

**Special points of
interest:**

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- Conference Presentations
- Faculty & Student Awards
- Faculty & Students on State and Regional Boards
- Summer & Fall 2015 SMED Graduates

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SMED News



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SUBR LIGO Project Funded for an Additional 5 Years at \$2.5M

The Southern University and A&M College Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory Science Education Center (SUBR LIGO SEC) Partnership proposal was funded for an additional five years at a level of \$2.5 million by the National Science Foundation. The partners include the LIGO Laboratory (Livingston, LA), SUBR's Departments of Education, Physics, Mathematics, and Science/Mathematics Education Doctoral (SMED) Program, the San Francisco Exploratorium, Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO), CORE Element, and the University of Glasgow at Scotland.

leading museum specializing in informal science education resulted in an effective center for teacher training and student science education with notable impacts on increasing the diversity of science, technology, engineering, education and mathematics (STEEM) majors. The new partners will expand this effort. The project leaders include Dr. Luria Young (Principal Investigator-PI), Dr. Moustapha Diack (Co-PI), Dr. Stephen McGuire (Co-PI) and Dr. VerJanis Peoples (Co-PI).



The overall goal of this partnership is to strengthen teacher candidate training and clinical faculty professional development focused on inquiry based teaching and learning, using exhibits and "snacks." The combined efforts of a cutting edge research laboratory, a historically black college and University (HBCU) and a

Louisiana Board of Regents eLearning Innovation Grants

Dr. Moustapha Diack received a multi-year Seed Grant (\$16,000/year for 5 years) from the Louisiana Board of Regents eLearning Innovation Grants Program. The project entitled "Networked Virtual Laboratories" intends to conduct research on the implementation of Virtual Laboratory Experiments for the STEM disciplines and to

build a state-wide learning community around the research and implementation of virtual laboratories.



SMED Faculty & Student Conference Presentations

Louisiana State University Office of Strategic Initiative Retreat Louisiana E-Learning Conference—MERLOT Digital Scholars



Dr. Albertha Lawson was a guest presenter at the Louisiana State University Office of Strategic Initiative Retreat on July 29, 2015 at the Baton Rouge Hilton. Her presentation "Project Evaluation and Assessment?" covered critical elements of the design and development of a statistically sound project analysis.

MERLOT Digital Scholars

MERLOT and its outreach program to Africa (MERLOT Afri-

ca Network) launched a 2014/2015 Digital Scholars Program (DSP). The MERLOT/MAN DSP is a community of faculty and graduate students who serve as mentors, innovators, project leaders, and liaisons communicating the interests and innovations of educators in the area of E-Learning and E-Health to the larger MERLOT and MAN global communities. The organizations certified in April 27, 2017, during the Louisiana Annual E-

Learning Conference held in Baton Rouge Louisiana, the first cohort of Digital Scholars 2015. The MERLOT/MAN DS 2015 is composed of 13 scholars from the Doctoral Program in Science/Mathematics Education (SMED) at Southern University in Baton Rouge (SUBR), Louisiana.



Mid-South Education Research Association Conference (MSERA)

On November 4-6, 2016, Dr. Susannah Craig, Dr. Ni'Shawn Stovall, and PhD candidate Jane Publico attended the MSERA regional conference in Lafayette, LA. Both Dr. Stovall and Ms. Publico presented their SMED research in multiple sessions.

Dr. Stovall presented a session titled Investigating the Role of Parental Involvement in Virtual Schooling for K-12 Education.

Ms. Publico presented a session titled Differentiated Instruction in the High School Science Classroom.



Each SMED student represented SMED and Southern University by presenting their research during the Research in Progress sessions and were recognized for their outstanding work.



LSTA/LATM Conference

The SMED Faculty and students were well represented at the LSTA/LATM conference on November 11-12, 2015. Over 12 students and graduates of the SMED program attended and presented 4 sessions at the joint conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. SMED had a recruiting booth in the Exhibit area. Dr. Moustapha Diack and Dr. Susannah Craig organized the booth and participated in sessions supporting SMED students.



SMED Award Winners

Louisiana Association for Institutional Research

Dr. Albertha Lawson received the Louisiana Association for Institutional Research (LAIR) Outstanding Service Award at the 2015 annual conference held at the Louisiana Board of Regents on June 16, 2015 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

She is a LAIR Past President and has served the organization in various capacities for over fifteen years. LAIR is a non-profit association for persons interested in higher education

Institutional Research(IR) from public and private colleges in the state of Louisiana.

