

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.



June 2021 | Louisiana Science  
Teachers Association

## LSTA Board and Regional Representatives

<p><b>Shauna LeBlanc</b> President <a href="mailto:shauna.leblanc@lpssonline.com">shauna.leblanc@lpssonline.com</a></p>	<p><b>Pierre LaCaze</b> Vice President <a href="mailto:pierre.lacaze@rpsb.org">pierre.lacaze@rpsb.org</a></p>	<p><b>Patrice Mire</b> Past - President <a href="mailto:patricemire16@gmail.com">patricemire16@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Tammy Brouillette</b> Secretary <a href="mailto:tammycbrouillette@gmail.com">tammycbrouillette@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Nathan Cotten</b> Treasurer <a href="mailto:nathancotten@tpsdonline.org">nathancotten@tpsdonline.org</a></p>	<p><b>Chris Campbell</b> Membership <a href="mailto:ctc@latech.edu">ctc@latech.edu</a></p>
<p><b>Jean May-Brett</b> BaP-SM SC/NSTA Liaison <a href="mailto:jam05@bellsouth.net">jam05@bellsouth.net</a></p>	<p><b>Tana Luther</b> LA Science Program Coordinator <a href="mailto:Tana.Luther@la.gov">Tana.Luther@la.gov</a></p>	<p><b>Jan Graff</b> Awards Coordinator <a href="mailto:jlgraff@bellsouth.net">jlgraff@bellsouth.net</a></p>
<p><b>Cecilia Gillam</b> Region 1 Representative <a href="mailto:cgillam@stcharles.k12.la.us">cgillam@stcharles.k12.la.us</a></p>	<p><b>Bianca Deliberto</b> Region 2 Representative <a href="mailto:biancadeliberto@gmail.com">biancadeliberto@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Wendy Delgado</b> Region 3 Representative <a href="mailto:wendy_delgado@houmachristianschool.com">wendy_delgado@houmachristianschool.com</a></p>
<p><b>Annie Barras</b> Region 4 Representative <a href="mailto:kabarras@iberia.k12.la.us">kabarras@iberia.k12.la.us</a></p>	<p><b>Vincent Caldwell</b> Region 5 Representative <a href="mailto:vincent.cadwell@cpsb.org">vincent.cadwell@cpsb.org</a></p>	<p><b>Heather Warner</b> Region 6 Representative <a href="mailto:heather.warner@rpsb.us">heather.warner@rpsb.us</a></p>
<p><b>Stefani Farris</b> Region 7 Representative <a href="mailto:Shfarris@caddoschools.org">Shfarris@caddoschools.org</a></p>	<p><b>Garrah Leshe</b> Region 8 Representative <a href="mailto:leshe@opsb.net">leshe@opsb.net</a></p>	<p><b>Stephen Knight</b> LASER Editor <a href="mailto:stephen_knight@saintmartinschools.org">stephen_knight@saintmartinschools.org</a></p>
<p><b>Nicole Cotten</b> LSTA Web Master <a href="mailto:nmcotten12@gmail.com">nmcotten12@gmail.com</a></p>		<p><b>Rob Wallace</b> Social Media Coordinator <a href="mailto:rob.wallace@nationalww2museum.org">rob.wallace@nationalww2museum.org</a></p>

### 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,  
Congratulations! You made it through yet another challenging year. I hope your summer is off to a great start.

LSTA would like you to know that we are dedicated to you and are thinking of you. Please join us for our monthly "Coffee Talks", the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 am-10:00 am. Sessions begin with a short 10-15 minute presentation about a preselected topic and the rest of the time is meant for teachers to collaborate and discuss what works and doesn't work in the classroom and/or how to resolve the struggles you are facing with implementing highly effective science education. All sessions are through a virtual format. Sessions are available to members only;

however, LSTA is extending free membership until August 31, 2021. Please click [here](#) to apply for free membership and to register for our next talk.

