

LaSTEM Advisory Council Meeting

February 10, 2021

10:00 a.m.

The LaSTEM Advisory Council met on Wednesday, Feb 10, 2021, by Virtual Zoom.

Committee Members/Representatives Present

Bianca Deliberto (Proxy- Robert Wallace)
Calvin Mackie (Proxy-Lawrence Jackson)
Clint Coleman
Frank Neubrandner
Crystal Gordon
Jaimee Williams
Jim Henderson (Proxy-Jeannine Kahn)
Kellie Taylor-White
Commissioner Kim Hunter Reed (Proxy- Randall Brumfield)
Kristen Reeves
Mahyar Amouzegar (Proxy – Ryan Bell)
Melissa Mann
Meridith Trahant
Michael Gaudet
Nathan Corley
Representative Polly Thomas (Proxy – Jill Scudari)
Rachel Vincent-Finley (Proxy – Nastassia Jones)
Ronnie Morris
Scott Stevens
Susana Schowen
Tina Watts
Trisha Fos
William Wainwright

Staff Members Present

David Lafargue
Susannah Craig
Randall Brumfield
Jennifer Stevens

Guests

Greg Trahan
Morgan Crutcher
Lucia Berliner

Committee Members Not Present

Janet Pope
Kenya Messer
Larry Carter, Jr
Patty Glaser
Senator Sharon Hewitt
Tom Yura

Welcome, Roll Call, and Updates

Dr. David Lafargue, LaSTEM Program Administrator, called the meeting to order at 10:03am, did roll call, and determined that we had a quorum. Dr. Lafargue introduced Nathan Corley, who made a few opening comments regarding the recent STEM Workforce Panel with Jumpstart Convention and the excitement for STEM and the Council around the state.

Dr. Lafargue introduced a new member of the Council, Tina Watts who is a Global Engagement Community Investor at Boeing, and is stepping into Ken Tucker's position on the Council after his retirement last year. Ms. Watts made a few comments regarding her work with STEM across multiple states and excitement to work with Louisiana.

Dr. Lafargue moved along to the approval of meeting minutes from the November 10, 2020 meeting. In addition, meeting minutes were sent out the previous week for review. No comments or corrections were made.

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There was a motion from Clint Coleman to approve the amended minutes and a second from Susana Schowen. With there being no opposition, the amended minutes were approved.

Council Discussions

Dr. Lafargue provided a recap of the Regional STEM Network Center process and provided updates for Regions 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. After reopening applications for Region 1 and 4, GNO Inc. was identified as the top candidate for Region 1 and ULL for Region 4. They are now entering the second phase. In addition, Dr. Lafargue provided next steps to include holding weekly meetings with the directors, which will begin this month and continue into March to discuss action items/follow-up from previous meetings, current tasks, proposed opportunities they are seeking, and any problems that arise/solutions.

Dr. Lafargue introduced Ms. Lucia Berliner, the Regional Manager and Specialist for the Microsoft Philanthropies TEALS Program. This presentation provided information about the program, the establishment of the TEALS program in Louisiana, and how to apply for the program and/or become involved. More information about the TEALS program can be found at www.microsoft.com/TEALS and Ms. Berliner can be contacted at lucia@tealsk12.org.

Next, Dr. Lafargue introduced Mr. Greg Trahan with the Cybersecurity Education Management Council (CEMC). Mr. Trahan provided an overview of the CEMC, an update on the Council's progress to date, Request for Applications (RFA) requirements and tracks, and the timeline of the RFA process. Dr. Lafargue added that the 2021 timeline is tentative with the possibility of the submission deadline to be moved up to allow for the agreement negotiation to be contracted out to go through approval process on both sides and have funds expended before June 30.

Dr. Brumfield provided comments on the logical connection between the work of the LaSTEM Advisory Council and the Cybersecurity Education Management Council, noting opportunities to collaborate with the work across both and advocating for the development of pathways for micro-credentials which could lead to pathways that could culminate into an academic degree. In addition, he noted adult learners in regard to expanding access and opportunity across the state, in relation to the work of both Councils and how they tie into the objectives of the Master Plan.

A public question was asked, "In future grant cycles, will K-12 LEAs that offer cybersecurity certifications be eligible to apply?" Mr. Trahan provided that the Council was established through a statute which was put in place for a specific reason (tactical not aspirational) to put jobs in place. The hope is that with some outstanding applications illustrating practical ways to solve some of the workforce challenges within both tracks, doors would open for K-12. Dr. Lafargue added, within the statute, legally the answer is no, but to keep in mind that a large part of the assessment of these applications will be in innovation. Dr. Lafargue provided some examples of how this could take effect with internship opportunities or through Dual-Enrollment. Mr. Nathan Corley also provided correlation with the LDOE's Fast Forward Initiative. More information on this initiative can be found at <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/courses/fast-forward/>. Mr. Lawrence Jackson also added that STEM Nola has engaged with cyber.org to create specialized STEM programming for K-12 students.

In addition, Ms. Watts asked if there was a certain amount set aside in the budget from the legislation? Dr. Brumfield stated that at this time, we do not have a finalized budget, but are working on pulling numbers together to share with the Council. Dr. Lafargue added, there is money that has been identified and is in the process of being transferred prior to the release of the RFAs.

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Last, Dr. Lafargue introduced Ms. Morgan Crutcher, a Policy Advisor with the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities. This presentation provided information on the Environmental Literacy Plan including an overview of LEEC and the work of the ELP committee. Ms. Crutcher can be contacted at morgan.crutcher@la.gov or (225)342-6929.

Ms. Kellie Taylor-White asked if there has been a formal reach out to the local chapters of the National Science Teachers Association for their support with this plan? Ms. Crutcher stated that outreach has not yet begun formally for the plan. She will reach out for the NSTA information and to ensure a comprehensive list is created for outreach. Mr. Nathan Crowley added that there is a science teacher or an environmental science teacher from each region of the state sitting on the committee.

Mr. Lawrence Jackson asked if they have reached out to providers of non-traditional education pathways? Ms. Crutcher stated that they have been working on the plan internally but will make a public solicitation within the next month and a half. In addition, Mr. Jackson asked about the committee structure and if there was representation of non-traditional individuals? Ms. Crutcher stated she would speak afterwards with Mr. Jackson to ensure all groups of non-traditional pathways are represented. Mr. Corley noted the work of the LDOE last year to survey non-formals in the state and plans to update regularly, in addition to the work of LEEC and its target for non-formals.

Dr. Brumfield noted the competitiveness of the application process for the STEM Network Centers and acknowledged the work of all entities who submitted interest/applications. In addition, he noted excitement for those selected and the work they will do to contribute to the BoR Master Plan objectives and the work of the state.

An additional public question asked has there been any consideration of an industry subcommittee that can ensure that the LP includes environmental career exploration opportunities? Ms. Crutcher stated it was an item that needs to be discussed and determine if it falls within one of the existing workflows or an entirely new workgroup should be created. Mr. Corley noted that this will be specifically addressed in the Environment Protection Sustainability STEM Pathways.

Other Business

Dr. Lafargue noted the Quarterly meetings for 2021, stating that he is exploring an opportunity to host the next Quarterly meeting, scheduled for May 13th, at the NASA Michoud Facility in New Orleans. Final details have not been confirmed, so more information will be provided at a later date. Quarterly meeting dates are as follows:

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

With there being no other comments or business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Clint Coleman and a second by Ms. Kellie Taylor White. With all in agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20am.