

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.



August 2022 | Louisiana Science Teachers  
Association

## LSTA Board and Regional Representatives

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### LOUISIANA SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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## President's Message from Pierre LaCaze



Dear LSTA Members,

This month marks a new start to a school year. As we are getting our classes ready and meeting our new students, we are filled with the excitement that a new school year brings. This gives us the opportunity to try new things as we learn and grow with our students.

As you plan your year, you may try to incorporate an awesome project. If so, we urge you to apply for a [QSM Grant](#). This will grant awards up to 2,000 to Louisiana PK-12 public school teachers for purchasing materials for implementing high quality, standards based, math, science, and STEM instruction.

We at LSTA are also looking forward to a great school year. We are planning on having a drive-in conference this spring. This will give us the opportunity to have some quality face to face professional development again.

We also plan on continuing our Coffee Talks. Coffee Talks is an informal professional development series in which we focus on a topic that is relevant in today's science classrooms. Please keep an eye out for emails regarding Coffee Talk times and topics. Remember to check the LSTA Face Book page on a regular basis for information on events, professional development offerings, materials and resources.

We look forward to having a great school year and wish you all the best for the 2022 - 2023 academic year.



Sincerely,

Pierre LaCaze  
LSTA President



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## Complimentary LSTA Membership

LSTA understands how difficult these times are for science educators. We want you to know we are with you by doing our part to provide information about a variety of resources and opportunities 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 December 31, 2022. Please share this offer with colleagues.

[LSTA Complimentary Membership Form](#)

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## QSM Gant Program



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS QSM GRANT PROGRAM

The Quality Science and Math (QSM) Grant Program is now accepting grant applications for the 2022-2023 grant cycle. PK-12 public school teachers who are looking for a way to purchase instructional materials and equipment for their math, science, or STEM class should consider submitting a proposal! QSM Grant proposals will be accepted from **Monday, July 18, 2022**, through **Sunday, September 11, 2022**.

[Learn More about QSM](#)

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to individual Louisiana public school teachers for materials and equipment that will be used to provide quality, innovative, and standards-based instruction in Math, Science, or STEM.

Proposals should focus on implementing a specific project such as a lesson, unit, or module in the classroom, and they must demonstrate how the project will enhance the quality of instruction provided to students.

### QSM GRANT ELIGIBILITY & INFO

- Grants of up to **\$1,000** are awarded to PK4-2nd grade teachers, **\$1,500** to 3rd-5th grade teachers, and **\$2,000** to 6th-12th grade teachers
- Applicants must be full-time classroom teachers assigned to teach math, science, or STEM courses/subjects in a PK-12 public regular education program
- Public charter school and university lab teachers are eligible
- Application Deadline: **Sunday, September 11, 2022 @ 11:59PM**
- To apply, please access the grant portal by going to [lsu.edu/qsm](http://lsu.edu/qsm)

### GRANT WRITING TIPS & RESOURCES

- Watch our [QSM Explained Videos](#) that briefly introduces each component of the application
- Review the [QSM Grant Program Policies](#) for more details about eligibility
- View the application questions and how they are scored by downloading [QSM Grant Components and Scoring Rubric](#)
- For more grant writing tips and resources, please visit [lsu.edu/qsm](http://lsu.edu/qsm)

### CONTACT

Megan Stone, QSM Grant Administrator  
Gordon A. Cain Center for STEM Literacy  
Louisiana State University  
Office: 225-578-4606  
Email: [gsminfo@lsu.edu](mailto:gsminfo@lsu.edu)  
Website: [lsu.edu/qsm](http://lsu.edu/qsm)



## PAEMST



### Call for Nominations

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, and/or mathematics teaching. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of STEM education. Since 1983, more than 5,200 teachers have been recognized for their contributions to STEM education. Up to 108 teachers are recognized each year.

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
- A \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation
- Access to a network of award-winning teachers from across the country

### Who Can Nominate?

Anyone—principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public—may nominate exceptional science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics teachers.

**NOMINATION DEADLINE: January 9, 2023**

### Who Can Apply?

Secondary school science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics teachers (7–12) can apply this year. Elementary school teachers (K–6) will be eligible to apply during a future cycle.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 6, 2023**

**To nominate or apply, visit: [www.paemst.org](http://www.paemst.org)**

The National Science Foundation administers PAEMST on behalf of  
The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

## Regional News

### ✦ Region I ✦



The students at St. Mary's Dominican High School design a Rubber Band Car, present them, race them, and then design a seat belt to safety hold their passenger when confronted with in a crash.

The car must go 1.5 meters with the aid of a rubber band car only. Awards are given out for longest run, smallest car and best design.

It's a fun end of year project that helps demonstrate friction and the Newtons Laws of Motion.

[Tulane University's Center for K-12 STEM Education](#) is closing out on a busy summer! A few of the highlights from our summer have been: facilitating industry and student panels with 142 students in the [Tulane Science Scholar Program \(TSSP\)](#); leading [3 professional development opportunities](#) for area teachers; and providing activities for hundreds of students at a community event at the Kenner Planetarium to celebrate the image release from NASA's James Webb telescope. We are excited to continue on-campus programming for the center after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. These events would not be possible without the Center's sponsors: Shell, The Joe W. and Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation, Capital One, Entergy, and The Bruce J. Heim Foundation.

### [Exploring Coding and Robotics with LEGO Spike Prime and LEGO Spike Prime Essential](#)



On June 22-23 and June 29-30, thirty-seven area teachers were either introduced to, or expanded upon, coding skills using the Spike Prime app and robots during these 2-day professional development opportunities. Teachers collaborated on concepts and effective methodologies for their students. During this paid, on campus training, teachers also learned about free LEGO curriculum and how to start a First LEGO League Explore or Challenge team at their school.

