



3rd Quarter LaSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
August 18, 2021
12:45 pm – 2:15 pm

The LaSTEM Advisory Council met on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, through Virtual Zoom.

Committee Members/Representatives Present

Bianca Deliberto (Proxy – Rob Wallace)
Calvin Mackie (Proxy – Lawrence Jackson)
Christen Timmins
Clint Coleman
Crystal Gordon
David Lafargue
Frank Neubrandner
Jaimee Williams (Proxy – Erin Babin)
Janet Pope (Proxy – Wendy Baudoin)
Jawanda Givens
Jim Henderson (Proxy – Jeannine Kahn)
Kenya Messer
Commissioner Kim Hunter Reed (Proxy – Susannah
Craig)
Nathan Corley
Michael Gaudet
Rep. Polly Thomas
Ronnie Morris
Scott Stevens
Sen. Sharon Hewitt
Susan Schowen
William Wainwright (Proxy – René Cintrón)

Committee Members Not Present

Kellie Taylor-White
Kristen Reeves
Larry Carter, Jr.
Mahyar Amouzegar
Melissa Mann

Nathan Dolenc
Patty Glasser
Rachel Vincent-Finley
Tina Watts
Tom Yura

Staff Members Present

Adronisha Frazier
Donald Boeckman
Harold Boutte
James Kuhns
Jennifer Stevens
Karthik Poobalabramanian
Randall Brumfield
Tony Wilson

STEM Center Directors & Guests

Beonica Rutherford-Frazier
Breigh Rhodes
Cathi Cox-Boniol
Christie Landry
Daphine Barnes
Jennifer DePriest
Jessica Meyer Deville
Josh Tatum
Kim Fossey
Mark Arseneault
Peter Sheppard
Wendy Conarro

Welcome, Roll Call, Agenda, and Updates

Dr. Clint Coleman called the meeting to order at 12:48 p.m. and turned it over to Mr. Nathan Corley, Vice Chair. Mr. Corley stated he would be stepping in for Dr. Kim Hunter-Reed as she was unable to attend the meeting. Next, he acknowledged that public comments would be welcomed and reviewed the public commenting procedures.

Next, Dr. Coleman, the new Program Administrator of LaSTEM and Cybersecurity welcomed everyone. He stated the meeting was scheduled to be held at the LSU Center for River Studies, however due to COVID, the meeting was moved to virtual. In addition, he stated LaSTEM intends to return to the LSU Center for River Studies for the 1st quarter meeting of 2022. Moving into new introductions, Dr. Coleman welcomed new Council members, Christen Timmins (LATM) and Dr. David Lafargue (LCTCS).

Next, Dr. Brumfield called roll and determined that we had a quorum. Dr. Coleman then moved into approval of the meeting minutes from the May 13, 2021 meeting.

There was a motion to from Nathan Corley to approve the minutes and a second by Scott Stevens. With there being no opposition, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Council Discussion

Dr. Clint Coleman transitioned to the next agenda topic, focusing on upcoming events and the work of the Regional STEM Centers. The first item addressed the 2021-22 Cooperative Endeavor Agreements and budgets for the regional centers. Dr. Coleman noted thanks to Senator Hewitt for her help with increasing the fiscal budget for LaSTEM. An additional \$1 million was received for this year's fiscal budget, with each Regional STEM Center receiving \$170,000. He noted the budgets for the centers are due by August 20, 2021 and that the additional dollars in the LaSTEM budget will go towards other statewide STEM initiatives. Dr. Coleman asked for any thoughts or suggestions from the Council to be sent via email to the Regional Directors or Dr. Coleman.

Next, Dr. Coleman informed the Council that he and the Regional Directors have scheduled a Strategic planning meeting for October 5, 2021 at Northwestern State University, CenLA campus in Alexandria, Louisiana. The LaSTEM Directors and key stakeholders will convene to discuss the LaSTEM strategic plan using ACT 392 as a roadmap. At this meeting, important metrics and statewide initiatives will be discussed. Dr. Kristine Strickland from Fletcher Technical Community College will be facilitating the meeting. In addition, the Directors have been invited to a Monday morning virtual meeting called "A Call to Action." This initiative was spearheaded by Kim Fossey from Region 2. Dr. Coleman opened the discussion for any recommendations from the council.

