

# Reaching East Baton Rouge Parish Students Through School Libraries Louisiana EPSCoR

<i>Award Title:</i>	Consortium for Innovation in Manufacturing and Materials (CIMM)
<i>NSF Award Number:</i>	NSF OIA-1541079
<i>Principal Investigator:</i>	Michael Khonsari
<i>Lead Institution Name:</i>	Louisiana State University
<i>Award Start Date:</i>	August 2015
<i>Award End Date:</i>	July 2020
<i>Highlight Submission Date:</i>	04/15/2019

**What is the outcome or accomplishment?** (1-2 short sentences describing it and why it is transformative; 50-word maximum suggested)\*

To reach additional underserved students, the Speaking of Science (SoS) outreach program has developed a strategic partnership with the East Baton Rouge Parish School Library System to provide dynamic and compelling STEM education experiences in schools.

**What is the impact?** (1-2 simple sentences describing the benefits for science, industry, society, the economy, national security, etc.; suggested 50-word maximum)

Speaking of Science is an established speakers' bureau of scientific researchers including Consortium for Innovation in Manufacturing and Materials (CIMM) researchers and other university researchers covering hundreds of scientific topics. Traditionally, teachers book speakers for their classes, but are finding it increasingly difficult due to strict curriculum requirements. To help ease this burden on teachers, the SoS program reached out to the East Baton Rouge Parish Public School Library System to become a partner with the librarians for the K-12 population of Louisiana's capital city, Baton Rouge. SoS held two informational and demonstrative presentations at professional development events for school librarians in the fall. The librarians that were in attendance have the potential to impact over 40,000 students a year by bringing SoS speakers into the school libraries and school STEM fairs.

**What explanation/background does the lay reader need to understand the significance of this outcome?** (1-2 paragraphs that might include, for example, more on who, when, where; NSF's role; support from multiple directorates/offices; what makes this accomplishment unique; additional intellectual merits; or broader impacts such as education, outreach, or infrastructure improvement that are integral to this outcome; suggested 150-word maximum)

The East Baton Rouge Parish School district serves 40,743 K-12 students, approximately 5% of the state's total student population. Additionally, each public school in EBR employs one school librarian whose professional duties, time, and effort reach their entire school population.

Therefore, Speaking of Science has partnered with the East Baton Rouge Parish School Library System to promote science education through school library programming in an effort to reach as many students as possible and bring science education into school libraries.

The SoS speakers are researchers from universities across the state and speak about science, technology, engineering and math topics, including 3D printing & design, computer coding, and robotics. SoS is supported by the NSF-funded Consortium for Innovation in Manufacturing and Materials (CIMM) and the Louisiana Board of Regents.



Dr. Darryl Holliday demonstrates 3D printing technology in the form of pancake cooking for students of Lee Magnet High School in Baton Rouge, LA.