Due to the uncertainty of COVID and the amount of time it takes to prepare an organized and meaningful conference, the board decided early in the year that we would not hold an annual conference in 2021. However, we are planning to hold a conference in 2022. We will let you know as soon as we have details as to the location and dates of the conference. We look forward to being able to collaborate with all of our amazing science educators in a face-to-face format.

NSTA is holding a virtual STEM21 conference on July 26-30th. Although a face-to-face conference has not been announced yet there are many virtual events being held by NSTA that you might find helpful. Please click [here](#) for more details.

Nominations and/or applications for the LSTA Outstanding Science Educator Awards for 2021 will be posted to our website soon. The deadline is **September 26, 2021 at midnight**. Please consider nominating a worthy candidate for an award before the deadline. Please click the link here for more information. <https://lsta.info/awards>

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.

In closing, I would encourage you to review all of the educational resources provided in the LASER. We hope you find something that will help you. Additional information can be found on the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) website as they are providing a plethora of professional development opportunities this summer. 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/>

Have a wonderful summer everyone!  
Sincerely,

Dr. Shauna LeBlanc

## Complimentary LSTA Membership

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

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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](mailto: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.

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## Louisiana Educators Chosen as State Finalists for Presidential Awards

Five science educators have recently been named Louisiana State Finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). The Presidential Awards are the nation's highest honors for K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teachers. The awards program is administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) on behalf of The White House. Application packets of State Finalists have been submitted for national review. Teachers who are selected as PAEMST awardees will travel to Washington, D.C., where they attend a series of recognition events and professional development opportunities. They will also receive a \$10,000 award and a Presidential certificate.



Louisiana's 2021 State Finalists in science are

**Steven Babcock**

Louisiana State University Laboratory School  
Baton Rouge, LA

**Tyler Dufrene**

Hahnville High School

**Boutte, LA**

**Amanda Dolph**

Caddo Parish Magnet High School  
Shreveport, LA

They are joined by the 2020 K-6 State Finalists in science who were named in November.

**James Robbie Evans**

Sterlington Middle School  
Sterlington, LA

**Heather Warner**

Caroline Dormon Junior High  
Woodworth, LA

## Regional News

### ✦ Region I ✦

Please submit news for Region 1 to **Cecilia Gillam** at [cgillam@stcharles.k12.la.us](mailto:cgillam@stcharles.k12.la.us).

### ✦ Region II ✦

Congratulations to **Southeastern Louisiana University** for receiving the **U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School Postsecondary Sustainability Award**. Southeastern Louisiana University constructed a Sustainability Center that uses a geothermal pond loop system to heat and cool the building. It features an environmental education centered, powered by solar photovoltaic panels and is heated and cooled by a geothermal system.

**Baton Rouge Magnet High School, Brookstown Middle School, Mayfair Laboratory School, Westdale Heights Academic Magnet** were a part of the **Green Ribbon School Honorees list**. Awardees are announced each spring. The selectees are invited to a fall ceremony in Washington, D.C. where they receive a sustainable plaque; are the subject of media attention; and feel their efforts celebrated. Other schools, in turn, learn about and adopt their practices. States are encouraged to offer additional state recognition titles and events, and to partner with private sector to offer cash prizes, amplifying the impact of their award implementation. The aim of **U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools** is to inspire schools, districts, and institutions of higher education to strive for 21st-century excellence by highlighting promising school sustainability practices and resources that all can employ. To that end, the award recognizes schools, districts, and institutions of higher education to reduce environmental impact and costs; improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; and provide effective environmental and sustainability education.

**Karen Parrino's** Kindergarten class celebrated Earth Day by creating & installing a Bluebird house on their campus at **North Live Elementary** in Watson. Bluebird's habitats are diminishing & they are currently a threatened species.