### **[MARK YOUR 2022-2023 CALENDARS:](#)**

**[Boys at Tulane in STEM \(BATS\) on October 1st, 2022 \(Fall\) and March 18th, 2023 \(Spring\)](#)**

**[Girls in STEM at Tulane \(GiST\) on October 29th, 2022 \(Fall\) and April 22nd, 2023 \(Spring\)](#)**



[Tulane's Girls in STEM at Tulane \(GiST\)](#) and [Boys at Tulane in STEM \(BATS\)](#) programs provide **fifth through seventh grade students** with the opportunity to meet and work with undergraduate, graduate, faculty, and professional role models in STEM fields. Workshops developed by faculty and student teams empower students to inquire, investigate, and discover in a positive environment. Our goal is to open the doors wide and welcome young students to careers in STEM fields by encouraging creative thinking, promoting self-esteem, and increasing awareness of the opportunities in STEM that await them. Cost is only \$10 for all day STEM fun that includes lunch and other give aways.

**Teachers of 3rd through 8th grade students can also participate in BATS and GiST!** Thanks to the generosity of [Shell and The Joe W. and Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation](#), we are pleased to be able to offer teachers the chance to participate in 3 unique workshops at each event that **align with the Louisiana Science Standards for FREE!** Participating teachers will get to experience the workshop hands on and discuss how to implement the activities and aligned standards into their classrooms. **Teachers will also receive a \$100 stipend, aligned**

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**curricula ideas, AND supplies to bring the activities back to their school!** Preference is given to teachers from majority free or reduced lunch schools. More information can be found [here](#).

**If you are interested in participating in GiST, BATS, or teacher professional development**, sign-up will open in **August/early September!!** Information about the programs can be found at <http://k12stem.tulane.edu>.

If you would like to bring a group (from a school, girl/boy scout troop, etc.), please email [k12stem@tulane.edu](mailto:k12stem@tulane.edu).

The Greater New Orleans STEM Initiative (GNO STEM) partnered with CWPPRA, Central Creativity, LaSTEM Region I Center, and Fletcher Technical College to bring the Water Marks 360 Caminada Headlands professional development to area teachers on July 7. Participating teachers engaged with online and hands-on activities as they discovered the critical role that barrier islands play in protecting and preserving our coastal ecosystems. Teachers also received a classroom kit supporting hands-on investigations for their students.



Teachers engaging in hands-on activities at GNO STEM's Caminada Headlands PD session.

The GNO STEM Initiative partnered with Shell and Xavier University to host the annual NOLA Back 2 School Fest backpack and school supply giveaway on Saturday, July 30, at Xavier University. Over 3,400 students registered to receive backpacks filled with necessary school supplies. Hundreds of volunteers from organizations such as Son of a Saint, 100 Black Men of America, Xavier University, and the New Orleans Pelicans assisted in stuffing and handing out backpacks to New Orleans children.



Middle and high school teachers attended a week-long professional development institute hosted by GNO STEM and the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) in Livingston, LA. Teachers learned about Light and LASERS (L), how waves interfering with each other convey information (I), how gravity rules the universe (G), and how the two LIGO observatories use hundreds of scientists and technicians of all backgrounds to figure out what the universe is trying to tell us (O). Teachers engaged in hands-on activities and received a LIGO materials kit for their classrooms.

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Teachers engaging in activities at the GNO STEM/LIGO professional development institute.

GNO STEM hosted 5 unique week-long STEM camps for local students. Participants engaged in hands-on activities to include a variety of topics such as wind energy, circuitry, robotics, coding, and 3-D design.



Students at GNO STEM's summer STEM camps.

Region I Representative Cecelia Gillam blows everyone away with her panel discussion on Personalized Learning: Practices that PowerUp Engagement for all Students! She represented Hahnville High School and St. Charles Parish Public Schools beautifully at PowerSchool's CEISummit in San Diego! Proud of you, Cecelia! Cecelia was hand selected by Chief Product Officer of PowerSchool Marcy Daniel.

The CEI Summit is the educational event of the year for K-12 superintendents and their informational technology leadership teams interested in examining industry trends and influencing change in K-12.

Through **sessions, roundtable conversations and networking activities**, centered on the most relevant and critical issues in education, this experience allows these hand-selected participants to share their vision, plans, and best practices for the 2022/2023 school year and beyond.



Featured keynotes and breakout sessions based on:

- High Quality, Tiered Instruction
- Whole Child Supports
- Exceptional Workforce
- Organizational Excellence & Efficiency
- Life, College, and Career Preparation

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

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✦ Region II ✦

LSU, Code.org® Partner to Advance K–12 Computer Science Education in Louisiana

Continuing their commitment to excellence in science, technology, engineering, and math education, the [LSU Gordon A. Cain Center](#) announced its selection as a Code.org® regional partner. Code.org is a nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to computer science in schools and increasing participation by young women and underrepresented groups. The LSU Cain Center partnered with the [Capital Area STEM Network Center \(LaSTEM Region 2\)](#) to begin [Code.org](#). For more information on 2022-23 Code.org training opportunities: Rose Kendrick [code-org@lsu.edu](mailto:code-org@lsu.edu)

Mini Maker Faire EBR Parish Main Library @ Goodwood

Visit the Main Library at Goodwood for a gathering of fascinating, curious people who enjoy learning and who love sharing what they do. From engineers to artists to scientists to crafters, [Maker Faire](#) is a venue for “makers” to demonstrate hobbies, experiments, projects, and more at a family-friendly showcase of invention, creativity, and resourcefulness. Glimpse the future, get inspired! OCT 15

You Be the Chemist: Look for information on this middle school student competition to the coming from the LaSTEM Region 2 office soon. [You Be the Chemist, Chemistry Challenge](#) Grades 6–8

VISTA to exhibit at Louisiana Art & Science Museum ([www.LASM.org](http://www.LASM.org)) through July 31, 2023. The Visual Integration of Science Through Art (VISTA) Center at Louisiana Tech University engages students in art, science, and engineering to use their knowledge and skills to create informative and impactful illustrations related to health. Over the past seven years, the Center has worked with hundreds of students to create illustrations for academic programs, research faculty, student services, and community partners. Students have also illustrated six interactive children’s books and participated in community outreach where they shared their experiences and taught children the value and impact of visual communication. This year-long exhibit at the Louisiana Art & Science Museum in Baton Rouge will showcase the work of 25 students and engage the audience in understanding the impact of illustrations on health sciences and medicine. SCILS encourages you to visit this museum during your next trip to Baton Rouge. For more information on the museum, hours, and virtual tour of exhibits visit [lasm.org](http://lasm.org). For more information on VISTA, contact: Penny Humphries Director of Development, College of Applied and Natural Sciences [penny@latechalumni.org](mailto:penny@latechalumni.org) / 318.245.2013