In Spring 2015, the SMED program kicked off what is now known as "Pay It Forward (PIF)" for STEM teachers. Dr. Albertha Lawson and two of its inaugural members, Fall 2015 SMED graduates Edna Buchanan and Ni'Shawn Stovall were very instrumental in the first year success of the movement.



Pictured Above: Dr.s Albertha Lawson, Ni'Shawn Stovall, and Edna Buchanan

Ms. Phyllis Okwan—National Role Model Award

Ms Jane Pablico and Dr. Ni'Shawn Stovall—Mid-South Education Research Association

Ms. Phyllis Okwan received the National Role Model award at the Mathematics Field of Dreams Conference held in Birmingham, Alabama on November 6-8, 2015.



Ms. Jane Pablico and Dr. Ni'Shawn Stovall both received the Research in Progress award provided by MSERA. Ninety-eight research submissions were peer reviewed and Dr. Stovall and Ms. Pablico's research were selected in the top 14 winners.



SMED was conceived in 1990 by the faculty at Southern University. It was implemented in 1998, enrolled its first students in spring of 1999. This Doctor of Philosophy program is the only Ph. D. program in science and mathematics education, with master's level proficiency in mathematics and science content in Louisiana.

Ingrid Cruz was Named Baton Rouge Area Chamber Excellent STEM Educator of the Year

Ms. Ingrid Cruz from Scotlandville Pre-Engineering Magnet Academy was named one of the five Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC) Excellent STEM Educators of the Year.

In addition, Ms. Cruz has been awarded several grants: the Society of Petroleum Engineers Grant for Underwater Robotics, the Foundation for East Baton Rouge School System Sea Perch Grant, the ExxonMobil/Cain Center Impact Grant, and the Foundation for East Baton Rouge

School System Agro Robotics grant.



Lynette Jackson 2015 American Chemical Society High School Teacher of the Year

Ms. Lynette Jackson was named The 2015 Baton Rouge Section of the American Chemical Society High School Chemistry Teacher of the Year!



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SMED Faculty and Alumni on State and Regional Boards

Dr. Susannah Craig currently serves as the Louisiana Representative on the MSERA Board of Directors. At the conference in early November, Dr. Ni'Shawn Stovall was elected by the MSERA membership as the LDE/SDE representative on the MSERA board. Dr. Stovall will serve a two year term. She began her term immediately. Dr. Craig and Dr. Stovall are looking forward to the 2016 conference in Mobile, Alabama and hope you will join us.

Dr. Susannah Craig was elected to the LSTA State Board. She is the Region 2 representative and was elected to a two-year term.

Dr. Moustapha Diack and Dr. Albertha Lawson were welcomed as mentors to both pre-doctoral and doctoral students in the National Alliance for Doctoral Studies in the Mathematical Sciences in the Fall of 2015.



SMED Alumni Spotlight

Dr. Michelle Clayton currently serves as the Deputy Superintendent of the East Baton Rouge Parish School System, where she joined the team in June of 2015. Prior to her accepting her current role, Dr. Clayton oversaw the Zachary Community School District's instructional program for twelve years. During her tenure there, the school system was recognized as the #1 school district in the state for ten consecutive years. Dr. Clayton is widely known for her commitment to academic excellence and for providing outstanding educational opportunities for students of all ability levels. Dr. Clayton doubled the number of course offerings in both the Advanced Placement program as well as the Career and Technical Education program. She also created the highly successful "Achiever Program" to meet the needs of academically struggling and/or over-aged 5th grade and 8th grade students throughout the district. Dr. Clayton's innovative approach to educating students and willingness to think outside of the box has enabled her to establish a variety of academic programs that serve as model programs throughout the state of Louisiana. Prior to Dr. Clayton's work in Zachary, she taught high school chemistry at Scotlandville Magnet High School and Lee High School. Michelle also worked at the Department of Education in the accountability department where she was honored as the Department's Employee of the Year for her work with external consultants on establishing the parameters for the state's accountability system. Dr. Clayton earned her Bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University, a master's degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and a doctor of philosophy degree from the Southern University SMED Program.

SMED Graduates of Summer and Fall 2015

Dr. Kendra Smith graduated in the Summer of 2015. Dr. Ni'Shawn Stovall, and Dr. Edna Buchanan graduated in the Fall 2015 commencement ceremonies. The entire SMED Faculty and Staff congratulate these SMED students and wish them well on their future endeavors.

