

Louisiana Regional Collaboratives for Excellence in Science Teaching



HONORING THE TEACHERS

**Louisiana Tech University/
Grambling State University
Regional Collaborative**

Ruston, Louisiana

September 20, 2007



Event support was provided by

Shell Oil Company,

a Regional Collaborative Statewide Corporate Partner

HONORING THE TEACHERS EVENT

PROGRAM

Linda Ramsey and Dr. Danny Hubbard

Project Directors, Louisiana Tech/Grambling Regional Collaborative

WELCOME

Dr. Daniel D. Reneau

President, Louisiana Tech University

Dr. Connie Walton

Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Grambling State University

GREETINGS AND REMARKS

The Honorable Hollis Downs

Louisiana House of Representatives

Jonathan Johnson

State Director, Office of Congressman Rodney Alexander

Dr. Kamil A. Jbeily

Executive Director, Texas Regional Collaboratives

Dr. Frazier Wilson

Manager, Social Investment, Shell Oil Company

VOICE OF THE TEACHERS

RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Presentation of Certificates of Achievement as evidence of dedication to life-long learning and commitment to the teaching profession.



Louisiana Tech University/Grambling State University
Regional Collaborative

PROJECT DIRECTORS

Linda Ramsey

Director, CATALyST

Louisiana Tech University

Dr. Danny Hubbard

Head, Department of Chemistry

Grambling State University



SPEAKERS



Dr. Daniel D. Reneau
President
Louisiana Tech University



“To each of you I say “Congratulations” for participating in this project and doing it so well. To our colleagues from Texas, to Shell Oil Company, I tell you how appreciative we are. Education is what we are all about, and what better way to prepare the task force that produces the future leaders of America. That’s what your investment is doing; it’s assuring a sound America, led by well educated people who have been taught how to think, in addition to how to make a leaving.”

Dr. Daniel D. Reneau



Dr. Connie Walton
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Grambling State University

“The Louisiana Regional Collaborative for Excellence in Science Teaching is an additional opportunity for Grambling State University and Louisiana Tech University to combine resources in an effort to successfully execute the project. To the honorees, “Congratulations!” You represent nine school systems, and I have no doubt you are the leaders at your schools. You are to be commended on your commitment to excellence.”

Dr. Connie Walton



The Honorable Hollis Downs
Louisiana House of Representatives



“I am thrilled to be here tonight to offer my congratulations to the teachers that are being honored for their outstanding contributions. This is a world economy, and we have so many different things we’ve got to do to compete effectively, and you are the ones who are doing it, so I commend you for it. Let me know how I can help.”

The Honorable Hollis Downs



Jonathan Johnson
State Director, Office of
Congressman Rodney Alexander

“You teachers play an important role in influencing the life of your students. Over the next five years, over 13,000 students will pass through your classrooms. The impact that you play now and the next few years on what you are doing will pay dividends down the road, not only here in Louisiana, but throughout the nation. We are glad and honored to be a part of this first effort on recognition of your accomplishments.”

Jonathan Johnson

SPEAKERS



Dr. Kamil A. Jbeily
Executive Director
Texas Regional Collaboratives



“This program has proven to be a really great program because it focuses on you, the teachers. The best investment we make in our schools is in our teachers because we know that when you close the door, it’s what you know, how well you teach it, your passion, your enthusiasm, your excitement about science, mathematics and technology that will make a difference in the lives of your students. I want to congratulate all the teachers who are here tonight for the achievement of being life-long learners to help our students achieve educational excellence.”

Dr. Kamil A. Jbeily



Dr. Frazier Wilson
Manager, Social Investment
Shell Oil Company

“One of the things I look for when I am looking at funding opportunities is: Are you making an impact with teachers, and is it a lasting impact with students? Can this program be sustained? Sustainability is a collaborative effort, a deep partnership that you witness with Grambling and Louisiana Tech, with LSU and Southern. We understand it does not happen with only one organization trying to carry the load by itself. It is definitely a community commitment.”

