

20 **FULL** 26

# STEAM

## AHEAD

EDUCATOR SYMPOSIUM

**“PATTERNS”**

REWRITE THE RULES.  
RETHINK WHAT'S POSSIBLE.





*Hosted by Centenary College of Louisiana  
Department of Education  
Center for Teaching and Learning*

2 0 2 6   T H E M E

# PATTERNS

**Thursday, February 12, 2026**

**Opening Reception**

5:30pm - 7:00pm

Meadows Museum of Art

**5:00pm**

Registration

Pick up your registration packet and tour the Meadows Museum. Don't miss their 50th Anniversary Exhibition!

**5:30pm**

Welcome

Dr. Cory Wikan

Dean of the Hurley School of Music  
Centenary College of Louisiana

**5:45pm-7pm**

Reception and Refreshments

**Friday, February 13, 2026**

**Full STEAM Ahead**

**Educator Symposium**

8:00am - 3:30pm

Bynum Commons and the Hurley School of Music

**7:45am-8:30am**

Registration & Breakfast

**8am-8:15am**

Welcome

**8:30am-9:30am**

Concurrent Session A

**9:45am-10:45am**

Concurrent Session B

**11am-12pm**

Concurrent Session C

**12:15pm-1:15pm**

Lunch and Keynote Address

**1:30pm-2:30pm**

Concurrent Session D

**2:45pm-3:30pm**

Door Prizes and Networking



**Friday, February 13, 2026**  
**Registration | 7:45am – 8:30am**

**Whited Room, Bynum Commons**

Coffee and breakfast items will be available during registration. Coffee and water will be available throughout the conference.

**Welcome and Breakfast | 8:00am – 8:30am**

**Whited Room, Bynum Commons**

**Dr. Rachel Johnson and Dr. Terrie Johnson**

Event Co-chairs

*Centenary College of Louisiana*

**Concurrent Session A | 8:30am – 9:30am**

**Hardy Hall of Fame Room, Bynum Commons**

**“Pattern Disruption: Designing Classrooms That Can’t Be Outsourced to AI”**

*Penny Pate and Laura Holley, Captain Shreve High School*

As generative AI automates formulaic tasks like worksheets and essays, K-12 educators must shift from rewarding compliance to prioritizing deep thinking. This workshop uses AI as a diagnostic tool to expose instructional weaknesses and redesign assessments through an “AI Stress Test.” Participants move beyond simply “blocking” AI, instead learning to create human-centered, experiential environments that emphasize process, reasoning, and student agency. Teachers leave with practical toolkits to ensure student thinking remains the core of the classroom, preserving instructional rigor in an increasingly automated world.



## **Anderson Atrium, Hurley School of Music**

### **“Breaking the Mold: Teaching Beyond the Template”**

*Katie Chirhart, South Highlands Elementary Magnet*

While school often follows a predictable pattern—standards, curriculum, and testing—the world of STEM is rarely a straight line. To prepare students for the future, we need to bridge the gap between classroom structure and the complex, non-linear patterns of the real world. In this interactive workshop, we'll explore how inquiry-based projects can transform the way students solve problems. We'll analyze two successful classroom examples, then work to redesign a standard lesson into a hands-on project. You'll walk away with a practical plan that meets your requirements while sparking creativity and teamwork in your students.

## **Whited Room, Bynum Commons**

### **“Paper, Patterns, and Proportionality: Low-Tech Linear Thinking with GenAI”**

*Jacob Hesselschwardt, Bossier Parish Schools*

Teachers become makers in this hands-on session on proportional and linear relationships. Grounded in LSSM 6.RP, 7.RP, 8.EE, and 8.F, participants build and decorate paper “relationship tiles” (tables, graphs, stories), then collaborate to chain, remix, and gallery-walk their patterns while naming rate of change, constant of proportionality, and starting value. Small groups design prompts for GenAI pattern tools, then compare their handmade art with AI outputs, surfacing ideas about AI literacy, student agency, and classroom-ready, low-cost engagement.