LIGO (Light Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) Science Education Center in Livingston held two teacher workshops during the summer. Louisiana STEM Teacher Workshop on Light, Color, Sound and Waves targeted middle school science teachers and the greater New Orleans STEM Teacher Workshop for teachers of grades 6-12. Teachers who attended will have priority booking for student field experiences to the center this coming academic year. LIGO’s interactive displays are designed to teach and motivate both teacher and student. <https://www.ligo.caltech.edu/LA/page/Educators>

Please submit news for Region 2 to Tricia Trinco at [tricia.trinco@stpsb.org](mailto:tricia.trinco@stpsb.org).

✦ Region III ✦

Nicholls State molecular modeling library will be ready for check out this fall. Teachers can check out classroom model sets of various 3-dimensional models and activities from the NSU library for free. Models are great for teaching biological and chemistry concepts. If you are interested in learning how to use the models in your classroom we can come to your school and provide professional development.

To see the models and find out how to check them out go here: <https://nicholls.libguides.com/MolecularModels/home>

If you have questions or want to request professional development email Aimee Hollander [aimee.hollander@nicholls.edu](mailto:aimee.hollander@nicholls.edu)



The Nicholls Chemistry Roadshow, led by Dr. Chad Young, traveled to local Houma libraries and presented various science experiments throughout the summer to children throughout the parish.



L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College students gave a presentation of a skid manifold to campers attending the Shell Energy Camp in June

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

✦ **Region IV** ✦

As part of the STEMulating Summer 2.0 Initiative, students from Region 4 participated in several camps throughout the months of June and July.

**STEM in Motion Camp** (Region 4 STEM Network Center and UL College of Education)

Middle school students engaged in FUNdamental physics, mathematics, and engineering. Activities included creating roller coasters, catapults, parachutes, launching rockets, and creating Rube Goldberg machines.

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**Shell Energy Venture "Pilot" Camp** (Region 4 STEM Network Center and Lafayette Parish) The Shell Energy Venture Camp was a week-long camp for middle school students and featured renewable energy-based activities sponsored by Shell Oil Company.



**Environmental Deep Dive Camp** (Region 4 STEM Network Center, UL College of Education, The Climate Initiative, Caminada Headlands-Watermarks360 Tour, and RoboNation)

The Environmental Deep Dive Camp was a four-day camp experience connecting middle school students to topics like underwater robotics, climate change, coastal ecology, and virtual reality.

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**NASA Astro Camp** (Region 4 STEM Network Center, Lafayette Parish School System, Iberia Parish School System)

The NASA Astro camp was a week-long camp for elementary students. Activities offered real-world opportunities for students to join in and contribute to NASA science missions and enhanced scientific understanding while inspiring lifelong learners and explorers.



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

✦ Region V ✦

A lot of great camps and trainings were held in Region 5 over the summer!



St. Margaret Catholic School hosted a Science and Energy Summer Camp for students in grades 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> in July. Not only did the students have fun while learning, one amazing thing about this camp was that it was led by high school students!



Camps held through the LaSTEM Region 5 program included Energy Venture Camp, NASA Astro Camp, Camp Beyond, Football Agility and Sports STEM Camp, VRC Robotics Camp, Allen Parish STEM Camp, and SeaPerch Underwater Robotics Camp. The students and teachers, alike, seemed to be very excited and engaged, while furthering their learning and passion for STEM all summer long. Be sure to keep a look out for information for next summer's camps, as well as training available for teachers.

Calcasieu Parish was able to purchase 400 3-D printers through federal and title funds, allowing schools throughout the district with equal opportunities to have this technology in classrooms to enhance student learning and engagement on a broader scale.

Please submit news for Region 5 to **Cammie Benoit** at [cammie\\_benoit@camsch.org](mailto:cammie_benoit@camsch.org).

✦ Region VI ✦

Kenya Robinson, a teacher at Alexandria Middle Magnet School, received a QSM Grant last school year for a weather station. She recently introduced her new seventh graders to the weather station. The station measures temperature, wind speed, wind direction, humidity, and barometric pressure. This weather station will be placed in a nearby field to continually collect weather measurements.

She intends for her students to monitor weather and eventually predict weather patterns based upon barometric pressure. The mobile station will also be used to measure the differences between temperature in a natural area opposed to a paved area. This will help determine how cityscapes can help determine the temperature in an area. Students will then make connections between population growth and weather conditions.

If you have an idea for a standards-based project you would like to see come to life, please consider applying for a QSM Grant at <https://www.lsu.edu/caincenter/programs/qsm.php>



Please submit news for Region 6 to **Dr. Ladale Bernard** at [ladale.bernard@rpsb.us](mailto:ladale.bernard@rpsb.us).

✦ Region VII ✦

My name is Rosie Cash-Loftis. I'm currently the STEM Lab/ Robotics instructor at University Elementary School in Caddo Parish. After leaving my former profession of being a nurse, I was led to enter the field of education to use my gifts to empower young children. I have been a part of the Caddo District for over 15 years after receiving my Masters of Art in Teaching in 2008. I currently serve on the Caddo's Science Task Force Team and am the (3rd-5th) Science Site Based Teacher Leader for my campus.

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As an educator, I believe in sharing my talents by opening my door for peer-observation, model lessons, mentoring teachers, co-teaching, and assisting novice and veteran teachers with securing materials, resources, and innovative ideas to support science instruction. As a fellow Louisiana Environmental Fellow, I developed an outdoor learning experience that would help our students and teachers in Louisiana better understand and appreciate our unique diversity of natural communities.

