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## **LOUISIANA SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, and MATHEMATICS**

### **ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Wednesday, August 15, 2018**

The Louisiana Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (LaSTEM) Advisory Council met at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 15, 2018, at the Claiborne Building, Thomas Jefferson 1-136, 1201 North Third St, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Ms. Susana Schowen, Vice Chair of the Council, called the meeting to order. Mr. Vernon Dunn called the roll and a quorum was established.

#### **Committee Members Present**

Kellie Taylor White  
Randy Duran  
Michael Gaudet  
Sharon Hewitt  
Jeff Holcomb  
Carrick Inabnett  
Nikki Landry (Jada Lewis)  
Trisha Fos  
Michael Faulk (Janet Pope)  
Kristen Reeves  
Susana Schowen  
Scott Stevens  
Rachel Vincent Finley  
William Wainwright

Jill Cowart (John White)  
Jamie Williams (Erin Babin)  
Sarah Haneline (Tom Yura)

#### **Committee Members Absent**

Kim Hunter Reed  
Mahyar Amouzegar  
Larry Carter, Jr.  
Patty Glaser  
Crystal Gordon  
Jim Henderson  
Stephanie Hilferty  
Stanton McNeely  
Ken Tucker  
Laura Younger

## **Welcome & Updates**

The approval of the minutes was deferred until the next meeting. Dr. Dunn informed the Council of the Boeing and Dow sponsorship of the Summit.

## **STEM Showcase: Learning Blade**

### **Council Discussion**

Ms. Jill Cowart gave an overview of pathways, careers, credentials and courses that students take to complete the pathways. She informed the Council the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved 2 STEM pathways in June, environment protection and environment stability. Last summer, BESE approved the pre-engineering pathway. Senator Hewitt informed the Council that end goal should be a job in a high wage, high demand job. She stated the pathways are created based on regional needs and by the Jumpstart regional teams that includes industry partners. There is a workgroup that has been brainstorming on how to comply with STEM seal requirement of the law. The first proposal is to have a tiered system. Students that chose a pathway and complete 8 courses will receive a gold seal on their diploma. Students that complete 4 stem pathway courses will receive a silver seal. There should be different types of seals such as a medical seal and computer programmers' seal.

## **STEM Showcase: VEX Robotics**

VEX was created as a robotics competition to gain students interest in robotics. Mr. Dan Mantz, CEO of VEX, provided a detailed overview of the program and the VEX World Championship. VEX offers free programming, scholarships and grants to districts. One of the focuses of VEX is on workforce needs. VEX grows programs by grants from corporate sponsorships. The biggest VEX program is Project Lead The Way. Ms. Vanessa Baggott, Lee High School Teacher and member the LSU Pre-Engineering Pathways Development Team, shared her experiences with

the VEX Robotics program and gave an overview of the Pre-Engineering pathway. Mr. Andrew, St. Paul's in Covington, shared his experiences with VEX. Mr. Luis Medina acknowledged the Delhi Charter School as the VEX IQ winners and the 3 young men from Covington. Mr. Medina informed the Council of the 54 grants given to 25 schools in 24 different areas of Louisiana. Mr. Medina presented Senator Sharon Hewitt with VEX Excellence award for her efforts in STEM.

**Other Business**

**Adjournment**

## **Guest List: Appendix**

**Name**

**Agency**