



Biography

307BW/STARBASE Louisiana

Benjamin Williamson **2.0 Coordinator**

Benjamin Williamson is the 2.0 Coordinator of the STARBASE Louisiana program, sponsored by the Department of Defense at Barksdale Air Force Base. He joined the STARBASE Louisiana team in August of 2011 as a Program Instructor. In 2012, he was promoted to Coordinator for STARBASE 2.0, a new phase in STARBASE Louisiana's STEM outreach designed to build on and extend the impact of the STARBASE 5th grade program with the goal of creating a STEM pipeline through middle and into high school. As 2.0 Coordinator he collaborates heavily with the Executive and Deputy Directors of STARBASE Louisiana to design and implement an advanced curriculum coupled with mentoring from STEM educators and professionals aimed at engaging middle school students in STEM investigations in a fun and informal afterschool setting. In October 2013, Benjamin became the full-time 2.0 Coordinator in order to expand and offer the program to more schools throughout the district.



Benjamin assists with the implementation of the STARBASE program and contributes to the development of curriculum and materials. He has served the national DoD STARBASE program by reviewing the CAD curriculum designed by engineers at PTC for its software Creo Elements, and has presented with the STARBASE Louisiana team at local, regional, and national conferences.

Benjamin was born in Shreveport, Louisiana and is a 2010 graduate from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. In 2010, he moved to New Orleans where he taught 7th and 8th grade math in the Recovery School District. While teaching in New Orleans, he completed the Louisiana Practitioner Teacher Program's New Teacher Project, an alternative certification route ranked as one of the top performing programs in the state by the Louisiana Board of Regents. Upon his return to Shreveport, he was pleased to join the STARBASE staff. His hobbies are playing and officiating soccer games, singing in his church choir, and spending time with friends and family.

Teaching History

2012 - present STARBASE 2.0 Coordinator
2011 - 2012 STARBASE Program Instructor
2010 - 2011 7th-8th Grade Math, H.C. Shaumburg Elementary, New Orleans, LA

Education and Certifications

2011 Louisiana Practitioner Teacher Program – New Orleans, LA
 Certified in Secondary Math, grades 6-12
 Highly Qualified in Middle School Science, grades 4-8
2010 Texas A&M University – College Station, B.S. in Sociology
 Global Certificate in Sociology

Publications and Presentations

Oct 2012 LSTA – Sneaking in STEM
May 2012 NSTA STEM Forum and Expo – Sneaking in STEM
Nov 2011 NSTA Regional Conference – Sneaking in STEM; Brain Basics
 for Dummies
May 2010 “Love, Sacrifice, and Honor: Warrior Virtues and the American Soldiers’
 Experience of World War II”
 -- Honors Undergraduate Research Fellows Thesis,
 Texas A&M University

Accomplishments, Awards and Recognitions

2014 AFCEA Science Teaching Tools Grant winner, sponsored by Boeing
2014 Alan Shephard Technology in Education Award nominee
2013 LSTA Essie Beck “Rising Star” Science Education Award nominee
2012 National DoD STARBASE PTC/CAD Elite Curriculum Cadre
2010 Summa Cum Laude Graduate – Texas A&M University
 One of 24 Texas A&M 2010 Honors Undergraduate Research Fellows
 One of only 50 graduates in class to receive University and Foundation
 Honors Distinctions
2009 Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society

Professional Organizations

Louisiana Science Teachers Association
National Science Teachers Association
International Technology and Engineering Educators Association