I'm constantly building partnerships with families and community members to provide and participate in initiatives such as STEM Family Night, Robotics competitions (of which I'm the coach), and collecting school supplies for students in need. I have been awarded several grants by the community to assist with providing authentic learning experiences for all students. I was recently awarded the simple science grant from LSU Health Shreveport Office of Diversity Affairs and the AEP Teacher Vision grant.

It is my honor to be chosen as one of the 2022 Louisiana Science Teachers Association's "Science Teacher of the Year". I hope to continue to spread my love of science and promote the value of science instruction in elementary schools and I would love to hear from Region 7 teachers interested in sharing what they are doing with their students this year and from our community partners like Sci-Port, the Shreveport Aquarium, etc.

Please submit news for Region 7 to **Rosie Cash-Loftis** at [rbcash@caddoschools.org](mailto:rbcash@caddoschools.org)

✦ **Region VIII** ✦

**Cathi Cox-Boniol** (Region 8 LaSTEM Center, Louisiana Tech University) and **Missy Wooley** (Lincoln Parish STEM Center) facilitated OpenSciEd Professional Development for Iberia, Lafourche, Ouachita, West Carroll and Madison Parish teachers over six weeks of training through the spring and summer. Through the Region 8 LaSTEM Center, Cathi supported the Women in Aviation event at Louisiana Tech, Girl Scout STEM Workshop, Little People Big Minds Workshop and created and handed out special STEM kits built around the popular children's book "James and the Giant Peach" for the Louisiana Peach Festival. Cathi joined Missy in facilitating Camp Invention while Missy hosted STEM camps that included Fairytale STEM, All About Boats, Super Supports and Girls Who Code. Cathi was featured on the 1894 Podcast discussion the LaSTEM effort and also made a presentation to the North Louisiana Superintendents meeting as well as the Louisiana Teacher Leader Summit. Cathi hosted a meeting of the new SCILS STEM (Stand Together Empower Many) Leaders group and presented the Project CASE (Collaborating Around STEM Engagement) program in collaboration with **Dr. Bill Deese** (Louisiana Tech University Department of Chemistry). Both Cathi and Bill co-authored a poster about the program that was presented at the Biennial Conference on Chemical Education at Purdue University and Cathi hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SCILS Mini Summit on the Louisiana Tech campus. **Dr. Claire Shepard** (Louisiana Delta Community College) facilitated an inaugural CSI Camp that welcomed students from throughout the delta region. **Dr. Galen Turner** (Louisiana Tech University Department of Mathematics and Statistics) hosted facilitated professional development for regional math teachers while Cathi judged Tech's First-Year Design Projects. **Chris Campbell** (Louisiana Tech University UTeach Tech) facilitated a series of summer STEM camps for the College of Education that included projectiles, materials science, sound and coding. Chris also facilitated the AEOP (Army Educational Outreach Program) Summer Apprenticeship Program for high school students at Louisiana Tech. **Amy Cady** (West Carroll Parish Schools) facilitated the district's first Cyber Literacy summer course with a total of 32 students completed the course while earning a full Carnegie unit in Cyber Literacy 1 and 31 of the 32 successfully earning the CompTIA ITF+ (Information Technology Fundamentals) certification,



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Giving Out Free STEM Kits at the Louisiana Peach Festival



Presenting at  
Leader Summit with  
Miss Louisiana Teen  
Volunteer



SCILS STEM Leaders



OpenSciEd Professional Development in for Ouachita, Madison, and West Carroll Parish teachers



All About Boats STEM Camp



Material Science STEM Camp



Super Supports Camp

Please submit news for Region 8 to **Marci Bryant** at [marcibryant@opsb.net](mailto:marcibryant@opsb.net).

## Professional Development Opportunities and Resources

### Louisiana Association of 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).

#### Relating Research to Practice

This is an NSF funded project to provide access to and awareness of the developing body of knowledge relevant to STEM educators in both formal and informal settings. A new website contains hundreds of short research briefs, each on summarizing a current peer-reviewed research article that can be searched by keyword or theme.

<https://rr2p.org/>

#### Apply to Your State for ED-GRS in 2022–23

Now is a great time to begin preparing for the 2022–23 application cycle by using the resources on [Green Strides](#) and by contacting your state education authority. Review [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for all three award categories. Interested schools and districts may contact state coordinator Michelle Lewis [michelle.lewis@la.gov](mailto:michelle.lewis@la.gov). State education authorities can find award implementation [guidance](#) on ED's website and may email [U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools](#) for more information.

#### Classroom-Ready Science Resources shared by the Exploratorium

From quick, eye-catching videos to in-depth science investigations, get everything you need to spark student delight, curiosity and engagement this coming school year.

[Learning Toolbox](#) - Get a curated list of activities, demos, blog posts and more that you can use virtually or in-person.

[Science Snacks](#) - Explore hundreds of teacher-tested science activities, including step-by-step instructions and a clear explanation of what's going on. (*Hint: click into any Science Snack to navigate the whole collection by standards and grade-level tags.*)

[Watch and Do Science](#) - Bring science inquiry into your K-5 classroom with six in-depth investigations, complete with videos, downloadable slides, and connections to ELA and math.

[Tinkering Projects](#) - From chain reactions to scribbling machines, discover STEAM-oriented activities and inspiration from artists, makers and tinkerers around the world.

[Resources in Spanish](#) - Get science activities, videos, and explorations all offered in Spanish.

[NGSS Planning Tools](#) - Learn how to modify a single activity to foreground phenomena, or select multiple activities that offer key pieces of content, leading students to make their own connections.

### Children & Nature Network Vitamin N Challenge

The Vitamin N Challenge was inspired by Richard Louv's book on Vitamin N that includes 500 practical ideas to leading a nature-rich life. Join the challenge to help youth on summer break spend time outdoors.

NASA Citizen Science Projects: Calling learners of all ages to engage with NASA science!

