



**Capital Area STEM Network Center
@ LSU Cain Center
Advisory Board Meeting Notes
Lod Cook Alumni Center
July 29, 2021**

Advisory Board Members Present: (13)

Mary Stein – East Baton Rouge Parish Library
Spencer Roby – Cain Center
Dixie Gautreaux – FRAN-U
Juana Moreno – LSU Professor
Ben Necaie – East Baton Rouge Parish Schools
Summer Dann – EBR C-TEC Center
Kim Canezaro – Point Coupee Parish Schools
Tonnisha Ellis – Greater Baton Rouge Area Chamber
Ann Trappey – Forte & Tablada Engineering
Frank Neubrandner – Cain Center
Stephen Loy – Louisiana Tech Park
Hollis Milton – West Feliciana Schools
Kim Fossey – Cain Center and Capital Area STEM

Members invited but did not attend: (9)

Nastassia Jones – Southern University
Christopher Guillory – Southern University
Girard Melancon – Baton Rouge Community College
Mary Miller – Baton Rouge Community College
Cate Heroman – Knock, Knock Children’s Museum
Bruce Waguespack – River Parishes Community College
Fernando Alegre – LSU Cain Center
Kristen Reeves – Geocent + Louisiana Women in Technology
Dustin Lafont – Front Yard Bikes

Agenda

- Member Introductions
- Quick Review of Mission and Goals
- Snapshot of Year 1 Accomplishment
- Exploring Region 2 Practices and Assets to Develop SMART Goals for Year 2
- Review of Themes for YR 2
- Influential Existing and Emerging Initiatives
- Next Steps

Purpose

The purpose of this meeting is to convene the Capital Area STEM Network Center. This center is a result of a Louisiana Board of Regents Grant to establish a STEM Network Center at the Cain Center. Grant agreement requires establishment of an advisory board that meets six times per year. If Interested, see meeting notes below:

Introduction:

Members shared STEM news in their sector

What's Working Highlights and Assets noted included following + results of survey of members

- Maker education-focused STEM sponsored by the library on an ongoing basis. Mini-Maker Fair and Mid-City Makers organization; Maker Space at downtown library
 - Note region-level public libraries have been surveyed on STEM
- National grant to provide literacy-incorporated hands-on Science projects at the library.
- BRBytes Program Grant through LSU – teachers are trained to teach computer science
- LSU Cain Center sponsored Pre-College courses
- NOVAC – Digital movie making
- STEM NOLA – Delivering STEM kits and activities through COVID period virtually
- Young Entrepreneurs LA
- College of Science Explorations
- C-Tech Internships for students (plenty of businesses interested, red tape is a barrier)
- Multiple pathways for earning dual credit and career exposure – LSU STEM Pathways programs
- EBRPSS Workforce Development Team
- Outreach offered by Southern, LSU, and BRCC and LCTCS in general
 - Cain Center
- Talent Action Collaborative (TAC) sponsored by BRAC
- BRAC
- Pointe Coupee STEM Academy
- Cain Center's huge dual credit program – over 10,000 students in dual credit or STEM pathways
- STEM pathways providing career exposure for rural school districts
- WFHS plan for establishing a career-tech center in partnership with BRCC
- Front Yard Bikes
- UREC offering assistance on internships
- Multiple BRCC programs
- Million Women Mentors
- Schools that have solid robotics programs such as Liberty, SJA, Catholic High, Episcopal, LSU, Kenilworth
- Business advisory groups at Scotlandville High and CTEC
- Mayor's Office
- Big Buddy

- Capital Area Promise
- LDOE

Key Accomplishments

- Infrastructure
- Tools for enhancing practices
 - STEM Integration Framework Pilot (in collaboration with LSU STEM Pathways)
 - Sponsored a Learning Tour for 2 rural districts to visit Texarkana ISD to look at dual credit programs and STEM
 - Helped facilitate high-quality STEM Curriculum Pilot – Learning Blade Pilot
 - Engagement with Business – Toolkit and advice for starting a mentoring/work-based learning program
- Tools to connect, inform, promote opportunities, and increase awareness - See new [Website](#)
- Simple systems for continuously collecting resources, assets, and data

