with more coming soon.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Nominate a Student for a Trip to The National WWII Museum's American Spirit Awards

The National WWII Museum wants to honor your outstanding student leaders. Each year the Museum selects one student from each state to receive the Billy Michal Student Leadership Award.

These 51 student leaders will be invited to attend the 2022 American Spirit Awards on June 9–10, 2022, where they will represent their state at the prestigious American Spirit Awards Leadership Luncheon. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in a Q&A session with the American Spirit Awards medallion recipients, meet fellow recipients, explore New Orleans and the Museum and meet Billy Michal himself.

Nominees should have a strong record of volunteerism, school and/or community activism, or implementing creative solutions to recognized problems. Selected awardees will be flown (along with a chaperone) to New Orleans to participate in the Museum's American Spirit Awards celebration. Applications are open now!

[Nominate your student today!](#)

TEACHERS: Apply for the 2022 Summer Teacher Seminar

In July 2022, The National WWII Museum will again offer its Summer Teacher Seminar professional development trainings. Held over two separate weeks, the seminar will offer teachers a choice between a broad survey of a major topic in WWII history, as well as deeper thematic dives. This year's topics are *Voices from the Pacific War: Teaching the Untold Stories of World War II* and *The Power of Propaganda: Teaching Media Literacy Through World War II*. Designed for middle school and high school teachers, these seminars will train educators on the use of Museum curriculum, as well as provide access to WWII scholars and the latest digital resources.

[Check back here on December 7 to begin your application](#)

What's New at Project WET?

The school year is in full swing and teachers and community educators everywhere are using Project WET to inspire future water stewards. Without these outstanding educators, Project WET would not be able to reach millions of people worldwide with science-based, interactive water education each year. That's why we're launching our first-ever [Project WET Educator of the Year competition](#).

If you or someone you know is making an impact in your community through Project WET, [click here](#) to learn how they could win a month of access to our new digital learning experience WETconnect for the educator and up to 200 students!

Become a WaterStar School

Is your school ready to dive into Project WET? Our new WaterStar Schools program is an interdisciplinary approach to water education featuring curriculum training and ongoing professional development for teachers, hands-on activities via WETconnect for students, and official certification to show the world that your school cares about our sustainable water future.

[LEARN MORE NOW](#)

Climate Education for All

We are excited to announce a new self-paced, online climate training pack for educators! Participants will receive a printed copy of our Climate, Water & Resilience educator guide along with WETconnect access to an enhanced digital version of the guide, hands-on climate education training, and our full library of virtual lessons and student activity booklets.

[BECOME A TRAINED CLIMATE EDUCATOR](#)

Try WETconnect for Free

With WETconnect, students are engaged in hands-on learning and self-led discovery, online or offline. Water education comes to life with e-books, interactive lessons, games, quizzes, and more. Educators and students connect with one another and the world around them. Now everyone can experience Project WET's award-winning water education publications and activities anytime, anywhere

[LEARN MORE AND START YOUR FREE TRIAL](#)

STEM Resources from the US Department of Education

The US Department of Education has recently shared two resources that may be useful supporting STEM learning.

- [Data.gov](#) is a database with over 335,221 real-world datasets from a variety of sources updated weekly and connected to free resources to help show how data shapes our lives.
- [STEM Rising](#) from the US Department of Energy features a monthly newsletter, social media connections, virtual learning resources, college workshops, and online career resources.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR EDGAR VEILLON CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP CORPS

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) is accepting applications for the Edgar Veillon Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC), a leadership development program that provides training for future conservation leaders in Louisiana.

Louisiana students 18 or older that will be enrolled as an undergraduate in the Spring 2022 semester are eligible to apply. Those selected will receive training to develop leadership skills and techniques to analyze conservation policies and advocate for solutions.

Training will be provided by current and former natural resource professionals in the public, non-profit and private sectors. Students will be presented with real-world issues and experience. This year's focus is Habitat Conservation in Louisiana. Through the integration of presentations, case studies, and collaborative activities, students will learn about conservation policy while building skills in leadership and advocacy.