Mr. Corley stated over the past year Council members have made comments on items the Regional Centers should report on and metrics to consider. He stated this would be the best opportunity to discuss those. Senator Hewitt shared her excitement about having the Regional STEM Center Directors in place and readiness to take the next step. She also mentioned the work that has already been done prior to standing up the Regional Centers including mission, vision, and goals. In addition, more women in STEM careers and need for those metrics are some of the items needed to move the needle. Senator Hewitt also discussed the documentation from the Annual LaSTEM Summit breakouts that may be useful to the Regional STEM Center Directors. She also suggested looking at governance, how we work together at the state level and regional levels, as well as industry. Dr. Lafargue added that there should be files with recaps from the Summit breakouts as well as the closing address from the 2020 Raising Cane's Summit which was a Q&A video recording of the synopsis of the regional breakout session. Mr. Corley noted that as the centers are thinking about their programming and goals, they are set up to track the data with actual engagement and not just opportunities extended. Dr. Lafargue mentioned the legislation for LaSTEM highlighted key areas for women in STEM and would be a good starting point to develop the foundation. Dr. Coleman stated he has asked all the Directors to review the legislation to ensure we are meeting all the goals. Ms. Erin Babin also added that she would like to measure the improvement in students' math and science skills which is critical in improving the abilities of our students. Mr. Lawrence Jackson added, on behalf of Dr. Mackie, that as a nonprofit we have a focus on the opposite end of the workforce channel. There are many community-based organizations that are engaging teenagers before they get to the high school level.

Dr. Neubrandner asked how the LSU System can best respond to the Fast Forward Initiative by the Board of Regents. He asked if there are any plans from LaSTEM or STEM Centers to support the Fast Forward initiative of the state? Dr. Coleman provided that they have not discussed Fast Forward specifically but are starting to have those conversations and get the Directors on the same page. Dr. Brumfield noted the integration of dual enrollment and different types of Fast Forward initiatives in the K-12 system. Dr. Craig shared agreement in creating a system that is seamless and supports all initiatives. In addition, Dr. Brumfield noted the work of Regents is focusing on a global perspective with the different types of credentials that can lead to a viable career pathway and a living wage, particularly as it regards high demand fields and STEM options. There are several data resources Regents has pulled together over the past year that may provide guidance regarding regional needs and demands. Senator Hewitt suggested making a deliberate process step to look at the landscape of what is rolling out of the Board of Regents and the Department of Education.

Dr. Lafargue mentioned a previous discussion about creating a communication platform that branches off to the different regions and region-specific information. The platform can have an internal and external component. It would be

worthwhile to consider how to increase or enhance the communication of different STEM opportunities across the state. Dr. Coleman added several of the centers have begun building their websites and the ultimate goal would be to integrate those websites into the LaSTEM website.

The next item discussed was the 4th Annual LaSTEM Summit. Due to the surge of COVID-19, the Summit will transition to virtual and will be held on October 28, 2021. Dr. Coleman noted the registration page is currently not up and running yet, but he is working with NOCCI in New Orleans to complete the virtual transition. A save-the-date will be sent out with the registration details. The tentative keynote speaker is Steve Pearlman, author of America's Critical Thinking Crisis. He focuses on bringing critical thinking back into the classroom. The summit will address the work of the regional centers. This year's theme is "Working Together for a Future that Works!" There are two hashtags that will be used throughout the year, #LaSTEMstrong and #STEMworks4LA. Dr. Coleman stated many of the panelists, speakers, vendors, and nonprofits have been identified. In addition, he stated two of the panels would be focused on workforce from 4- and 5-star jobs, which will discuss what it is like to work at their facility, how to get onboard, and innovation within workforce. There will be four or five themed breakout rooms with Ted-style Talks to continue conversations. Dr. Coleman asked for thoughts to enhance the Summit.

Representative Polly Thomas asked if there was a conversation with Michael Hecht from Greater New Orleans Inc. regarding speakers, panelists, vendors, and non-profits? Dr. Coleman stated he has not talked with him personally, but Daphne Barnes is the representative for the Region 1 STEM Center, which is housed at GNO Inc., and he will reach out to Daphne to have that conversation. Mr. Corley added it would be great to model and look for strong women and minority speakers to present. He also mentioned last year Dr. Lafargue and Commissioner Reed made a list of women in STEM to be used for events just like this. He reiterated a statement by Mark Arseneault, "Kids can't be what they can't see." Dr. Messer asked if Dr. Coleman could share the request for proposals or for speakers, panelists, and vendors that can be utilized to spread around the networks? Dr. Coleman added that as part of the NOCCI contract, and as they build out the call for presenters and vendors, they will be shared with the Council. Mr. Corley added the focus of the Summit has seemed to shift from getting the STEM Centers running to workforce. This information could be useful to kids and schools and the more information that can be sent out ahead of time, the better turnout it will have on event day. Ms. Timmins asked if the summit sessions will be recorded and housed somewhere for later viewing. She received feedback that recordings would be helpful since many teachers and industry partners are busy throughout the day and would be unable to attend in person. Dr. Coleman indicated it will be recorded by NOCCI then available after the event. Mr. Morris noted BESE approved including STEM curriculum in the interest and opportunities component of the school performance scores. He suggested getting the word out to educators because this will incentivize teachers and principals to bring STEM opportunities into the classroom and they will receive credit for students who are participating.