Want to work on some real NASA science? NASA's citizen science projects are collaborations between scientists and interested members of the public. Through these collaborations, volunteers (known as citizen scientists) have helped make thousands of important scientific discoveries. There are more than 25 ongoing projects that need your help! NASA citizen science projects are open to everyone around the world, not limited to U.S. citizens or residents. Find a project!

[https://science.nasa.gov/citizenscience?fbclid=IwAR0nLySqaKaZHha78lbE6Z8PnOAaCxArQIKVNxnYykRUO5Hy9f2AIWwZ\\_7Y](https://science.nasa.gov/citizenscience?fbclid=IwAR0nLySqaKaZHha78lbE6Z8PnOAaCxArQIKVNxnYykRUO5Hy9f2AIWwZ_7Y)

**Kenner Planetarium**



Louis J. Roussel, Jr. Laser Planetarium

**Join Us For An  
Experience That's  
OUT OF THIS WORLD!**

SEPTEMBER 2022

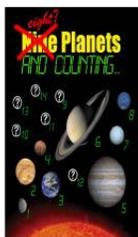


**One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure**

Join Big Bird, Elmo, and their friend from China, Hu Hu Zhu as they locate the Big Dipper, the North Star, and the Moon in the night sky. Take an imaginary trip to the moon and discover how different it is from Earth. Audiences will see that even though friends may live in different countries, we all share the same sky!



Running time: 27 minutes



**Nine Planets and Counting**

How many planets are there in our solar system? Nine, right? Or is it eight? Maybe it's ten, or twelve, or more. Take a tour to explore the variety of objects that populate our solar system. Examine each planet individually and then step back to look at the big picture. Just what is a planet, anyway? The answer may surprise you.

Running time: 35 minutes

**Dream to Fly**

Since the beginning of history, people have dreamed of flying. Open your hearts to new ideas about flight, and learn how generations of dreamers pursued the ancient impulse that has taken us from the ground to the stars.



Running time: 35 minutes



**Perfect Little Planet**

A family from another star system searches our solar system for the perfect vacation spot. Dad wants peace and quiet, Mom wants pretty moons. Visit all the planets and enjoy exotic locales in the vacation trip of a lifetime! Which destination would you choose, and where will our family of aliens end up?

Running time: 35 minutes



**LASER BEATLES**

Be a part of Beatlemania as the group's most popular hits are brought to life through a dazzling laser light display! TWIST and SHOUT to your favorite tunes and remember the hits of YESTERDAY... among many others!



Running time: 30 minutes

<b>Admission:</b>		<b>Schedule:</b>	
E-mail <a href="mailto:hglorioso@kenner.la.us">hglorioso@kenner.la.us</a> or call 504-468-7231 for information and group rates.		<b>Appointment Only:</b> Tues-Fri Schools/Camps/Groups Call 504-468-7231 for reservations.	
Adults \$6.00 per show		<b>General Public:</b> Saturdays Only Box Office opens at 10:45 am	
Children/Seniors \$5.00 per show		<b>One World, One Sky:</b> 11:00 am	
Multi-show packages available		<b>Nine Planets and Counting:</b> 12:00 pm	
*Children 2-12 years		<b>Dream to Fly:</b> 1:00 pm	
*Seniors 60 and over		<b>Perfect Little Planet:</b> 2:00 pm	
SHOW SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!		<b>Laser Beatles:</b> 3:00 pm	

Kenner Planetarium 2020 Fourth Street Kenner, Louisiana 70062  
www.kenner.la.us 504-468-7231

## Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge



## SHELL SCIENCE LAB REGIONAL CHALLENGE

## A PROGRAM OF NSTA

## SELECTION PROCEDURE

The Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge Judging Panel will review applications (due February 17, 2023) and select up to 72 regional finalists (2 in each grade band of regions listed above). Regional finalists will be asked to provide additional responses, including a 3-5 minute video (due March 3, 2023) that displays the school's current science classroom or lab facilities and provides further explanation of how winning equipment/resources would make a difference in the applicant's science teaching, and in the learning experiences for students. The Judging Panel will review the regional finalist submissions and select 36 regional winners, and will select Grand Prize winners from the pool of regional winners, for year 2 recognition.

## CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

Demonstrate:

- ★ Innovative science inquiry in the classroom with limited laboratory equipment, materials, and resources
- ★ Impact and engagement with students and community
- ★ Need for additional professional development and science materials
- ★ Use of three-dimensional learning, NGSS, state and/or national standards
- ★ Use of safety practices (<http://www.nsta.org/about/positions/liability.aspx>)
- ★ Agree to provide pre and post impact assessment of students performance, professional development at NSTA conferences, and Carolina Biological materials used, and Smithsonian curriculum at the K-8 levels

## AWARD SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- ★ A narrative describing the applicant's science classroom instructional practices and innovative use of limited laboratory equipment and resources (see Requirements for Narrative)
- ★ A letter of support signed and on school letterhead from the principal or other education supervisor who can describe the merit of the applicant's work and validate, attest to, for support statements made in the application narrative (upto 2 pages)
- ★ Resume or vita—with overview of teaching experience, education, community involvement, and previous awards/recognition;
- ★ A narrative describing applicant's science laboratory instructional practices and innovative use of limited laboratory equipment and resources must include (characters are individual letters or spaces in a document):

## REQUIREMENTS FOR NARRATIVE

**Science Instructional Strategies** (one paragraph, 1000 character count including spaces)

Explain:

- ★ your science teaching philosophy
- ★ strategies currently utilizing to teach science

**Current and Desired Lab Resources** (1 page maximum; 2700 characters including spaces)

Explain:

- ★ your current lab facilities, equipment, and/or resources
- ★ why laboratory upgrade support is needed
- ★ how a lab upgrade would impact your teaching, and your students' content knowledge.