Due to ongoing safety concerns related to COVID-19, this year's cohort will meet online for the first three meetings with the final meeting in person (if deemed safe to do so). There will also be the possibility of an optional socially-distanced group activity in the spring.

Sessions will be held one weekend each month from January-April on the following dates:

Session I January 28-29, 2022

Session II February 18-19, 2022

Session III March 18-19, 2022

Session IV April 22-23, 2022

There is no fee to apply. Upon successful completion of the program, each participant will receive a Certificate of Accomplishment, a letter of commendation, and a \$200 scholarship. Students will also receive a complementary one-year membership to the Louisiana Wildlife Federation where they can continue active involvement in conservation advocacy. Deadline to apply: Friday, December 3, 2021

Visit LaWildlifeFed.org to learn more and apply.

Contact: Stacy Ortego
LWF Outreach Coordinator
lwf@lawildlifefed.org
225-344-67



Science and STEM Resources From NSTA

Shell Urban Science Educators Development Award

This award provides support to seven diverse educators in pursuit of professional development, and serves to increase the science educator talent pool of minority educators to meet the education work force challenge of the future.

Eligibility: K–12 classroom science teachers in an urban setting. Classroom science teachers at the elementary, middle or high school level who are part of underrepresented ethnic groups are eligible

Award: \$1,800 to be used to attend the annual NSTA National Conference on Science Education. Recipients will be invited to attend a variety of workshops and presentations that are of particular interest to urban teachers at the annual National Conference. Submission deadline for the next cycle is 01/26/2022

Application form is at: <https://app.reviewr.com/s1/site//ShellAwards2022>

The Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge

The Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge Competition recognizes exceptional and innovative science educators, to recognize outstanding K–12 school programs for their exemplary approaches to science lab instruction utilizing limited school and laboratory resources, and raise awareness and exposure of the outstanding work being done in the science education field in the following targeted areas near Shell assets:

The academic year 2021-22 deadline for the Regional Lab Challenge is February 17, 2022. Teachers can access the application, scoring guide and more information at:

<https://www.nsta.org/shell-science-lab-regional-challenge>

Louisiana Regions are established around Shell assets in the state.

- **Convent, Louisiana** (St. James Parish, Livingston Parish)
- **Geismar, Louisiana** (Ascension Parish, City of Zachary SD, Central Community SD, City of Baker SD, East Baton Rouge Parish SD)
- **New Orleans, Louisiana** (Jefferson Parish, Orleans Parish, Terrebonne Parish, Lafourche Parish, St. Tammany Parish, St. Bernard Parish)
- **Norco, Louisiana** (St. Charles Parish, St. John Parish)
- **Port Allen, Louisiana** (West Baton Rouge Parish)

LSTA Congratulates the 2020 Grand Prize Winners for High School: Tyler Dufrene and Cecelia Gillam, Science Teachers, Hahnville High School, Boutte, Louisiana and the 2021 Regional winners from Louisiana.

New Self-Paced Science Professional Learning Modules Available Now

To assist teachers, schools, and systems with implementation of [high-quality science curricula](#), the Department has released three [self-paced learning modules](#). These resources are designed to fit flexibly in a variety of professional learning formats. Modules may be accessed individually for an “at your own pace” style of PD or delivered by Content Leaders or other science leaders to drive professional learning and facilitate collaborative conversations. Learning modules are focused on the topics below and are available now.

- Science Instructional Model and Planning Guide
- Productive Science Talk and Planning for Discussion
- Leveraging Student Resources in Science

Each module includes a brief description, video, slide deck, and associated handouts.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SHELL Regional LAB

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

- WHO:** K-12 teachers of science located in regions of Shell assets
- WHAT:** The 2021–2022 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 \$315,000 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
CHALLENGE



Deadline: February 17, 2022

Learn more about this rich professional development opportunity at

<https://www.nsta.org/shell-science-lab-regional-challenge>

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/>

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.

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.

NASA EXPRESS



NASA EXPRESS features updates from NASA and STEM associates about workshops, internships, and fellowships; applications for grants or collaborations; promotions for student and educator opportunities; online professional development; and other announcements.

