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Contact: Kim Case
(973) 274-8336 or kcase@rdnj.org
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New Jersey STEM Pathways Network Announces Online Tool to Measure STEM Learning Across the State

Chatham, NJ– As part of NJ STEM Month 2019, the New Jersey STEM Pathways Network (“NJSPN”) has launched the New Jersey STEM Data Dashboard (Dashboard). The Dashboard is a one-stop shop for publicly-available secondary, postsecondary, and labor market data related to STEM in New Jersey. It can be used to provide education leaders, parents, students, policymakers, and other stakeholders an accessible tool to have a baseline measurement of STEM learning and then, upon implementing new programs or instituting reforms, measuring progress in STEM over time. The Dashboard can be found at www.njstempathways.org/dashboardhome.

The Dashboard provides New Jersey school district and state-level statistics for several key STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) indicators. These STEM indicators include student participation, equity, student performance, labor force statistics, amongst others. The financial support for the development of the Dashboard has been generously provided by the Overdeck Family Foundation and PSEG Foundation.

“There are a lot of great STEM initiatives being implemented across the state but we need to review the data to see who is improving STEM learning outcomes and then scale and replicate their work,” said Laura Overdeck, Chair of the New Jersey STEM Pathways Network, Founder and President of Bedtime Math and Chair of the Overdeck Family Foundation. “It’s important to be data-driven in this work because STEM skills are going to be critical for all future jobs so we need all learners to be proficient in STEM.”

“PSEG Foundation was excited to support the Dashboard because of our commitment to STEM education and the wide-ranging impact it would have,” said Maria Spina, PSEG Foundation Program Manager. “Each and every one of our New Jersey service areas would be able to use the Dashboard for their school district and that type of impact is transformative.”

To populate the Dashboard, NJSPN partnered with researchers from the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University (Heldrich Center) who collected and utilized data from publicly available resources including the New Jersey Department of Education District Performance Reports and IPEDS Higher Education Completion Data. The Dashboard currently provides data for all of New Jersey’s school districts from the years 2015, 2016, and 2017.

To supplement the publicly available data, the Heldrich Center also fielded an online survey to New Jersey district superintendents and administrators to gather information that is not reported publicly. The findings of this supplementary survey can also be found at njstempathways.org/dashboardhome.

“The Dashboard is an opportunity for every New Jersey district to assess its STEM strengths and weaknesses” said Kim Case, Executive Director of the Research & Development Council of New Jersey and Manager of the New Jersey STEM Pathways Network. “Beyond the school districts, it will provide the State a clear view of opportunities and challenges in STEM and support specific policy solutions.”

The New Jersey STEM Data Dashboard is an initiative led by the New Jersey STEM Pathways Network (NJSPN). A strategic public-private alliance, the New Jersey STEM Pathways Network was established in 2014 to define and guide a STEM vision for cradle to career pathways in New Jersey. NJSPN also manages New Jersey’s five STEM Learning Ecosystems across the state. It 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.

Visit www.njstempathways.org/dashboardhome to learn more about and use the New Jersey STEM Data Dashboard.