**West Feliciana Middle School** held "Wetlands Day." Students participated in activities at various stations including an oil spill simulation, water quality testing, alligator eggs, the Basin activity, and more! We are so grateful for our **West Feliciana 4-H office** and **LSU Ag Center** for helping make "Wetlands Day" at WFMS #TheBest! We appreciate all of the 4-H volunteers who assisted and **Sue Brown** from **Teaching Responsible Earth Education (T.R.E.E.)** for the support she gave the West Fel Explorers club in creating the Basin Activity! #wearewestfel #grateful



The **Louisiana Art & Science Museum** presented an "Art, Jazz, & Pizzazz" **STEAM Family Day** on Sunday, May 2, 2021, sponsored by **ExxonMobil Baton Rouge**. This free-access day, presented as part of the "Art, Jazz, & Pizzazz" celebration in downtown Baton Rouge that showcased the best art and music in **East Baton Rouge Parish Public**



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**Schools** (EBRPSS), welcomed 368 educators, students, and their families to LASM. EBRPSS Student Art was displayed at LASM as well as other downtown venue.



**EBRPSS Superintendent Sito Narcisse**, EBRPSS school board members, and EBRPSS administrators recognized Art, Jazz, and Pizzazz partners, including **LASM** and **ExxonMobil**, at the EBRPSS School Board Meeting on May 20. This collaborative partnership illustrates that school systems, nonprofit organizations, and corporate sponsors can accomplish great things together to make a significant impact for children in the community.

The **Louisiana Art & Science Museum** recently finished a spring semester full of virtual learning, impacting thousands of students. Engaging, chemistry-focused virtual field trips, sponsored by **BASF**, were presented to 2,250 fourth-grade students attending **Ascension Parish** and **East Baton Rouge Parish** schools. Interactive, astronomy-focused virtual field trips, sponsored by **Healthy Blue Louisiana** and **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana**, were presented to 520 fifth-grade students attending East Baton Rouge Parish schools most in need of support; by the end of the fall 2021 semester, 1,200 total fifth-graders will have experienced this program.



Please submit news for Region 2 to **Dr. Bianca Deliberto** at [biancadeliberto@gmail.com](mailto:biancadeliberto@gmail.com).

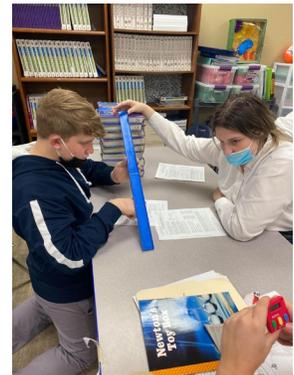
### ✦ Region III ✦

Nicholls State University, under the direction of Aimee Hollander, PhD is offering a FREE secondary science PD using 3D Molecular Models to all Tri-Parish(Lafourche, Terrebonne, and St. Mary Parish) teachers August 2nd-3rd on NSU campus. The specific details and registration will be posted by June 15th on our website: <https://sites.google.com/nicholls.edu/modeling-the-molecular-world/home> Private and Public school 6-12 chemistry and biology teachers are welcomed and upon training teachers will have access to and be able to check out class sets of the models for their classrooms during the school year from our library.



Students in Mrs. Jennifer Breaux's honors biology class at Houma Christian School dissected fetal pigs.

Students in Mrs. Wendy Delgado's honors physical science class at Houma Christian School demonstrated how toys function by using Newton's Laws of Motion.



Please submit news for Region 3 to **Wendy Delgado** at [wendy\\_delgado@houmachristianschool.com](mailto:wendy_delgado@houmachristianschool.com).

### ✦ Region IV ✦

Dr Peter Sheppard and his team will provide a summer teachers PD at UL. Exploring Mathematics, Science, and Diversity Topics through Sharing, Enhancing, and Cross Cutting Activities is a four-day professional development (PD) series geared to middle and high school mathematics and science teachers. The PD is centered on four core components: Empowerment, Networking, Vertical Cross-cuts and Horizontal Cross-Cuts. Participants will receive stipends up to \$500. Participants are also expected to comply with all UL Lafayette COVID-19 safety protocols.

Please submit news for Region 4 to **Annis Barras** at [kabarras@iberia.k12.la.us](mailto:kabarras@iberia.k12.la.us).