## Concurrent Session B | 9:45am – 10:45am

### Whited Room, Bynum Commons

#### **“Lettuce STEAM with Seeds to Success”**

*Tyne Bankester, Cecelia Stevens, and Crystal Besse, Louisiana State University (LSU) Ag Center*

Bring the farm to school and learn how Seeds to Success resources can transform school gardening into a dynamic STEAM learning experience. Participants will explore hands-on activities that integrate research, design, scientific investigations, data analysis, and creative communication while connecting students to where their food comes from and how it grows. From planning and modeling lettuce gardens to tracking growth, troubleshooting challenges, and organizing a classroom taste test, attendees will discover real-world applications of STEAM skills in the garden. Join in and “lettuce” practice strategies to cultivate curiosity and innovation with students through gardening.

### Anderson 116, Hurley School of Music

#### **“Community Partners Panel: Local Arts Organizations”**

*Alissa Klaus, Director of the Meadows Museum of Art, Centenary College of Louisiana*

*Rebecca Bonnevier, Executive Director of the Shreveport Regional Arts Council*

Explore how local arts organizations collaborate with educators and schools to enrich learning across disciplines. Leaders from regional arts organizations will share opportunities for partnership, discuss the mission and impact of their work, and reflect on how education and the arts intersect. Panelists will answer questions about programming,



collaboration, and community engagement, offering practical insights for educators interested in building meaningful, creative partnerships. This session is ideal for teachers, administrators, and arts advocates seeking to connect classroom learning with the cultural life of the region.

## **Anderson Atrium, Hurley School of Music**

### **“Presidential AI Challenge” – Poster Session**

*Katie Chirhart’s Students, South Highlands Elementary Magnet*

Third and fifth grade students at South Highlands Elementary Magnet participated in the Presidential AI Challenge, learning how artificial intelligence works and how it impacts daily life. This poster session will showcase their step-by-step process—from understanding AI to creating innovative solutions. Most importantly, the posters will be created and presented by the students themselves, giving symposium participants a unique opportunity to hear directly from young innovators.

## **Hardy Hall of Fame Room, Bynum Commons**

### **“Beyond the Build: Integrating the Robotics Challenge Series and Engineering Design into the K-12 Classroom”**

*Micah Stewart and Kathryn Jividen, Elm Grove Middle School*

The Louisiana Robotics Challenge Series (LRCS) is a regional STE(a)M initiative designed to elevate student achievement through a competitive, high-interest “geeky sports” league. Utilizing accessible platforms (Spike/EV3/VEX), LRCS seamlessly integrates the new Louisiana Computer Science and Science standards. This workshop explores how the series targets critical performance gaps in data collection and troubleshooting while providing a modern alternative to waning science fair participation. Teachers will also gain practical lesson examples and strategies to transform classroom STE(a)M projects into a year-long journey of technical and creative mastery.



## Concurrent Session C | 11am - 12pm

### Whited Room, Bynum Commons

#### **“Breaking (and Rebuilding) Patterns with Iterative Development”**

*Linda Morgan and John Holloway, CYBER.ORG*

In this hands-on workshop, educators explore how iterative development helps students move beyond rigid patterns toward deeper learning. Using the BBC micro:bit and Cyber Literacy materials, participants experience an AI-assisted coding activity designed to fail on the first attempt – by design. Through testing, reflection, and revision, educators see how small changes drive improvement and build confidence. Attendees leave with a classroom-ready activity, practical strategies for teaching iteration, and a free micro:bit.

### Hardy Hall of Fame Room, Bynum Commons

#### **“They Passed the Exam—So Why Aren’t They Ready? Rethinking Workforce Readiness in Applied Programs.”**

*Chelsea McCullin, Northwestern State University, School of Allied Health*

Students in applied programs often meet academic benchmarks and pass credentialing exams, yet employers report ongoing gaps in workplace readiness. This presentation explores the disconnect between academic success and real-world preparedness, drawing on pilot research, senior clinician insights, and registry preparation outcomes from diagnostic medical sonography. Framed as a faculty conversation, the session examines what employers actually expect from new graduates and highlights practical, low-burden instructional shifts that support confidence, clinical reasoning, and professional readiness—without adding to faculty workload before concluding.

### Anderson 116, Hurley School of Music

#### **“STEAM Challenges and Patterns of Collaboration: Destination Imagination Creative Problem-Solving Program”**

*Cesar Marrero, Marissa Marrero, and Dr. Katie Aranda, Louisiana Destination Imagination*

This STEAM-based workshop introduces participants to the creative process of solving hands-on, collaborative engineering challenges using Destination Imagination “Instant Challenge” strategies. Participants will work in teams to brainstorm, divide tasks, take risks, and construct hands-on solutions to open-ended STEAM-based challenges. Participants will take away creative ideas and sample “instant challenges” to share with their students.