**Laboratory Activity** (1 page maximum; 2700 characters including spaces)

Describe:

- ★ an innovative, replicable lab/science class activity that you have implemented using limited school lab resources with impact assessments
  - Purpose and outcome with materials needed to implement lesson
  - List any standards used (i.e. three-dimensional learning, NGSS, state and/or national standards)
  - List of safety challenges and how you address them. ([www.nsta.org/about/positions/safety.aspx](http://www.nsta.org/about/positions/safety.aspx))

Completed applications must be received by February 17, 2023. Use the on-line submission form at [www.nsta.org/shellsciencelab/regional.aspx](http://www.nsta.org/shellsciencelab/regional.aspx) to complete your application. Questions send e-mail to [shellsciencelab@nsta.org](mailto:shellsciencelab@nsta.org).





## nsta Competitions

### SHELL SCIENCE LAB REGIONAL CHALLENGE A PROGRAM OF NSTA

#### CHALLENGE SUMMARY

Shell and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) have partnered to recognize outstanding elementary, middle, and high school programs for their exemplary approaches to science lab instruction utilizing limited school and laboratory resources. The Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge will showcase the work of teachers, representing their schools, who submit innovative, replicable strategies to deliver quality lab experiences with limited equipment/resources. This program will award teachers/schools with additional tools, resources, and rich professional development opportunities needed to support high-quality science teaching and strengthen their existing capabilities.

#### AWARD

- ★ One elementary and one Middle School from each asset will each receive a lab makeover with professional development support package\* valued up to \$10,000\*\*.
  - ★ One High School from each asset will receive a lab makeover with professional development support package\* valued up to \$15,000.
  - ★ Prizes include lab equipment from Carolina Biological Supply Company (\$5k for elementary/middle; \$10k for high schools), NSTA STEM Forum on science education, NSTA membership, NSTA Shell Educator Cohort.
  - ★ A grand prize school will be selected for each grade band, the winning school's principal and teacher will receive an additional prize package to attend NSTA's national conference on science education.
  - ★ The Grand Prize Winners and their principals will be honored at the Shell Reception at NSTA's National Conference on Science Education, during the second year.
- \*\*Each elementary and middle school will be required to order the Smithsonian kits as part of their support package.  
\*Professional development includes the Smithsonian Institution; Carolina Biological; and the NSTA Shell Educator Cohort.

#### ELIGIBILITY

- ★ Applicants will be individual teachers of science in grades k-12, representing their schools in the following targeted areas near Shell assets:
  - Carson, CA (LAUSDs in Carson, Mormon Island, Van Nuys, Colton, Long Beach, Wilmington)
  - Port Allen, LA (West Baton Rouge Parish)
  - Geismar, LA (Ascension Parish, East Baton Rouge Parish, City of Zachary SD, City of Central SD, City of Baker SD)
  - Norco, LA (St. Charles Parish, St. John Parish)
  - New Orleans, LA (Jefferson Parish, Orleans Parish, Terrebonne Parish, LaFourche Parish, Iberville Parish, St. Tammany Parish, St. Bernard Parish)
  - Monaca, PA (Cen. Valley, Aliquippa, W.Beaver, Beaver, Rochester, N. Brighton, Riverside, Beaver Falls, Blackhawk)
  - Deer Park, TX (Deer Park ISD, Pasadena ISD, LaPorte ISD)
  - Kermit, TX (Kermit ISD, Midland ISD, Pecos-Barstow-Toyah ISD, Wink-Loving ISD)
  - Houston, TX (Region 4 Education Service Center)
- ★ Each teacher is limited to one application per year
- ★ Schools may submit an unlimited number science teachers of applications annually, and each school is limited to winning two prize packages in total

#### Key

SD = school district  
ISD = independent school district  
USD = unified school district



**LSTA Congratulates  
Louisiana's 2022 Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge Regional Winners**

**Geismar Asset**

Elementary Level:

Rebecca Gerdes (co-teacher Karen Kneht)  
Northwestern Elementary School  
Zachary, LA

Middle Level:

Savannah Jones (co-teacher Dawn Perret)  
Sherwood Middle Academic Magnet School  
Baton Rouge, LA

High School Level:

Renita Atrial Whitaker  
Plaquemine High School  
Plaquemine, LA

**New Orleans Asset**

Elementary Level:

Meagan Chauvin  
Raceland Upper Elementary  
Raceland, LA

Middle Level:

Samantha Kreuscher (co-teacher Yann Colin)  
Lycée Français de la Nouvelle-Orléans Middle School  
Slidell, LA

High School Level:

Tiffany Booth  
Eleanor McMain High School  
New Orleans, LA

**Norco Asset**

Elementary Level:

Tiffany Scott  
Luling Elementary School  
Luling, LA

Middle Level:

Christie Williams  
Albert Cammon Middle School  
St. Rose, LA

High School Level:

Cecelia Gillam  
Hahnville High School  
Boutte, LA

**Port Allen Asset**

Elementary Level:

Morgan Decuir  
Caneview K-8 School  
Port Allen, LA

Middle Level:

Samantha Mendenhall\*  
Port Allen Middle School  
Port Allen, LA

High School Level:

Jennifer Bollich  
STEM Magnet Academy of Pointe Coupee  
Morganza, LA

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**Science Teacher Leader Advisor Applications**

**Coming soon: Science Teacher Leader Advisor Application Re-opening**

The Louisiana Department of Education's science content team is seeking high school science teachers to join our 2022-2023 [Teacher Leader Advisor](#) cohort. Teachers of all high school science courses are needed to develop resources for use by Louisiana educators. Additional information and an updated application will appear on the Department's Teacher Leader [Teacher Leader Newsletter](#) page by August 23rd and will close on September 16th. Sign up to receive the newsletter by completing this [form](#).

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

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### GNOSEF Teacher Workshop

To kick off the year, teachers are invited and strongly encouraged to attend the annual GNOSEF Teacher Workshop at the [STEM Library Lab](#). We will be hosting a session **Saturday, October 15th from 9-11am**. Teachers are welcome to attend one or both workshops. Priority is given to teachers from Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard Parishes.

In order to ensure that you will have a spot in the PD, we are requiring a **\$25 deposit fee**. If attending both workshops, teachers only need to submit one deposit.

#### Stipends:

- **October 15th** – Each teacher will receive a **\$50 stipend** upon completion of the 2-hour workshop.