Dr. Frazier Wilson



Dr. James P. Barufaldi, *Director, Center for Science and Mathematics Education, College of Education, The University of Texas at Austin*, **Dr. Kamil A. Jbeily**, **The Honorable Hollis Downs**, **Dr. Frazier Wilson**, **Bob Otom**, *Commissioner, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry*, **Linda Ramsey**

HONORING THE TEACHERS



Dr. James Liberatos, *Dean, College of Applied and Natural Sciences, Louisiana Tech University*, and
Dr. Kenneth Rea, *Vice President for Academic Affairs, Louisiana Tech University*



Dr. Stan Napper, *Dean, College of Engineering and Science, Louisiana Tech University*, and
Dr. Paul Hale, *Academic Director, Biomedical Engineering, Louisiana Tech University*



Dr. James P. Barufaldi,
Dr. Danny Hubbard, *Head, Department of Chemistry, Grambling State University*
Dr. Connie Walton, *Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Grambling State University*



Dr. Daniel D. Reneau and **Dr. Kamil A. Jbeily**



Dr. Pedro Derosa, *Assistant Professor of Physics, Joint appointment between Grambling and Louisiana Tech*,
Dr. James Nelson, *Associate Dean, College of Engineering and Science, Louisiana Tech University*,
Dr. Tabbetha Dobbins, *Assistant Professor of Physics, Joint appointment between Grambling and Louisiana Tech*

HONORING THE TEACHERS



Louis Cook, *Principal*, Northwood High School, Caddo Parish, and **Jack Freeman**, *Superintendent*, Caddo Parish Schools



Linda Ramsey, **Dr. David Mills**, *Professor, Biological Sciences*, Louisiana Tech University, **Dr. Steve Jones**, *Professor Biomedical Engineering*, Louisiana Tech University



Dr. Frazier Wilson, and **Katrina Roberson**, *Teacher*, Lee Junior High



Dr. Brenda Nixon, *Assistant Director*, LSU Gordon A. Cain Center for STEM Literacy, and **Susan Hilton**, *Teacher*, Ruston Junior High



GK12 Teaching Fellows who are part of NSF grant for which Dr. David Mills is Principal Investigator (left to right) **Glenn Fahrig**, **Melanie Groan**, **Katie Keeton**, **John Jack**, **Paul Turner** (in back), **Skylar Stewart**.

TEACHERS HONORED



Bienville Parish

Shavonne Garner-Price, Gibsland-Coleman Complex
Terrence Price, Bienville High

Bossier Parish

Judy Madden, Bossier High
Sandra Peña, Bossier High

Caddo Parish

Michelle Myers Berry, Huntington High
Andrew Coleman, Northwood High
Tanya Culligan, Caddo Parish Magnet High
Priscilla Savannah, Broadmoor Middle Laboratory

Lincoln Parish

Charlene Best, I. A. Lewis Elementary
Chris Campbell, Simsboro High
Stacy Campbell, Ruston High
Cathi Cox, Lincoln Parish School Board
Julie Dubois, Simsboro High School (Delcambre High School, New Iberia Parish)
Sherri Ferrel, Ruston Junior High
Susan Hilton, Ruston Junior High
Lisa Moody, I. A. Lewis Elementary
Missy Wooley, Ruston High, Louisiana Tech

Jackson Parish

David Hough, Weston High

Ouachita Parish

Mary Helen Blanchard, CATALyST, Louisiana Tech
Jamie Brooks, George Welch Elementary
Lamar Cranston, Pinecrest Middle
Mary Beth McCoy, Ouachita Junior High



Monroe City

Amanda Davis, Lexington Elementary
Lyndsey Ewing, Lee Junior High
Sharon Pate, Minnie Ruffin Elementary
Katrina Roberson, Robert E. Lee Junior High

Morehouse Parish

Janie Hamby, Morehouse Magnet School

Richland Parish

Carolyn Smith, Start Elementary
(El Dorado School System)



VOICE OF THE TEACHERS



“Teachers in this group represent over 417 years of teaching experience. Four of us teach grades K-5, eight teach grades 6-7, and 16 teach grades 8-12.”



Judy Madden

“Teachers have a tremendous opportunity as well as responsibility to mold and educate each young person he is charged with. Each child learns differently and with this challenge I find ways, not obstacles to allow this student to flourish and thrive. Now as an administrator, I pass this love and techniques to my staff allowing them to develop their style for our children.”

Judy Madden, Bossier High



Sandra Peña

“Each year, approximately 2700 students are taught by teachers in this group. Over five years, 13,500 students pass through our classrooms.”



“It is just my nature and I absolutely love working with children. I am a type “A” personality and I just can’t sit and do nothing. I must always have something to do. Also, Science is not a sit-around passive type of subject. I want my students up and involved in their own learning. I do not want them sitting at their desks working on questions. So, I need to make sure that I have interesting and motivating activities for them to participate in.”