## Lunch | 12:15pm – 1:15pm

**Whited Room, Bynum Commons - Sponsored by the Cyber Innovation Center**

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS with Jamin Carter

Jamin is an educator, activist, artist, and minister who calls Memphis, TN his home. He holds a BFA in sculpture and painting and a MAT in visual art education. He has a decade and a half of experience in education. As a public school teacher he has worked in several diverse, Title One classrooms ranging from elementary art to high school studio art and AP art history.

As a national Kennedy Center teaching artist and arts integration consultant with Focus 5, Jamin leads visual art and drama-based workshops in schools, museums, and arts centers across the country and collaborates with other consultants on new and existing workshops.

As an artist, Jamin works in a variety of mediums, such as acrylics, mix media and sculpture. Working out of his studio in Memphis, he participates in exhibitions, facilitates panel discussions, and occasionally curates shows.

Jamin spends his life with his wife Becky and three children-Benjamin, Malea and Xavier, in the midtown area of the city where they garden, take walks, host neighborhood events, and are usually building or fixing something.

## Concurrent Session D | 1:30pm – 2:30pm

**Whited Room, Bynum Commons**

### “Using LEGO to BUILD Patterns of Behavior Rooted in Community”

*Cade Worley, Geaux Build Louisiana*

Explore how hands-on, LEGO-based learning can support STEAM education, collaboration, and community-building in classrooms of all ages. This session introduces the work of GEAUX Build Louisiana and its mission to engage students across Caddo Parish through creative, team-based building experiences. Participants will learn how structured play fosters problem-solving, creativity, and shared learning, and how these approaches can be adapted to support meaningful, accessible instruction. This session highlights the role of community-centered STEAM learning and offers



inspiration for bringing playful, collaborative practices into the classroom. Centenary undergraduates.

### **Hardy Hall of Fame Room, Bynum Commons**

#### **“Breaking Down Your Standards”**

*Robert Gallant, Benton Intermediate, Bossier Parish Schools*

Are you truly hitting every part of your teaching standards? Keeping pace with changing requirements is difficult, but “biting into” the details is essential for student success. Join Mr. Gallant to explore the “Chicken Foot” model, a powerful strategy for breaking down standards to their very core. This hands-on presentation offers a universal framework that teachers of any subject can use to ensure total curriculum alignment.

### **Anderson 120, Hurley School of Music**

#### **“Scaling High-Impact Practices in Teacher Preparation and Other Courses”**

*Dr. Terrie Johnson, Assistant Professor and Chair of Education, Centenary College of Louisiana*

*Dr. Joan Turek, Assistant Professor of Education, Centenary College of Louisiana*

This session presents a collaborative, research-in-progress exploration of how high-impact practices (HIPs) can be scaled across an undergraduate teacher preparation program. Building from a Foundations of Education course in which HIP-aligned activities were first implemented, the study seeks to understand how these pedagogical models can be adapted and embedded across other courses, content and programs, and also retention and persistence as seen in Kuh's HIP research (Kuh, 2008).



## **Closing – Door Prizes and Networking Session | 2:45pm – 3:30pm**

**Whited Room, Bynum Commons**

*Dr. Terrie Johnson, Assistant Professor and Chair of Education, Centenary College of Louisiana*

*Dr. Rachel Johnson, Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, Centenary College of Louisiana*

2 0 2 6     S Y M P O S I U M

# SPONSORS

## STEM Collective for Innovative Louisiana Stakeholders (SCILS)

This event is funded in part through a grant from The STEM Collective for Innovative Louisiana Stakeholders (SCILS) Region 8 LaSTEM Center. The Region 8 LaSTEM Center is a group of partners across north Louisiana focused on meeting the critical need for science, technology, engineering, and math learning and job skills in our region.

## Centenary College of Louisiana

Located in the heart of Shreveport's historic Highland neighborhood, Centenary College of Louisiana is a selective, residential, national liberal arts college affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Founded in 1825, it is the oldest chartered liberal arts college west of the Mississippi River and is a member of the Associated Colleges of the South.