In order to **receive the stipend and the refund of the deposit**, teachers must be present for the **full time of the workshop. for which they register**

Presentations by experienced teachers will address finding opportunities and overcoming obstacles while providing important information needed to participate in the GNOSEF.

The **October 15th workshop** will focus more on the paperwork needed for each participant. Teachers will practice filling out sample ISEF forms including the research plan.

Attendees will be awarded a certificate after the training session, which can be submitted to their school district for requesting CLU (Continuing Learning Unit) credits. There will also be brief presentations on the timeline for participating in the GNOSEF and an overview of the more than \$60,000 in awards, prizes, and grants for students, teachers and schools.

If you are interested, **please sign up here:** <https://gnosef.tulane.edu/educators-and-students/teacher-workshop/>

Please email [gnosef@tulane.edu](mailto:gnosef@tulane.edu) with any questions!

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### Louisiana Art and Science Museum

#### LASM 360

Is all of this rainy weather keeping you indoors? You can still visit the Louisiana Art & Science Museum right from your couch! Check out [LASM 360](#), the first **immersive virtual museum and planetarium experience** of its kind.

**Experience LASM virtually** using your computer, phone, tablet, or VR headset! Winner of *225 Magazine's Best of 225 Award* for "Best Virtual Event or Experience," [LASM 360](#) allows you to explore our 75,000 square foot building, tour our galleries and view objects in stunning high resolution, watch a show in our Irene W. Pennington Planetarium, and so much more.

**Field trips and group tours** are in full swing at the Louisiana Art & Science Museum!

Groups can now book an Irene W. Pennington [Planetarium show](#) plus tours of two galleries:

- [Solar System Gallery](#)
- [Ancient Egypt Gallery](#)
- Main Art Galleries ([Iridescence](#) and [Our Louisiana](#))

If you are interested in booking a tour, **contact Education Liaison, Knick Moore**, at [reservations@lasm.org](mailto:reservations@lasm.org).

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### Louisiana Envirothon



*Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year!*

*We know you are all excited to get this new school year underway. As you start planning your year, we wanted to make sure the 2023 Envirothon Competition date was on your calendar. As you know, Envirothon is a fun way for students to gain a desire to learn more about the natural environment and stewardship of natural resources via a competition with teams throughout the state.*

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### Learning Blade®

Learning Blade®, a STEM, Computer Science, and CTE resource is available **FREE** statewide in Louisiana through a joint venture of the Louisiana Board of Regents, LaSTEM, the Boeing Company, the Louisiana Dept. of Education and the Foundation for East Baton Rouge School System.

Learning Blade's over 400 online interactive lessons include **over 100 science-related** lessons that are aligned to state science academic standards for grades 5-9. Students are exposed to hundreds of unique STEM/CS/CTE-related careers and technologies while reviewing academics. [See Mission Outlines.](#)

Learning Blade also recently added the **New Introduction to Coding** course which includes over 20 hours of coursework aimed at 7th-8th graders but can also be used for other grade levels.

Sign up for your free Louisiana Learning Blade account today by filling out the form at [www.LearningBlade.com/LA](http://www.LearningBlade.com/LA).\*

Email us at [info@learningblade.com](mailto:info@learningblade.com) to set up training or to learn more.

\*Note: Learning Blade is free to all Parishes/Districts upon the signing at the Parish/District level of the [Student Data Sharing Agreement](#).

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## Audubon Zoo

This school year is rapidly approaching and Audubon Nature Institute's School Programs team would love to give your students a **wild** start to the year with our 45-minute programs featuring live animals from the Zoo. [Click here](#) to request your virtual school program, FREE for Title One Schools, today!

Audubon's virtual programs are highly interactive and connect your students to nature and science over Zoom. Our lessons are aligned with Louisiana state science standards for grades K through 12<sup>th</sup> and are offered Monday through Friday from 9:00am – 3:00pm. We have availability starting August 29<sup>th</sup>. Reservations will be made on a first-come and first-served basis, so don't delay in securing this fun and unique opportunity to enrich your curriculum!

Audubon's virtual school programs are free for all Louisiana Title 1 schools\*, while Title 1 Targeted Assistance Programs receive a 10% discount from the \$100 per program rate. (\*Limit one free program per classroom per school year.)

Audubon's Virtual School Program themes include:

- **K-2<sup>nd</sup> Creature Coverings:** Explore the world of animal coverings, coats, skins, and more!
- **3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Oh, the Things They Eat:** Learn about the different roles animals play in a food chain!
- **6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Bayou Diversity:** Discover the rich ecosystem of Louisiana and learn about the interdependence of native plants, animals, and humans!
- **9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Mississippi River Story:** Learn how the Mississippi River shapes the land and the impacts it has on our ecosystem and daily lives.
- **9<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> Impacting Wetlands:** Learn how wetland ecosystems impact coastal communities and discover local conservation groups and their efforts.

You can find more information at <https://audubonnatureinstitute.org/virtual-education> or feel free to reach out directly to this email ([schoolprograms@auduboninstitute.org](mailto:schoolprograms@auduboninstitute.org)).

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## PLTW Grants

PLTW grants are posted on [Available PLTW Grants](#). We are proud to support all new PLTW programs in LA with **two years** of funding for PD and participation.

Contact in Louisiana: [Mary Arrasmith <marrasmith@pltw.org](mailto:Mary Arrasmith <marrasmith@pltw.org)

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## NASA TechRise Student Challenge

The [NASA TechRise Student Challenge](#) is an opportunity for science and STEM students in grades 6-12 to develop an experiment for testing in a high altitude balloon competition. School teams will submit their designs by October 24. 60 teams will then be selected on January 12. Selected teams will be awarded \$1,500 and supplies to build their experiment.

Please contact [support@futureengineers.org](mailto:support@futureengineers.org) with questions.



**Arctic Ocean Curriculum Unit**

The Arctic Research Consortium of the U.S. (ARCUS) announces a new resource, a curriculum unit focused on the Arctic Ocean.

