

Teachers Selected for LA-SiGMA/Shell Summer Research Program

The LA-SiGMA/Shell Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) team at LA Tech has selected the following six participants for its Summer 2013 program: Mark Magauay (Fair Park High School), Theresa McBride (Holly Ridge Elementary School), Aleta Overby (Simsboro High School), Holly Payton (I.A. Lewis), Dan Rogers (Delta Junior High School), and Dr. Leif Sherry (Bossier Parish Community College).

LA-SiGMA's North Louisiana Outreach Coordinator, Alicia Boudreaux, says, "These teachers have shown excellent initiative in engaging their students with hands-on science activities and design projects throughout the school year. This summer, they will have the opportunity to work on their own science research on LA Tech's campus." Holly Payton, a physical science teacher at I.A. Lewis, says, "I chose the RET program to improve my knowledge for the classroom. I am looking forward to getting started!"

The program is sponsored by the Louisiana Alliance for Simulation-Guided Materials Applications (LA-SiGMA) and the Shell-supported Northern Louisiana Regional Collaborative for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching. The LA-SiGMA Alliance includes Louisiana Tech, LSU, Tulane University, University of New Orleans, Southern University, Xavier University and Grambling State University, and is funded by a \$20M grant from the National Science Foundation. The Northern Louisiana Collaborative is an extension of the Texas Regional Collaborative, and has the objective to provide professional development opportunities for K-12 teachers of Science and Mathematics. This summer program is the conclusion of a year that included a teacher workshop at the LATM/LSTA Conference, a workshop on Mentoring, Time Management and Networking, and a second workshop on Building Networking Circles.

Dr. Pedro Derosa, Larson Professor of Physics and joint Faculty between Louisiana Tech and Grambling State is the project director of the Northern Louisiana Regional Collaborative and campus lead for GSU. He says, "This is an opportunity for us to give back what we received from our teachers, but it is also a contribution to help in the education of K-12 students. Here, at the University, we receive the product of K-12 education and it is in our best interest to help in the training of those students by providing opportunities to their teachers".

Dr. Daniela Mainardi, Thomas C. & Nelda M. Jeffery Associate Professor and Chair of Chemical Engineering at LA Tech, and LA Tech campus lead for the Northern Louisiana Regional Collaborative added "This RET program is designed to advance discovery and fundamental understanding while promoting teaching, training, and professional development of school teachers; ultimately reaching underrepresented, disadvantaged K-12 and prospective students from small rural and city schools around Louisiana Tech's region in Northern Louisiana."



LA-SiGMA/Shell RET teachers with their research mentors in Louisiana Tech's Biomedical Engineering Building.

To read more about LA-SiGMA research and outreach programs, see <http://www.institute.loni.org/lasigma/>. For highlights on the Louisiana Collaborative, see <http://thetrc.org/web/louisiana.html>, and <http://thetrc.org/trc> for full information on the Texas Regional Collaborative.