## Cyber Innovation Center

Cyber Innovation Center (CIC), located in Bossier City, Louisiana, is the anchor of the 3,000-acre National Cyber Research Park and serves as the catalyst for the development and expansion of a knowledge-based workforce throughout the region. As a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation, CIC fosters collaboration among its partners and accelerates technology, research, and development. One of its primary missions is to develop a sustainable knowledge-based workforce that can support the growing needs of government, industry, and academic partners.

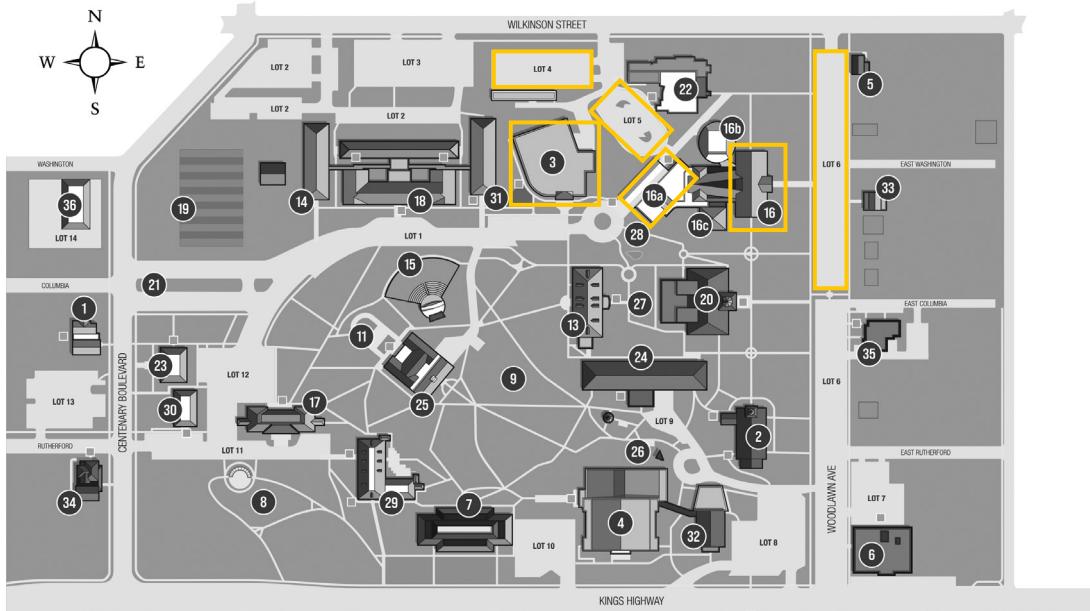
## Acknowledgments

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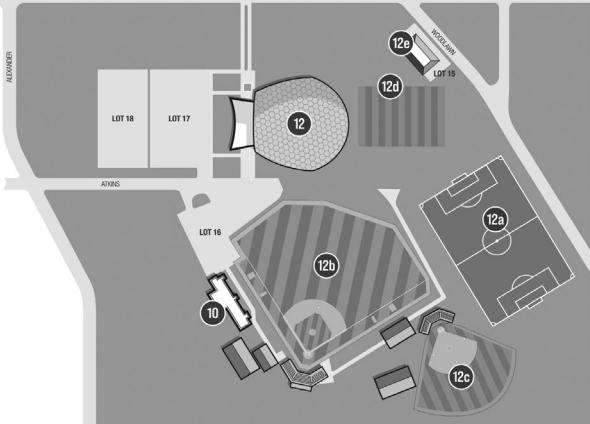
Alissa Klaus and the Meadows Museum of Art  
Ashley Dehart, Kevin Porter, and Debbie Bury  
Learning Commons Student Workers  
Facilities and Dining Services  
Mandy Martinez  
Mrs. Katharyn Deville and  
Centenary Marketing and Communications