✦ **Region V** ✦

First and Second Grade students at Fairview Elementary in Lake Charles learn about animals and the water cycle.



Fairview Elementary School

Second grade is learning about the Water Cycle!



In a collaborative effort, Calcasieu Parish School Board has teamed with McNeese University in the development of the Region 5 STEM Academy. Located at the LCB academy in Lake Charles, the center will serve Allen, Beauregard, Cameron, Calcasieu, Jeff Davis, and Vernon parishes. According to Mark Arseneault, Region 5 STEM Center Director, the center has several important goals, here are a few:

1. Develop, implement, maintain, and promote a seamless and collaborative communication system with other Louisiana STEM Regions so that there is open continuous sharing and development of resources, opportunities, and promising practices, particularly those that span Regions.
2. Create and maintain a comprehensive catalog and asset map of STEM activities and resources within each Region that is shared and promoted.
3. BE the “voice” of and for STEM in all meeting and venues within each Region beliefs about STEM related activities and opportunities.
4. Foster the involvement of businesses in the Region to help advance STEM education and work experiences, in addition to teacher development.

Please submit news for Region 5 to **Vincent Caldwell** at [vincent.cadwell@cpsb.org](mailto:vincent.cadwell@cpsb.org).

✦ **Region VI** ✦

Please submit news for Region 6 to **Heather Warner** at [heather.warner@rpsb.us](mailto:heather.warner@rpsb.us).

✦ **Region VII** ✦

Caddo Magnet High's **Joseph Clary** placed 2nd in the Biomedical Engineering category of the [International Science and Engineering Fair!](#) Clary competed against students from all over the world and from some of the most prestigious schools in the United States. Through his work, he earned an award of \$2000. The title of his research is *Development and Optimization of a 3D Clinostat to Simulate Microgravity*.

The Shreveport Aquarium Announces Shark Week  
July 12 - 18

What's more dangerous than a shark? A lot of things actually. Sink your teeth into fun facts all about sharks during Shark Week in the SHARK-LA-TEX!

Enjoy ongoing family-friendly activities, feedings, games and more. Win a prize on the shark quiz trail, hunt for fossilized shark teeth, observe shark feedings.



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and take some great photos of your shark themed adventure in the shark photo booth.

Plus, join us for our featured events: Zenon the Zebra Shark's 4th Birthday Party and a Shark Party on the Patio!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday - Sunday, all shark week long:

10 a.m. (9 a.m. on Sat): First 50 kids get a Shark Party Pack!

11:30 - 1:30 p.m. Free Sharktastic airbrush tattoos

1 - 2 p.m. Shark activity station

2:30 p.m. Shark feedings

<https://www.shreveportaquarium.com/shark-week>

Sci-Port brings Game Port to Louisiana

**Game-Port Coming Soon!**

June 13-August 29, 2021

Sci-Port Discovery Center's Game Port exhibit will take a look at the evolution of games and digital gaming; from historic board games like *Candy Land*, *Checkers*, and *Backgammon* to classic and newer digital games that can be played with a giant custom-made retro-inspired game controller. The classic early 1970's Pong game has been reimagined into a game called "Port Pong" that will feature an overhead playing "table" where participants will stand in a portal and use their hands as the pong paddles to volley the electric pong "ball" back and forth to each other. Game-Port will also feature a few digital game-inspired Putt-Putt golf greens, a Sci-Port Amusement Gallery featuring some classic pinball games and early video games, a *Mousetrap*-inspired pneumatic chair lift, a giant *Simon Says*, an *Angry Birds*-influenced game, and a special area called "Game Guts" that will feature the inner workings of classic game systems over the last thirty years.



Please submit news for Region 7 to **Stefani Farris** at [Shfarris@caddoschools.org](mailto:Shfarris@caddoschools.org).