Exploring regional practices and assets for planning

Key Themes Emerged

- Partnerships and collaborations are valued (most providers of STEM activities are partnering with other organizations to leverage materials, volunteers, space, etc.)
- Families – regarding value of STEM and navigating new high school pathways and initiatives
- Reaching charter schools and non-traditional educators, such as homeschoolers
- Communications of opportunities and general information flow; Storytelling
- Policy: Need for new policies as the look of learning changes, particularly at the high school year.
- School Practices: Need for Project-based learning
- Need for helpful blueprints/common vision and definition for STEM learning to better systematize STEM integration
- Enhanced advisory time needed to better advise students and parents; Need for PD for counselors
- School Leadership and Culture is important
- PD in general for formal as well as informal educators
- Continue to map regional assets
- Continue to look at grant opportunities and funding partners/ways to generate revenue for the center

What are some existing barriers, issues?

- Time in school day; Staffing
- Transportation
- Teacher education
- General PD for any person doing STEM outreach, Off-the-shelf resources for presenters to use

- Scholarships for STEM pathways
- Policy – LDOE’s accountability formula and graduation rates
- Lack of STEM education definition by LDOE
- One-stop-shop management systems for apprenticeships and internships and financial support, such as the EBRPSS Bright Futures Pathway expansion

Things happening outside Region 2 that could be scaled:

- Carl Wieman Science Education Initiative - cwsei.ubc.ca
- Maker Ed projects for example: PLIX and FabLab with MIT, Chicago Public Library, Assembly in Austin, various college maker spaces
- Pre-pharmacy; Dental Pathways, EMR
- YouthForce Nola/CareerWise Colorado

Themes to include in Year 2 Plans (gleaned from meeting, recent survey, and multiple conversations with stakeholders)

- **ADVOCACY**
 - Better ways of advocating and linking value of STEM education and possible pathways and role everyone plays.
 - We all learned about many initiatives... why didn’t we know about these?
 - Really tweak and push network website
 - Campaign that includes:
 - Coordinated and common message to all stakeholders that includes specific outcomes
 - Storybank of student experiences to share
 - Publicize providers who can help
 - Publicize businesses who can help
 - Searchable database of resources, such as projects/lesson ideas that are easy to find
 - Communications plan that schedule regular communications via newsletters, Twitter, etc.
- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
 - All types of educators
 - Learn from LSU STEM Pathways PD (very intensive and ongoing community of practice)
 - Don’t forget informal science, OST, librarians as potential audience for PD
 - Creating blueprint or set of standards
 - Focus on increasing quality of programs and sharing results
- **PARTNERSHIPS/COLLABORATION**
 - Intentional event or webinar with toolkits around connecting businesses with schools/OST
 - Ways to connect them online – such as librarians, etc.
 - Work with BRAC’s Talent Action Collaborative

- Partner with AmeriCorps VISTA program to assist with more outreach and data collection
- Work across parish lines to help rural areas access resources and partners

Emerging Issues and Initiatives Influencing Year 2 Plans

Frank provided news about FastForward and predicted barriers to success of the program, given the enormity of the program and speed of which it will be rolled out. He presented a solution that the Cain Center is calling LSUOne which will provide a set of solutions - the state's one-stop Fast Forward Service Center (fee-based) that will feature the following:

- Advising 1001
- Standard MoU's between school systems, secondary ed institutions, and apprenticeship providers
- Streamlined student application system

NEXT Steps:

- View our new website: CapitalAreaSTEM.org
- Fossey will take stab at SMART Goals – Based on existing goals and new information gained during YR 1
- Establishment of group groups that I could touch base with between meetings
- Promote the LaSTEM Summit (which will be held virtually) Oct 28th.
- Next meetings: Late September, November, January, March, May