# C E N T E N A R Y   C A M P U S   M A P



1. 2910 Building - Closed  
 2. Brown Chapel  
 3. Bynum Commons  
     - Cafeteria  
     - Whited Room  
     - Auditorium  
     - Hardy Room  
     - Centenary Room  
 4. Centenary Fitness Center  
     - Gymnastics  
     - Cross Country  
     - Cheer and Dance  
     - Swimming  
     - Golf (Golf Performance Center)  
     - Track and Field  
     - Kinesiology  
 5. Canterbury House  
 6. Centenary Square  
     - Public Safety (OPS)  
     - Psychology  
     - Physics  
     - Geology  
 7. Cline Resident Hall  
 8. Crumley Garden  
 9. Ed Leuck Louisiana Academic Arboretum  
 10. Facilities Office and Baseball  
 11. Frost Gardens  
 12. Gold Dome  
     - Athletic Administration  
     - Sports Medicine/Athletic Training  
     - Men's Basketball  
     - Women's Basketball  
     - Women's Volleyball  
     - Outdoor Facilities and Field House  
         - 12a. Mayo Soccer Field  
         - 12a. Lacrosse  
         - 12a. Football  
         - 12b. Shehee Baseball Field  
         - 12c. Softball Field  
         - 12d. Practice Field  
         - 12e. Field House  
 13. Hamilton Hall  
     - Business Office  
     - Payroll  
     - Human Resources  
     - Finance and Administration  
     - Provost's Office  
     - Asst. Provost of Institutional Research  
     - Grants and Endowment Office  
     - Alumni & Family Relations  
     - Registrar's Office  
     - President's Office  
     - Development

14. Hardin Residence Hall  
 15. Hargrove Memorial Amphitheatre  
 16. Hurley Music Building  
     - 16a. Anderson Choral  
     - 16b. Feazell Instrumental Hall  
     - 16c. Music Library  
 17. Jackson Hall  
     - Foreign languages  
     - English Department  
     - Frost School of Business  
     - Education Department  
 18. James Residence Hall  
 19. Jones-Rice Field  
 20. Magale Library  
     - Information Technology (IT)  
     - Learning Commons/Center for  
     - Teaching and Learning  
     - Career Services  
     - Global Engagement  
     - Community/Civic Engagement  
 21. Main Entrance  
 22. Marjorie Lyons Playhouse  
     - Theatre Department  
 23. Meadows Museum of Art  
 24. Mickle Hall  
     - Biology  
     - Chemistry  
 25. Moore Student Union (SUB)  
     - Student Development and the Dean of  
     - Students Office  
     - Student Leadership Offices (Student  
     - Government Association, Centenary  
     - Activities Board, Conglomerate Student  
     - Newspaper, Pandora Arts Magazine, and  
     - Film Society)  
     - Student Involvement (Orientation,  
     - Student Activities, and Student  
     - Organizations)  
     - Student Conduct  
     - Bookstore  
     - Post Office  
     - Randall's Cafe  
     - Office of the Dean for Diversity,  
     - Equality, and Inclusion  
     - Residence Life  
 26. Peavy Climbing Tower  
 27. The Quad  
 28. Riggs Plaza  
 29. Rotary Residence Hall Apartments  
     - Health Services/Counseling  
     - (lower floor)  
     - Christian Leadership Services  
     - (lower floor)



■ = Wheelchair Accessible

30. Sam Peters Building  
     - Admission Office  
     - Marketing & Communication  
 31. Sexton Residence Hall  
 32. Smith Building / Kilpatrick Auditorium  
     - Chaplain  
     - Christian Leadership Center  
     - Religious Studies Dept.  
     - Philosophy Dept.  
     - Sociology Dept.  
     - History / Political Science Dept.  
 33. Symphony House  
 34. Turner Art Center  
     - Art and Visual Studies Dept.  
 35. Wright Math Building  
     - Math Department  
 36. 2800 Centenary Blvd.

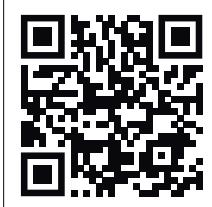
## LOT DETAILS

Lot 1 Student, Staff, and Visitor Parking  
 Lot 2 Student Parking  
 Lot 3 Student Parking  
 Lot 4 Any Decal  
 Lot 5 Student Parking  
 Lot 6 Any Decal  
 Lot 7 Any Decal  
 Lot 8 Student and Faculty Parking  
 Lot 9 Faculty Parking  
 Lot 10 Student Parking  
 Lot 11 Student Parking  
 Lot 12 Faculty and Student Parking  
 Lot 13 Any Decal  
 Lot 14 Any Decal and Marked Staff Spaces  
 Lot 15 Faculty, Staff and Visitors  
 Lot 16 Faculty, Staff and Visitors  
 Lot 17 Faculty, Staff and Visitors  
 Lot 18 Any Decal

20 **FULL** 26

# STEAM AHEAD

EDUCATOR SYMPOSIUM



More info at  
[centenary.edu/fullsteamahead](http://centenary.edu/fullsteamahead)