✦ **Region VIII** ✦

Chris Campbell and Glenn Larson from UTeachTech participated in the **Rayville Elementary** STEM Day on May 19. Mr. Larson showed the students how to program Giggle Bots while Mr. Campbell demonstrated Bee bots and flew the TELLO drones around the gym. Thank you Missy Wooley for letting us borrow the Bee bots and drones!



This summer teachers in Ouachita Parish will have the opportunity to teach STEM during our summer program for students called SOAR. This class will offer students K-8 a hands-on experience to increase their ability to grasp critical scientific concepts, formulate and test hypotheses, build, construct, and problem-solve, and introduce coding while using multiple technological devices and robots.

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Cathi Cox-Boniol (Lincoln Parish, Retired) was part of the judging team for the national You Be the Chemist Challenge. Sponsored by the Chemical Educational Foundation, the event was completely virtual this year with student teams across the country creating videos that were submitted for review. In addition, she served as a PAEMST Mentor to one of the finalists for the Louisiana Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Cathi has also been named the Interim Director of the STEM Collective for Innovative Louisiana Stakeholders (SCILS), the Region 8 STEM Center housed on the Louisiana Tech University campus as part of the Board of Regents LaSTEM initiative. She will be coordinating the hub's efforts in creating a collaborative STEM ecosystem along the I-20 corridor in order to advance both STEM education and workforce development. Within that work, Cathi made a presentation to the TechBy20 coalition, participated in the STEM Virtual Experience Collaborative, and attended the LaSTEM Council meeting held at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans. After making a brief presentation on behalf of the SCILS project, Cathi joined others in a fascinating tour of the facility as NASA prepares to celebrate its 60th anniversary in New Orleans.

Cathi Cox-Boniol at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility



Please submit news for Region 8 to Garr



## Professional Development Opportunities and Resources

### Louisiana Science Leaders Corner

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

Summer will hopefully provide each of us with an opportunity to catch up on some of the outstanding resources that have been released recently. An outstanding resource are the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine publications where the publications are available for free download from the National Academies Press.

A couple informative suggestions:

#### [Changing Expectations for the K-12 Teacher Workforce](#)

Changing Expectations for the K-12 Teacher Workforce: Policies, Preservice Education, Professional Development, and the Workplace explores the impact of the changing landscape of K-12 education and the potential for expansion of effective models, programs, and practices for teacher education. This report explores factors that contribute to understanding the current teacher workforce, changing expectations for teaching and learning, trends and developments in the teacher labor market, preservice teacher education, and opportunities for learning in the workplace and in-service professional development.

#### [Decoding Science: Lessons from the Leading Edge](#)

How does science know what it knows?  
What if scientific studies disagree?  
Can I use science to make decisions?  
These are tricky questions. Answering them just got easier.

Also available for free download:

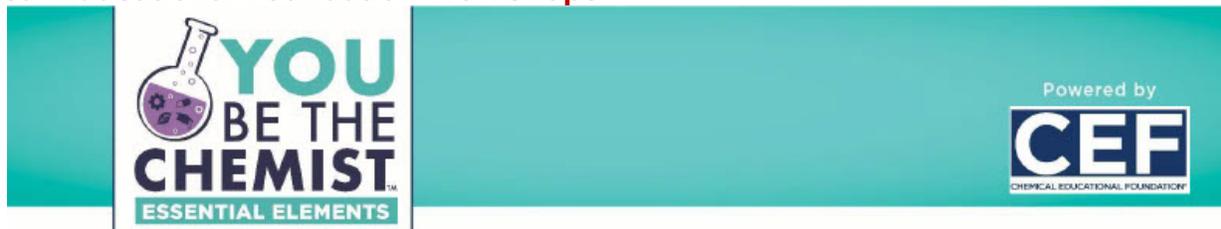
#### [Building Capacity for Teaching Engineering in K-12 Education](#)

#### [Teaching K-12 Science and Engineering During a Crisis](#)

#### [Surrounded by Science](#)

#### [Learning Through Citizen Science](#)

## 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).



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**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

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**LASM**

**Summer Group Experiences Now Available at LASM!**



The Louisiana Art & Science Museum is now offering in-person group experiences, which include guided tours of two galleries (choose between the Solar System Gallery, Ancient Egypt Gallery, and/or Main Art Galleries) and an immersive Irene W. Pennington Planetarium show! These fun and educational experiences are perfect for summer camps, scout groups, clubs, and other educational organizations.