The Arctic Ocean Curriculum Unit was created by ARCUS with funding from the North Pacific Research Board. The unit updates lessons originally created by PolarTREC alumni teachers to create a unit that uses recent data, aligns with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), polar, and ocean literacy principles, and encourages cultural relevancy. The format used lends itself to the changes in education - providing student-facing slide decks that allow them to move through the lessons with more independence.

The unit traces the movement of energy throughout the Arctic Ocean environment. There is a total of 18 lessons broken into two main components. The entire unit can be downloaded through the resources section of the PolarTREC website (<https://www.polar trec.com/resources>).

For more information and to download the unit, go to: Arctic Ocean Curriculum Unit webpage: <https://www.polar trec.com/resources/lesson/the-arctic-ocean-curriculum-unit?amp%3Bqid=6854120>

For questions, contact: Janet Warburton, [warburton@arcus.org](mailto:warburton@arcus.org)

**Unique Learning Opportunities Await You at Cane River Creole NHP**

Cane River Creole National Historical Park is proud to partner with teachers and educators to provide curriculum-based, hands-on Science, Arts, Environmental Science, and History education experiences in the park, virtually, and in your classrooms. We are excited to connect both educators and learners with the unique resources of the Cane River area. Bring your class to visit Cane River Creole National Historical Park to explore a range of subjects including science, history, and the arts on one of our curriculum-based field trips. For schools nearby, Rangers will bring the park to your classroom through our In-Classroom Visit Programs. These programs include a wide range of topics such as Environmental Science and Reading, all building on curriculum standards. For schools further away, educators can schedule a program from anywhere in the world via a Distance Learning Program. Enhance your student's in the classroom learning with our lesson plans and other learning materials available to you online at [www.nps.gov/cari/learn/education](http://www.nps.gov/cari/learn/education).



The park is pleased to offer a range of professional development. Join us for one of our single day Education workshops and return to your classroom with new tools and materials. For a more in-depth experience – become a Teacher-Ranger-Teacher (TRT). TRT is a program that offer teachers a unique opportunity to enhance their teaching resources with National Park Service-based Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, use primary sources, and experience place-based learning. All while earning graduate credit through partnership with the University of Colorado [Denver]



2022 Project WET Educator workshop NPS Photo

2022 Project Learning Tree Educator workshop NPS Photo

National Park Service staff are available to help educators infuse their learning with National Park Service and STEM resources. To reach the park's education team visit us at [www.nps.gov/cari/learn/education](http://www.nps.gov/cari/learn/education), email [cari\\_interp@nps.gov](mailto:cari_interp@nps.gov), or call 318-352-0383 x316 and leave a voicemail. The Park Rangers at Cane River Creole NHP can not wait to

connect you with these tools and resources!

Commented [JB1]: Swap the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraphs.

## National Survey on Science Assessments

### What Do You Think About Science Assessments?

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine *Call to Action for Science Education* makes two recommendations on assessments in science (see below).

We want to know what teachers think. Please take a minute to complete this short [survey on science assessments](#).

The information you provide will be used to help develop a definitive statement on assessment and propose changes to federal and state accountability rules.

**Take the Survey**

From [A Call to Action for Science Education: Building Opportunity for the Future](#)

#### ACTION AREA 1: ELEVATE THE STATUS OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

RECOMMENDATION 2: Congress should include science as an indicator of academic achievement when it next reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Accountability for science should focus on students gaining conceptual understanding of science and should not be based on single tests. It should involve a system of assessments and indicators that together provide results that complement each other and provide information about the progress of schools, districts, and states.

RECOMMENDATION 3: State Departments of Education should act now to include science in their accountability systems for K-12 education. A state accountability system for science needs to include assessments that support classroom instruction, assessments that monitor science learning more broadly (at the school, district, and state levels), and indicators that track the availability of high-quality science learning opportunities.



**LASM Announces Return of Free First Sundays**

**FIRST SUNDAYS ARE BACK!**

Every First Sunday of the Month  
1 PM - 5 PM

Free museum and Irene W. Pennington Planetarium admission!

Sponsored by  
**Madison Lamar**

**Ocean Commotion**

Ocean Commotion is finally back in person! Join us Tuesday, October 25, at LSU's Pete Maravich Assembly Center, where you and your students will browse through over 60 live exhibits featuring ocean/coastal-related topics. Each school must coordinate and complete one registration for each session (AM is 5th-8th grade, PM is K-4th). This will be coordinated by one contact teacher for the morning and one for the afternoon session. Schools must come with sufficient chaperones to control and accompany students (1 chaperone to 10 students is recommended). Use this link to apply for a spot for your school: [https://lsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4OC4cZihwHxu57w](https://lsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4OC4cZihwHxu57w)

**The deadline to apply is September 23.**



## 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.

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](mailto:scottg@chemistrytalk.org) 310-904-3112



Louisiana Science Teachers Association Newsletter ([www.lsta.info](http://www.lsta.info))

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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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### NEEF Watershed Sleuth Challenge

[The Watershed Sleuth Challenge](#)

With NEEF's Watershed Sleuth Challenge, students will learn more about their local watershed—what it is, why it's important, and what they can do to help protect it—as they earn badges at each level of this three-part course

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### Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary is hosting their 10th annual virtual *Thunder Bay International Film Festival* (TBIFF), a celebration of our ocean and Great Lakes with nearly 100 films! Produced in partnership with the International Ocean Film Festival, TBIFF is a virtual experience including online film screenings and Q&A sessions with filmmakers, scientists, and ocean and Great Lakes stewards.

Now in its 10th year, TBIFF showcases new, independent ocean and Great Lakes films from all over the world. Themes range from adventure and science to marine life and coastal cultures. Films are selected to not only entertain audiences but also inspire people to participate in environmental and stewardship efforts in our ocean and Great Lakes.

To start your film festival experience, visit: <https://watch.eventive.org/thunderbay2022>

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### 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](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.



### Sankofa Wetland Park



### 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.

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Louisiana Science Teachers Association Newsletter ([www.lsta.info](http://www.lsta.info))

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### 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](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

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### 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](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

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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/>

**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.

