



**1st Quarter LaSTEM Advisory Council Meeting
January 20, 2022
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

The LaSTEM Advisory Council met on Thursday, January 20, 2022, via virtual Zoom.

Committee Members/Representatives Present

Bianca Deliberto
Michael Gaudet
Patty Glasser (Proxy – Kassie Cusachs)
Jawanda Givens
Crystal Gordon
Sen. Sharon Hewitt
Commissioner Kim Hunter Reed
Lindsey Keith-Vincent
David Lafargue
Calvin Mackie (Proxy – Lawrence Jackson)
Kenya Messer
Ronnie Morris
Frank Neubrandner
Janet Pope (Proxy-Wendy Baudoin)
Breigh Rhodes
Susan Schowen
Scott Stevens
Christen Timmins
William Wainwright
Kellie Taylor-White
Tom Yura

Committee Members Not Present

Mahyar Amouzegar

Larry Carter, Jr.
Jim Henderson
Melissa Mann
Rep. Polly Thomas
Rachel Vincent-Finley
Tina Watts
Jaimee Williams

Staff Members Present

Clint Coleman
Carrie Robison
Jennifer Stevens

STEM Center Directors & Guests

Mark Arseneault
Daphine Barnes
Wendy Conarro
Cathi Cox-Boniol (Proxy – Donna Johnson)
Jennifer DePriest
Kim Fossey
Christie Landry
Jessica Meyer
Beonica Rutherford-Frazier
Peter Sheppard

Welcome, Roll Call, Agenda, and Updates

Dr. Coleman called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., welcomed everyone to the 1st Quarterly LaSTEM Advisory Council Meeting, and mentioned the meeting was streaming live on YouTube and public commenting information could be found on the agenda which was located on the [LaSTEM website](#). Next, Dr. Coleman reviewed the agenda and welcomed new Council member, Lindsey Keith-Vincent with Louisiana Tech University, to the Council. Roll call was then completed and quorum established.

Dr. Coleman reminded the Council that since there was not a quorum at the 4th quarter meeting last November, meeting minutes from both the 3rd quarter (August 18, 2021) and 4th quarter (November 10, 2021) meetings required motions for approval.

There was a motion from Senator Hewitt and a second by Dr. Messer to approve the 3rd and 4th quarter meeting minutes. With there being no opposition, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Council Discussion

Dr. Coleman transitioned into updates from the First Annual LaSTEM Director's Retreat, which was held on November 11, 2021, at the NWSU CenLa campus. He thanked Dr. Kristine Strickland, Chancellor of Fletcher Technical Community College, who served as facilitator for the Retreat pro bono. In addition, he shared the agenda and pictures from the event, areas of focus including ACT 392, STEM Center quarterly progress reports, and the three LaSTEM goals that were developed by the LaSTEM Council and align with the 2020 White House STEM goals.

Senator Hewitt commented that one of the ultimate goals is meeting workforce demands and needs of employers and noted there should be metrics and measurements around that goal. Dr. Coleman added that the workforce was part of the discussion at the Retreat and agreed that the goal is to fill the workforce needs and jobs with Louisianans. He then highlighted some of the discussions that were had around workforce. Additional conversation included filling the K-16 pipeline with opportunities to educate students and developing metrics around it, creating a spirit of collaboration and not competition within the nine regions, having conversations with similar states that LaSTEM was modeled after, and outreach to public education groups and boards within each of the regions. Dr. Coleman shared some information about collaborative opportunities LaSTEM is pursuing with the Louisiana Department of Education.

The next topic of discussion was the 2022 LaSTEM Summit which was scheduled in-person at the Raising Cane's River Center on February 8th. Dr. Coleman stated the theme of the Summit would be industry-focused, which would include an Industry Breakfast. He noted there are 50 spots available at the breakfast and asked for suggestions on specific CEOs, human resources employees, etc. from the regions that the Council feels should be invited. Mr. Morris asked about goals/outcomes for the Summit. Dr. Coleman stated the main goal for this Summit is awareness since there has not been an in-person Summit since 2019 and this would be the first Summit with all nine regional centers and directors seated. Dr. Wainwright noted the difficulty of coordinating a conference like the Summit especially in times like these with COVID and thanked Dr. Coleman and his team for the work they have done so far. He also asked to start having conversations around adult learning, which is a critical part of the pipeline, and suggested it could be an agenda item for a future meeting.

Next, Dr. Coleman transitioned into the Regional STEM Network Center Report-Outs. Regions 2 and 6 presented on the work in their areas:

- **Region 2**, presented by Dr. Kim Fossey, stated they serve Baton Rouge and the seven parishes surrounding, and partners with the LSU Cain Center for STEM Literacy. Ms. Fossey stated their approach to some of the gaps mentioned earlier is to increase access by supporting and enhancing resources of major stakeholders such as educators, the business community, and the general community. Region 2 projects included a STEM Integration Framework, LSU ONE (a one-stop-shop to streamline systems), professional developments, and growing network memberships. Following conversation included their approach to engagement of the population. In addition, Commissioner Reed and other Council members gave kudos to the amazing work and passion of Dr. Fossey and the Center.
- **Region 6**, presented by Ms. Jennifer DePriest, stated their goals were collaborative communication, creating a comprehensive catalog, and being the voice in their region to show how STEM is incorporated into everyday careers. Ms. DePriest shared progress towards these goals including fostering involvement, closing regional workforce gaps and needs, strategic planning, contributing to a statewide STEM expansion process, new STEM programming, and leveraging resources. Several Council members shared appreciation for the passion, dedication, enthusiasm, and leadership from all. Dr. Reed commented that she appreciated both presentations and thanked Ms.

DePriest for bringing up the ALICE conversation and talent development. Dr. Messer asked about the LSU ONE model and if there is consideration around broadening it to include other institutions of higher education? Dr. Neubrandner shared that historically, the Cain Center served LSU A&M and are now serving high school students and expanding to LSU-Alexandria and LSU- Shreveport. This is a big step, and they are working towards finding unity within the System to do things together. He shared that one System alone cannot do the work and that it would take collaboration with other institutions in Louisiana.

Other Business

Dr. Coleman acknowledged the remaining 2022 quarterly meeting dates as follows:

- Thursday, April 28, 2022
- Thursday, August 18, 2022
- Thursday, November 17, 2022

With there being no other comments or business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Kellie Taylor-White and a second by Dr. Reed. With all in agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.