Sandra Peña, Bossier High



“Teachers in this group are life long learners. Over the past five years, we have participated in approximately 10,750 hours of professional development.”



Michelle Myers Berry

“Being an educator is a profession where we have the privilege to use our own creativity to direct the majority of our environment. In the classroom, what the teacher does sets the tone for everyone and it is, therefore, an awesome responsibility as well as an exciting challenge. Everything we do to organize and manage our space and time affects children. I want to be the kind of educator and administrator who is an excellent role model not only for children, but for my peers as well. In order to be successful in both of these endeavors, I must continue to search out ideas and techniques that will improve what I do. Being able to have a positive impact on the people around me, whether they be my students or my colleagues, brings me great satisfaction and continued motivation.”

Michelle Myers Berry, Huntington High

VOICE OF THE TEACHERS



“Teachers in this group serve as leaders in their school systems. Over the past five years we have provided more than 5,360 hours of professional development for other teachers.”



Andrew Coleman

“The reason I work as hard as I do is because I know my kids need it. Our society is rapidly changing each and everyday, and if we as educators do not properly prepare them for these change, they will be crippled for the rest of their lives. I feel that it is up to us to equip them with not just science concepts, but with problem-solving and critical thinking skills that they will be able to use in all areas of their lives. For this reason, I take it upon myself to give each of my students all that I have each and every day, so that ten years from now when I see them, they will say, “Thank you!!!!” Not for giving them a hangout spot for 180 days a year, but for providing them with a quality education and the skills necessary to prosper in this society.”

Andrew Coleman, Northwood High



“Eighteen of us have had students win awards at regional science fairs and 16 of us have had students win awards at the state science fair.”

Tanya Culligan



“Teachers have a tremendous opportunity as well as responsibility to mold and educate each young person he is charged with. Each child learns differently and with this challenge I find ways, not obstacles to allow this student to flourish and thrive. Now as an administrator, I pass this love and techniques to my staff allowing them to develop their style for our children.”

Tanya Culligan, Caddo Parish Magnet High



“Twenty-two of us are members of the Louisiana State Science Teacher Association and 16 are members of at least one other professional education association.”



Priscilla Savannah

“I am an educator that never wants to stop learning because I want to be the best teacher I can be.”

Priscilla Savannah, Broadmoor Middle Laboratory

VOICE OF THE TEACHERS



“Twenty-seven of us have attended a Louisiana State Science Teachers Conference and 12 of us have served as presenters at the annual conference.”



Chris Campbell

“I believe passionately in making myself more knowledgeable about my content so that I can better teach my students, and hopefully, inspire them in some way.”

Chris Campbell, Simsboro High



Charlene Best

“Thirteen of us have attended a National Science Teachers Conference.”



“I work hard because I am committed to excellence in my life. I have high expectations for myself and have always maintained a strong work ethic. I was given a great example of this from my parents and hope this is reflected in everything I do.”

Charlene Best, I. A. Lewis Elementary



“Eleven of us have served as officers in a professional education organization.”



Stacy Campbell

“I want my students to succeed; I know they can. I feel that if I don’t “give them my all” that I’ve done them a disservice. I also want to be a good example to my own kids.”

Stacy Campbell, Ruston High

VOICE OF THE TEACHERS



“The 62 proposals that were funded brought in \$82,450 in funds to support learning activities in our schools.”



Cathi Cox

“I am consumed with a compulsive work ethic and a passion for teaching, it’s genetic—I get it from my father!”

Cathi Cox, Lincoln Parish School Board



Susan Hilton

“Twenty-one of us sponsor school clubs or other extracurricular activities.”



“Every teacher should want to be the best he/she can be in order to provide a quality education to their students.”

Susan Hilton, Ruston Junior High



“Two of us have received National Board Certification and two of us are working on National Board Certification.”



Lisa Moody

“Education is always undergoing constant change. You can not allow yourself to remain stagnant but must always strive to find more innovative ways to instruct your students. Participating in professional development is the most effective way to incorporate new teaching strategies and activities that engage and motivate students. You must believe your students are worth the time and effort involved in their education.”

Lisa Moody, I. A. Lewis Elementary

VOICE OF THE TEACHERS



“Five of us are currently serving in administrative positions in our school systems.”



