



The **NJSPN** aims to attract, cultivate and retain a 21st century workforce in New Jersey, ensuring the state remains a top global competitor in **STEM** industry and continues its rich history of innovation.

# STRATEGIC Advisory Board

## OBJECTIVES

Strategic Advisory Board will act as a unified voice of industry and philanthropic leaders to guide the statewide STEM vision by:

- Leveraging the New Jersey STEM Pathways Network (NJSPN) and its five STEM Ecosystems to implement systems level education and workforce development strategies across the state;
- Defining and sharing promising STEM practices with state leaders to drive successful outcomes; and,
- Utilizing data to measure and scale impact throughout STEM programs across New Jersey.

## BENEFITS

- **One Unified Voice:** Improve ROI by partnering with business and philanthropic leaders to streamline investments and breakdown silos for success in STEM education and workforce development.
- **Policy/Systems Change:** Advocate for policy changes that eliminate barriers and improve STEM learning pathways.
- **Brand Awareness/Public Image:** Brand enhancement through strategic communications including earned media at local, regional, state and national levels.
- **Diverse Talent Pipeline:** Investments that build a diverse and inclusive talent pipeline.

## NJSPN INVESTMENT

- An annual \$20,000 investment to support the work of the NJ STEM Strategic Advisory Board and provide matching funds for STEM Innovation Grants and public awareness campaigns to drive interest and passion for STEM and scientific literacy.
- Contribute through time, talent and resources, to guide the initiatives of the NJSPN.
- Commit to attending two meetings per year in October and March, with invitations to attend other community engagement events as desired.

## New Jersey: OUR OPPORTUNITY

New Jersey students have **not** made statistically-significant gains in 4th or 8th grade science **since 2009.**<sup>1</sup>

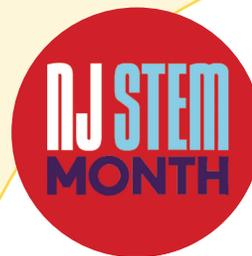
Out of 100 **STEM** occupations, **93%** of them had wages above the national average. STEM workers earn about **26% more** than their non-STEM counterparts.<sup>2</sup>

Students expressing interest in **STEM** show higher levels of **college readiness.**<sup>3</sup>

Between 2017 and 2027, the number of **STEM** jobs will grow **9%** in New Jersey—with positions in computing, engineering and advanced manufacturing leading the way.<sup>4</sup>

There are **1.4** open jobs in **STEM** for every unemployed person in New Jersey.<sup>5</sup>

1: US Department of Education, 2015.  
2: ACT, 2017. 3: Economic Modeling Specialists International, 2017.  
4: National Skills Coalition, 2018.  
5: Change the Evaluation, 2017.



An annual event in March, **NJ STEM Month** is a celebration of the Garden State's incredible accomplishments in science, technology, engineering, math and innovation.

**JOIN | PARTICIPATE | DONATE**

Join us by visiting: [www.njstempathways.org](http://www.njstempathways.org) and by following [@njstempathways](https://twitter.com/njstempathways) and [#NJSTEM](https://twitter.com/NJSTEM)

# TOP PRIORITIES OF NEW JERSEY CORPORATE AND PHILANTHROPIC LEADERS

Listening to corporate and philanthropic leaders, the NJSPN addresses top community priorities, by:

- The creation of an **Innovation Education Challenge Grant** program in New Jersey. The competitive grant program will invest in solutions for some of NJ's most pressing challenges, including:

## EARLY LEARNING

Building **STEM** skills, like critical thinking and problem solving, starts early. Supporting high quality, accessible early learning programs for all NJ students, ensures a diverse talent pipeline is created with a strong foundation.

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

CS is an increasingly relevant skill for all students preparing to work in a 21st century economy and beyond. Initiatives to advance the computational thinking skills for all will keep NJ at the forefront of an innovative, global economy.

## TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

Technology changes are moving rapidly, so students must have nimble **STEM** skills to prepare for jobs that don't exist yet. Teachers have a tremendous responsibility to prepare students; therefore, it is a top priority to recruit enthusiastic, future-thinking teachers, with access to relevant training, to develop our next generation of big thinkers.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Initiatives that connect education to industry and highlight career pathways are critical to building and retaining a diverse talent pool in NJ.

- A **coordinated effort** to advance **STEM** learning, career pathways and innovation.
- A diverse local, regional and state network that positions the NJSPN and Strategic Advisory Board to work for the **elimination of systemic barriers**.
- Local opportunities to **deepen employee engagement** by supporting on-the-ground initiatives during **NJ STEM** Month and within the five **NJ STEM** Ecosystems.



**CONTACT: KIM CASE**, Executive Director, Research & Development Council of NJ and Manager of the New Jersey STEM Pathways Network, **973-274-8333** or **kcase@rdnj.org**

The New Jersey STEM Pathways Network, a strategic public-private alliance, was established in 2014 by the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education to define and guide a STEM vision for cradle to career pathways in New Jersey. The NJSPN is chaired by Laura Overdeck, Chair of the Overdeck Family Foundation and Founder of Bedtime Math and is managed by the Research & Development Council of New Jersey.

The NJSPN aims to attract, cultivate and retain a 21st century workforce in New Jersey, ensuring the state remains a top global competitor in STEM industry and continues its rich history of innovation.

Join us by visiting: [www.njstempathways.org](http://www.njstempathways.org) and by following [@njstempathways](https://twitter.com/njstempathways) and [#NJSTEM](https://twitter.com/NJSTEM)