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New Jersey STEM Pathways Network Receives HINJ's STEM Excellence Award

Chatham, N.J. - Yesterday, the HealthCare Institute of New Jersey ("HINJ") presented the New Jersey STEM Pathways Network ("NJSPN") with its "STEM Excellence Award" for the Network's accomplishments in driving excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and workforce opportunities in New Jersey.

HINJ Chair and Allergan Executive VP, Corporate Affairs, Alex Kelly, praised NJSPN for its significant accomplishments since its inception in 2014.

"The NJSPN is vital to New Jersey," Kelly said. "Its focus on replicating promising practices, convening the state's STEM experts and promoting STEM career pathways, certainly helps to ensure that we maintain the excellence of our state's K-12 public education system. We applaud your dedicated efforts and your creative, impactful programming."

The award was presented during the first 2019-2020 quarterly meeting of the NJSPN, which was attended by more than 60 leaders from education, industry and government, and hosted at the Foundation for Educational Administration Conference Center in Monroe Township, New Jersey.

"This award is an important recognition of the ongoing efforts of the New Jersey STEM Pathways Network to expand STEM opportunities by focusing on the important roles of early childhood education, computer science, teacher recruitment and training, and workforce development " said Kim Case, NJSPN's manager and executive director of the Research & Development Council of New Jersey.

HINJ is a trade association representing the research-based biopharmaceutical and medical technology industries in New Jersey. Dean J. Paranicas, president and chief executive officer of the HealthCare Institute, provided award opening remarks and Mr. Kelly presented Ms. Case with the award. Award photos can be found [here](#).

The STEM Excellence Award was created to recognize excellence in research, public service, patient advocacy and STEM education.

Previous recipients of HINJ's Excellence in STEM Education Award include:

- New Brunswick Health Sciences Technology High School,
- Middlesex County Academy for Allied Health and Biomedical Sciences,
- Students 2 Science Inc. and
- Biotechnology High School, Monmouth County.

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“The NJSPN has grown significantly over the years, bringing many STEM thought leaders together to create a larger conversation on the importance of STEM in New Jersey,” said Case. “It is an honor to receive this award from HINJ and see that all the work we’re doing is being recognized.”

The next NJSPN Quarterly meeting will be held on December 6, 2019. Updates on the NJSPN’s work, including New Jersey STEM Month March 2020, can be found on the organization’s website, www.njstempathways.org. You can follow the NJSPN at @NJSTEMPathways and use #NJSTEM.

The NJSPN was created in 2014 and is managed by the Research & Development Council of New Jersey. It includes over 500 STEM leaders from across the state and connects all STEM stakeholders-K-12, higher education, non-profit, informal providers, business, philanthropists and government. NJSPN launched four STEM learning ecosystems in 2017 as part of an international network of now 84 ecosystems supported by the STEM Funders’ Network. This past April, a fifth ecosystem was created in Central New Jersey: the Hunterdon, Somerset and Mercer Tri-County ecosystem. Each ecosystem has developed its own mission, vision, goals, and outcomes and includes STEM stakeholders from schools, businesses, libraries, science centers and museums, higher education, parents, and community members. You can learn more about the New Jersey STEM Pathways Network and New Jersey’s STEM Ecosystems by visiting www.njstempathways.org