Groups of up to 15 can enjoy this experience; larger groups can be divided into smaller sub-groups. Offered at a discounted rate of \$10 per person, plus one free educator/group leader.

Click here to book your tour: <https://forms.gle/uR19xSS41gstxKnm9>

Email Sheree Westerhaus at [swesterhaus@lasm.org](mailto:swesterhaus@lasm.org) with questions.

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## NEW LIGO Professional Development Opportunity for Teachers, Dillard University Camp for High School Girls, GNO STEM Summer Camps, and More!

[Click here for more information](#)

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## Register Now: Addressing the Wellbeing of Students in the Wake of COVID-19

[Click here for more information.](#)

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## 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](mailto:kswan@need.org) with any questions.

**Tulane Teacher PD Opportunities this Summer - Options for Grades 3-12**



# SUMMER 2021 VIRTUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*STEM Teachers are invited to participate in Tulane's online teacher professional development this summer!! Thanks to the generosity of Shell and The Joe W. and Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation, we are offering one 2-day and one 3-day virtual professional development workshops. Each workshop will be a mix of synchronous and asynchronous sessions and will total 6- 9 hours of time over the 2 or 3 days.*



## JUNE 23-25: INTEGRATING PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE - SCRATCH REFRESHER

*Take your coding skills to the next level as you revisit Scratch, a block-based coding language, and develop engaging projects to take back to your students this fall. The three-day virtual professional development workshop will be a mix of synchronous and asynchronous sessions and will total 9 hours of time. Teachers will receive a \$200 stipend upon completion of the PD.*

## JULY 7-8: INTEGRATING ENGINEERING PRACTICES IN YOUR SCIENCE CURRICULUM - HIGH SCHOOL

*Explore aspects of the engineering design process and its integration in your high school science classroom. The two-day virtual professional development workshop will be a mix of synchronous and asynchronous sessions and will total 6 hours of time. Teachers will receive a \$125 stipend upon completion of the PD.*

## **Apply Now to Become an Ocean Guardian School**

The NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' [Ocean Guardian School](#) program funds projects focused on a current issue(s) affecting local watersheds and/or the ocean while promoting best environmental practices. Through a school- or community-based project, schools work to make a difference in the health and protection of their local watersheds, ocean, and/or special ocean areas like national marine sanctuaries.

Dive into the Marine Debris Program's [Protect Our Ocean Activity Book](#) to learn more about how marine debris can impact national marine sanctuaries. Then head to the Ocean Guardian School program page to explore funding opportunities and eligibility requirements.

**The 2021-2022 application is available now. The deadline to submit an application is July 1, 2021.**

[https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/ocean\\_guardian/application.html?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=GovDelivery](https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/ocean_guardian/application.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=GovDelivery)

## **APPLY NOW to the Tulane Science Scholars Program for Summer 2021!!**

We still have space in our **math, biology, music technology, and materials science courses!** And, we still have **scholarships available for Louisiana students!** [Click here for more information.](#)

## **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>

- Congratulations to the Louisiana Teachers selected as **2020 Shell Urban Science Educator Development Awardees**
- Tiffany Scott, Fifth Grade Science Teacher, Luling Elementary School, Luling, Louisiana
- Nakia Williams, Elementary Science Teacher, Lukeville Elementary School, Brusly, Louisiana



### **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)

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As we wait to receive the names of the Regional 2021 Awardees LSTA Congratulates the 2020 Grand Prize Winners for High School: Tyler Dufrene and Cecelia Gillam, Science Teachers, Hahnville High School, Boutte, Louisiana

[Daily Do Playlists](#) will help K-12 educators plan their lessons based on the best research on how to engage all students in learning science. The Playlists include tailored Google Docs, Slides, and/or Jamboard templates.

