2020 NJ STEM Month Awards Winners Announced

Chatham, N.J. The New Jersey STEM Pathways Network (NJSPN) is pleased to announce the 2020 New Jersey STEM Month Honorees. These honorees were recognized at the NJSPN's virtual meeting on May 29, 2020 where they provided a presentation of their work in STEM.

NJ STEM Month is an annual celebration in March co-hosted by the New Jersey STEM Pathways Network and Research & Development Council of New Jersey that highlights the Garden State's incredible accomplishments in science, technology, engineering, math and innovation. In 2020, nearly 30,000 learners were impacted by NJ STEM Month, exceeding the initiative's goal of 25,000. This will be the second year that NJ STEM Month's celebration includes awards.

The NJ STEM Month Awards highlights the most outstanding examples of leadership, collaboration and achievement in STEM in New Jersey. Awards are open to all stakeholders responsible for learning, achievement and innovation in the state, including: schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, philanthropies, science centers, museums, faith-based organizations, etc.

The 2020 NJ STEM Month Award Winners are:

STEM Advocate of the Year: Patrice Scully, Practice Manager at IBM

This honor highlights an organization or individual who most effectively communicates the importance of STEM to New Jersey and its citizens. IBM's Patrice Scully was selected for this award for her leadership and passion in bringing engineering and STEM education to students through IBM's Discover Engineering program. Discover Engineering is a global celebration of the engineering profession which highlights the positive contributions engineers make to our quality of life.

STEM Civic Leadership Award: Arushi Aggarwal, Founder & CEO of Unknown16

This award is given to an organization or individual who demonstrates extraordinary civic leadership in STEM in their community. Arushi was selected for this award for volunteering at local libraries teaching students STEM and building the app iBlum to connect communities, government and businesses and encouraging them to make positive community changes while acting socially responsible.

STEM Collaboration of the Year: Sanofi, Students 2 Science & the Office of the Somerset County Superintendent of Schools

This award celebrates the individuals and/or organizations moving beyond silos to create a more connected New Jersey and must be a collaboration between three or more individuals or organizations. Sanofi, Students 2 Science (S2S) & the Office of the Somerset County Superintendent of Schools were selected for this award for a collaborative effort to bring authentic hands-on STEM programs to students and teachers in Somerset County at no cost to the districts. Each organization was critical to the success of this initiative: Somerset County Superintendent of Schools team provided guidance and a forum to share information about the program with key school district stakeholders; S2S provided expertise, collaboration with schools and delivered their model programs; and Sanofi provided nearly $200,000 in funding as well as volunteers and other resources.

STEM Corporate Partner of the Year: Schneider Electric

This award goes to an employer that has demonstrated a deep commitment to supporting New Jersey's STEM economy through education and workforce initiatives. Global energy specialist Schneider Electric, was selected for this award for ensuring that their commitment to their partnership with Delran High School in Burlington County remains strong by supporting their different programs and initiatives.

STEM Educator of the Year: Dr. Vanashri Nargund-Joshi, Professor at New Jersey City University

This award is given to an individual or organization that is dedicated to improving STEM learning outcomes for students in New Jersey. Dr. Nargund-Joshi was selected for this award because of her role in leading the Liberty STEM Alliance Ecosystem, conducting numerous parents and students workshops , and creating "The Parent Academy", a platform for parents, families, caregivers and educators that focuses on increasing their scientific knowledge of learning and development to improve the lives of children.

For more information on NJ STEM Month, visit www.njstempathways.org/stemmonth-2020.

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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 has five STEM learning ecosystems as part of an international network of 89 ecosystems supported by the STEM Funders' Network. 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 Jersey STEM Pathways Network and New Jersey's STEM Ecosystems by visiting www.njstempathways.org

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