Missy Wooley

“I love science and want my students to love science as well. I am enthusiastic about teaching my students (and other teachers) science concepts in a fun, meaningful way. CATALyST helped motivate me by providing the tools and methodologies that I am eager to share with students and other teachers. Forever my motto will be: Anything for Science!”

Missy Wooley, Lincoln Parish, Louisiana Tech University



David Hough

“Two of us have had articles published in professional education journals.”



“I believe in order to contribute greatly to people’s lives one must be a good leader, a good follower, and a good servant. I have many students come back and tell me how much they appreciate how well I have prepared them for college. They also tell me how much they appreciate my example of fairness, hard work, honesty, trustworthiness, and genuine concern for their well-being. I frequently stay after school or arrive early to provide free tutoring to students to help them accomplish their goals. Recently, a former student sent me a letter in which she thanked me for all I had done and credited me with the reason that she went on to college in nursing. She said that I had given her the skills and confidence and encouragement to do what she would not have done otherwise. Money and awards can never take the place of that type of satisfaction.”

David Hough, Weston High



“Eleven of us have been involved in doing research at a university or research facility.”



Sherri Ferrel
Ruston Junior High

VOICE OF THE TEACHERS



“Twenty-one of us have been selected as Teacher of the Year; 20 at the school level, four at the district level and three at the state level.”



Lyndsey Ewing

“Because I believe that in order to continue to increase student achievement, teachers must continue to be learners themselves.”

Lyndsey Ewing, Lee Junior High



Janie Hamby

“Three of us have served as presenters at the National Science Teachers Conference.”



“My students deserve the very best science education possible. I do not feel that I would be able to provide that if I did not further my educational experience!”

Janie Hamby, Morehouse Magnet School



“Fifteen of us sponsor or help direct local, regional, or state science fairs.”



Katrina Roberson

“I work hard because I love what I do, as it brings inspiration and hope to individuals; I work hard because it builds and retains my character.”

Katrina Roberson, Robert E. Lee Junior High

VOICE OF THE TEACHERS



“Fifteen of us are qualified to supervise student teachers.”



Carolyn Smith

“It is all for the children and getting them to see learning can be fun!!!!”

Carolyn Smith, Start Elementary, El Dorado School System



“Sixteen of us have completed our Plus 30.”

Mary Helen Blanchard



“I love working with teachers and in education I know what I am doing facilitates change and improves teacher effectiveness and student learning.”

Mary Helen Blanchard, CATALyST, Louisiana Tech University



“Seventeen of us chose teaching as our first career, but 11 of us had another career before we came to teaching. These careers included Medical Technologist, Forest Service Biologist, Research Associate, Research Tech, Florist, Business, Accounting, Salesman, and Insurance Agent.”



Shavonne Garner-Price
Gibsland-Coleman Complex

VOICE OF THE TEACHERS



“Twenty-two of us have completed master’s degrees.”



Lamar Cranston

“Quite frankly, CATALyST, LIFE, and C3 have given me a love for Science and a desire to teach to students in a way that each of them will enjoy and learn Science as well. I have been much encouraged by fellow teachers and GA’s, as well as the instructors in each of those programs. Thanks folks! I couldn’t have done it without you!”

Lamar Cranston, Pincrest Middle



“Six of us have participated in a workplace-based internship.”



Terrence Price
Bienville High



“Twenty of us have written and submitted grant proposals; we have had a total of 62 proposals funded.”



Mary Beth McCoy

“My students are the leaders of tomorrow. I want them to be successful, so I try to instill a love for learning. I want them to continue their education and become “life-long learners.” Then they will be valuable members of society. One of my favorite quotes is by Henry Brooks Adams, “A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.”

Mary Beth McCoy, Ouachita Junior High



Louisiana Tech University/Grambling State University Regional Collaborative

Project Director at Louisiana Tech:

Linda Ramsey

Director, CATALyST

Louisiana Tech University

P.O. Box 3179 T.S.

Ruston, LA 71272

Tel: 318-257-4772

Project Director at Southern University:

Dr. Danny Hubbard

Head, Department of Chemistry

Grambling State University

100 Main Street

Grambling, LA 71245

Tel: 318-274-3720

Prepared by



Texas Regional Collaboratives for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching

Center for Science and Mathematics Education, College of Education

The University of Texas at Austin

Physical Address: 1912 Speedway / Sánchez Building, Suite 340

Mailing Address: 1 University Station D5500

Austin, Texas 78712-0377

www.thetrc.org

Tel: 512-471-9400 Fax: 512-471-9244