Free resources from NSTA including lesson plans, book chapters, and our popular column, Freebies, can be found [here](#).

Resources for Elementary Teachers are [here](#).

Resources for Middle Level teachers are [here](#).

Resources for High School teachers are [here](#).

The [NSTA Calendar](#) features upcoming virtual events, conferences, web seminars, competition deadlines, and more.

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## Free Resources for Teaching How Science Works

Here's what you'll find at [Decoding Science](#):

- A 90-second explainer video on how science works
- Clear answers to challenging questions
- Stories from real-life scientists
- A quiz to test students' learning

It's all vetted by experts and ready to use in your classroom today. [Check it out](#) and forward to a friend!

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## Real World Science Summer Teacher Seminar at the National WWII Museum

This year's Real World Science Summer Teacher Seminar will be open to ANY teacher of 5th-8th grade science, and will be VIRTUAL. From July 12th-16th we will host synchronous events daily, and release asynchronous videos and content in our virtual classroom daily.

Participants will learn how to use the Real World Science curriculum (updated in 2021 with new material) and best practices in science education. Our goal is to make science education equitable and accessible, so that ALL STUDENTS can learn to solve today's problems like STEM professionals did during WWII. We will discuss Physical, Earth, and Life Sciences and Engineering, and learn how to integrate literacy practices and social studies into science investigations with students.

We will have synchronous virtual meetings with members of past cohorts, so you can ask questions about implementation, success stories, and other professional development opportunities. The Real World Science cohorts of 2015-2019 are filled with amazing teachers who would love to share their experiences, and this is a great chance

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for you to add to your Professional Learning Network.

Join the Google Classroom here

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MzU3ODc5OTA5NTA2?cjc=ceymvxj>

And get more information here <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/realworldscience>

## Teacher Work Shops From the Louisiana Department of Energy

JOIN THE LOUISIANA ENERGY OFFICE FOR  
ENERGY FUN WHILE COVERING SOME OF YOUR  
LOUISIANA SCIENCE STANDARDS!

**\*\*VIRTUAL CLASSROOM VISITS ARE AVAILABLE\*\***

TOPICS INCLUDE:

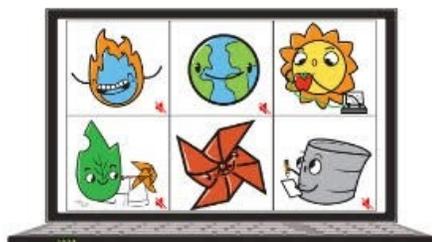
- SAVING ENERGY

- EXPLORING OIL

- COOKING WITH SOLAR

- RENEWABLE AND NONRENEWABLE ENERGY

Sign up at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/VirtualLessonsLA](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VirtualLessonsLA)



**Teacher Workshops  
are being planned for  
Fall 2021!**

These one-day virtual workshops allow teachers to join from all across Louisiana.

What do you receive?

- Hands-on supplies to fully participate in the workshop.
- Louisiana state-aligned curriculum
- Increased energy knowledge
- Energy career activities
- Opportunity to receive a  
NEED Science of Energy Kit

**Join Us! The first workshop is scheduled for  
September 22, 2021.**

**Visit [www.need.org/events](http://www.need.org/events) to register.**



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### 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/>

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### 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>

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### 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

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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](mailto:kelly.e.martin-rivers@nasa.gov) or 228-688-1500  
or Maria Lott at [maria.l.lott@nasa.gov](mailto:maria.l.lott@nasa.gov) or 228-688-1776

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/](http://www.nasa.gov/centers/stennis/)



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## 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>)

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## 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.

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## LADOE 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](https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/assessment-guidance/assessment-development-educator-review-committees.pdf?sfvrsn=3bbe931f_48).

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## 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](http://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](http://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.

## 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](#)

## 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.

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