[Sign Up](#)

[View Latest EXPRESS](#)

Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program



Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program



Do you want to **inspire** young high school students?

Do you desire to share your **passion** for fisheries?

Do you want to participate in promoting **diversity and inclusion** in fisheries?

APPLY TO BE A HUTTON MENTOR TODAY!

The **Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program** is a paid summer internship and mentoring program for high school juniors and seniors, sponsored by the American Fisheries Society (AFS). This program is for students interested in pursuing the disciplines of **fisheries science and management** and/or **natural resources related fields**. Over the past 21 years (2001-2021), AFS has offered internship opportunities to 727 students with the help of almost 800 Mentors in over 150 host and financially sponsoring institutions.

Selected students known as Hutton Scholars, are matched and mentored by a fisheries professional to enjoy an 8-week hands-on fisheries science summer experience in a marine and/or freshwater setting.

Our Vision:

The principle goal of the Hutton program is to stimulate interest in careers in fisheries science and management among groups underrepresented, including minorities and women, in the fisheries professions.

Mentors hold the key to **engage, inspire and enrich** the next generation of fisheries professionals. Apply today to help prepare the future generation of fisheries professionals!



Questions?

Email **Mary Webb Banning**, Program Manager, Education and Outreach at mbanning@fisheries.org

Apply Online for Summer 2022 at <http://hutton.fisheries.org>

Application Deadline: March 1st, 2022



TECH Girls

TECHGirls



Training US girls to be Global
STEM Leaders: July 8 - Aug. 3, 2022*

APPLY ONLINE:
techgirlsglobal.org



What is TechGirls?

TechGirls is an international summer exchange program designed to empower and inspire young girls from around the globe and the United States to pursue careers in STEM.

Who should apply? If you...

- Are a U.S. citizen between the ages of 15 to 17 with at least one year left of high school in the fall 2021.
- Must also show sincere interest in technology and making friends from around the world.

What do I need to know?

This is your chance to collaborate with female STEM leaders from across the globe and gain tech skills that will inspire you to pursue your dreams. 25 U.S. girls will join 3 TechGirls from each participating region: Central and Southeast Asia, East Asia & Pacific, Europe & Eurasia, Middle Eastern, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Western Hemisphere. TechGirls will stay at Virginia Tech, located in beautiful Blacksburg, VA. Participants will engage in technical instruction courses like coding and cybersecurity, plus meetings with a variety of department leaders conducting cutting edge research.

*Plans subject to change to ensure the safety and health of participants and staff.

Full Scholarship!

Your scholarship is fully inclusive of all costs including travel, courses, programming, housing and meals, staff supervision and ground transport for sightseeing.

**APPLICATION
DEADLINE:
JANUARY 15,
2022**

TechGirls is an initiative by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and administered by Legacy International.



New and Updated Resources for OpenSciEd Middle School Pilot

To assist teachers, schools, and systems with piloting OpenSciEd for middle school, the Department has updated existing resources and released new pacing documents.

These resources include

- [Grade 6](#) and [Grade 7](#) pilot guides updated with pacing guidance for the first three units in each grade;
- [Grade 7](#) and [Grade 8](#) pilot guides updated with links to newly released public units;
- [OpenSciEd Distance Learning](#) guidance updated to include Grade 8 Natural Selection; and
- [OpenSciEd Purchasing and Professional Development](#) updated kit purchasing information for revised units.

Additionally, ten units are now available in the [National Instructional Materials Access Center \(NiMAC\) Inventory](#) with more coming soon.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

7 Billion student video contest

Population Education holds an annual video contest for students in grades 6-12. We invite students to participate in our *World of 7 Billion* student video contest this year! The contest gives students an opportunity to think critically about social and environmental challenges related to global population growth and share what they think should be done to fix these challenges. For more detailed information on the student video contest, [please click here](#).

The *World of 7 Billion* video contest serves primarily as an educational tool for student learning. However, there is also a monetary award for the best video submissions each year. All video submissions must be submitted by Tuesday, February 22, 2022. The winners will be announced on May 10, 2022. [For more detailed information on the *World of 7 Billion* contest, please click](#)