Senator Hewitt suggested dissemination of a monthly newsletter to keep everyone in the loop of the happenings within the state. Dr. Coleman noted that some of the Regional Centers already have newsletters and there have been internal discussions around a LaSTEM newsletter. Mr. Rob Wallace added LSTA and LATM could help distribute this information to teachers since they have large email lists, networks, and social media posts.

Dr. Lafargue referenced Mr. Morris's comment and added it may be useful to obtain feedback from the different directors in regard to how schools obtain additional points and how it is defined and measured. Dr. Brumfield

suggested reaching out to Rob Wallace. He also added the Dr. Coleman and staff have been working to figure out next steps during the pandemic. It is preferable to do the summit in-person, but it has pivoted virtual due to the pandemic.

Next, Dr. Coleman discussed the third agenda item which focused on the "Summer of LaSTEM," which was a summer social media campaign. A hashtag was created and used by the centers through their social media platforms. This was a source of metrics to see the happenings across the state. Regions 8, 9, and 3 provided a report-out of their summer events. All three regions expressed gratitude to Sen. Hewitt, the LaSTEM Council and others for the additional funding and ongoing support for LaSTEM.

Region 8 - Ms. Cox-Boniol stated they began with nine partners in their hub and have since added three new partners. For this report-out, she highlighted one of these new partners, Lincoln Parish Schools. Ms. Cox-Boniol provided empirical data for the number of STEM camps, the types of camps offered, number of campers, number of community

volunteers and hours volunteered, parent post camp evaluation, and media coverage. Last, she showed pictures of the children from the Lincoln Parish STEM Center's Summer of STEM.

Region 9 – Dr. Conarro shared information about three initiatives in which they made significant headway this summer. These initiatives included the Louisiana Scholastic Esports Federation, the purchase of two additional Brain Food trucks, and the AmeriCorps VISTA program. Dr. Conarro provided empirical data on each of these initiatives and examples of student summer activities. She also listed addition priorities for region 9.

Region 3 - Dr. Coleman informed the Council that the Region 3 STEM Center Director, Jan Brenan, had to step away for medical reasons. Ms. Christie Landry has stepped in as the Interim Director. She provided a comparison of the impact of Fletcher's NASA Astro Camps in 2020 versus 2021. She noted there was phenomenal outreach in 2021 outside of Louisiana and internationally, breaking two records: NASA's single week attendance record and Zoom's single session unique sign on. The keynote speaker for the NASA Astro Camp was Callie Russell, who was a season 7 runner-up winner on the History Channel's survival show, *Alone*. A video trailer was shared showing the connection between NASA's mission to Mars and Callie Russell's time alone in the arctic for 89 days. Ms. Landry also highlighted some of the long-lasting impacts from the NASA Astro Camp.

Dr. Coleman mentioned the design for the Council meetings moving forward is to have the large picture items and also report-outs from a few of the directors to get a feel for what is happening on the ground across the state. Sen. Hewitt added her excitement after hearing the report-outs from the Regional STEM Directors.

Other Business

Dr. Coleman opened the floor to other business and public comments. A public comment was received from Mr. Frank Kidd, a computer science high school teacher, "In reference to Senator Hewitt's jobs of the future comment, (1) that computer science and cybersecurity is only an elective in the tops curriculum and it should be part of the science courses, (2) computer science and cybersecurity is not authorized as part of the PRAXIS II test, (3) colleges and universities' teacher education programs should teach computer science and cybersecurity, so that when the teachers graduate they can be able to teach in high schools, and (4) in Terrebonne Parish, they are teaching computer science essentials in all four high schools." Dr. Coleman thanked Mr. Kidd for his comments and mentioned part of his job title is cybersecurity. He stated they are working to advance grant applications for colleges and universities to access funding and help propel computer science programs within the state. He added they are moving in that direction and there will be future conversations around that topic. Mr. Kidd's second comment was in reference to future summer activities and stated, "Could the Board of Regents offer STEM-related summer jobs in computer coding, maybe a project like working on an app on climate change reporting?" Dr. Coleman stated this is a great idea and that he would push down to the Regional STEM Centers to spearhead since they could have more impact having interns at their facilities as opposed to the Board of Regents.

Last, Dr. Coleman stated he was hopeful the future quarterly meetings would be in person and to take the meetings on the road. The 4th Quarter LaSTEM Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at Sci-Port Discovery Center in Shreveport, Louisiana. The meeting is tentatively scheduled from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and may be followed by a tour and demonstrations. Dr. Brumfield added that the 1st Quarter meeting in 2022 will be held at the LSU Center for River Studies.

With there being no other comments or business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lawrence Jackson and a second by Mr. Nathan Corley. With all in agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.