

LaSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NOTES
October 16, 2018
10:00 a.m.

The LaSTEM Advisory Council met in session at 10:15 a.m., Tuesday, October 16, 2018, in the Thomas Jefferson Room, Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA. Dr. Kim Hunter-Reed, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Committee Members/Representatives Present

Kim Hunter-Reed, Chair
Susie Schowen, Co-chair
Randy Duran
Trisha Fos
Patty Glaser
Crystal Gordon
Jeff Holcomb
Calvin Mackie
Janet Pope
Kristen Reeves
Kellie Taylor-White
William Wainwright

Committee Members Absent

Mahyar Amouzegar
Larry Carter
Michael Gaudet
Sharon Hewitt
Stephanie Hilferty
Amanda Hill
Cavick Inabnett
Jada Lewis
Stanton McNeely
Phoebe Rouse
Scott Stevens
Ken Tucker
Rachel Vincent-Finley
John White
Jaime Williams
Laura Younger
Tom Yura

Staff Members Present

Vernon Dunn
Nikki Godfrey
Jill Holton

I. WELCOME, ROLL CALL, & UPDATES

Dr. Kim Hunter-Reed, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. Dr. Vernon Dunn, LaSTEM Coordinator, conducted roll call and could not establish a quorum due to number of absent committee members.

Dr. Reed and committee members discussed the success of the LaSTEM Summit held in September.

Ken Bradford's assistant gave an update on the STEM initiative. During previous discussion, Dr. Bradford stated that a proposal was being drafted to be brought to the LaSTEM Advisory Council, and then a final proposal will be brought to the joint BESE meeting in the fall regarding the STEM endorsement, academic achievements, and diplomas for ALL students. A final proposal for courses that can count towards the endorsement will be brought to the joint BESE/BoR meeting in December, and implementation is contingent upon Regents and BESE approval. A plethora of STEM courses will be a part of the framework, and a foiled seal will be indicative of a culmination of a bundle of STEM courses successfully completed.

Louis Medina, Vex Robotics, stated that they have doubled in size. They launched the application process and have received about 90 applications.

II. STEM SHOWCASE: STEM PREMIER

Casey Welch, President and CEO of STEM Premier, and Cary Koch provided a presentation on STEM Premier and their objective in connecting students, colleges, and companies looking for the best in all levels of STEM talent. Mr. Welch stated that STEM Premier creates a platform for students that allows for a showcasing of their skills.

Mr. Welch stated that organizations use STEM Premier to showcase the hard work of their members and connect them with opportunities. Two- and four-year colleges use STEM Premier to discover, engage, and recruit all types of talent through a platform that removes geographic barriers. And, corporations use STEM Premier to discover, engage, and recruit all types of talent through a platform that removes geographic barriers. STEM Premier has become a platform for all talent, not just STEM. Some of their partners and clients include ACT, Toyota, Boeing, Caterpillar, Penn State, Clemson University, and many more.

Mr. Welch provided information on STEM Premier's Digital Hub, which he described as an ecosystem connecting all stakeholders with one community. STEM Premier started 5.5 years ago and now includes 20,000 participating schools, and over 370,000 users with diverse representation broken down by ethnicity. This digital hub provides a profile which allows for all of a student's accomplishments and best work to be placed in one electronic area, creating a digital badge. This digital badge includes GPA, ACT score, credentials, academic history, career interests, experience, publications, geographic preferences, associations, extracurricular

activities, and more. Students can take their profile everywhere they go, and export their profile into an automatic resume in .pdf format when needed.

Mr. Welch added that STEM Premier provides for closed networking capabilities for the safety of their students, and allows access for parents, mentors, and guidance counselors. STEM Premier also creates a link for outside networking that can be deactivated at anytime. He also added that students, parents, and educators have had success overcoming any financial barriers through the use of Red Kite Financial, which provides an online scholarship matching engine for borrowing and grant-seeking resources.

Companies seeking information, according to Mr. Welch, are able to view locations of students, college interests, STEM areas, and gender. Companies are able to target their interests through filtering by populating students according to filter settings. STEM Premier company profiles allow direct communication with students; this mechanism is designed to encourage Louisiana students to stay in Louisiana. The system does not allow for spamming students with generic, infomercial information—only direct communication.

The Health Occupation Student Association (HOSA), for example, uses STEM Premier. Entities as such, and states throughout the country, are starting to monitor the programs showing the most/least interest as a mechanism for supplying programmatic needs.

III. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Revisiting the Summit discussion, Dr. Reed and committee members praised the success of the LaSTEM Summit held in September. They were greatly impressed with Dr. Dunn's coordination of the event, the number of attendees, and the overall collaboration and new relationships formed between academia and business and industry. Kim Fossy, Foundation for EBR Schools, was pleased with the networking and conversations the Summit provided.

Susie Schowen, Co-chair, provided criteria for a successful Regional STEM Center Conference for Louisiana. She recommended the following be explored:

- Expand on conversations
- Be more efficient and streamline conversations
- Work with Economic Development partners
- Focus on Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance (CLEDA) as a partner
- Focus on how regions knit together and existing capabilities
- Make sure we look collaborative and not competitive
- Work on state and regional visions coming together
- Develop ideas on working with regional summits
- Establish a clear, concise definition for Regional Stem Center.

Dr. Dunn is interested in adopting a Resolution relative to the use of donated funds issued to the LaSTEM Advisory Council's initiative. The Council agreed that this resolution should be adopted electronically at a later time due to no quorum.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS, ADJOURN

Dr. Dunn stated that the next LaSTEM Advisory Council meeting will not be held until next year.

There being no further business to come before the LaSTEM Advisory Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.