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Very First I CAN STEM New Jersey Role Model Inductee Announced

Chatham, N.J. (January 25, 2021) The New Jersey STEM Pathways Network (“NJSPN”) is excited to announce its first I CAN STEM New Jersey Role Model Class of 2021 Inductee, Dr. Lauren Madden.

Dr. Madden is an Associate Professor at The College of New Jersey (“TCNJ”). She is a science educator who advocates for scientific literacy and the health of our planet through teaching and learning. She is currently the lead on a United States Environmental Protection Agency grant and also serves as co-lead on a Robert Noyce Teaching Fellows grant based in TCNJ’s Department of Physics which seeks to recruit middle and high school physics teachers. She is also active in the Hunterdon, Somerset, and Mercer County STEM Ecosystem. She received her B.A. from University of New Hampshire, M.S. from University of South Carolina, and Ph.D. from North Carolina State University. Dr. Madden will serve as the January 2021 I CAN STEM New Jersey Role Model.

“Dr. Madden is an incredible educator and ambassador for STEM. We are thrilled to have her serve as our very first I CAN STEM New Jersey Role Model,” said Kim Case, NJSPN’s Manager and Executive Director of the Research & Development Council of New Jersey. “Dr. Madden is working across generations to improve STEM learning for all-she supports current teachers as well as future teachers and her legacy will ultimately positively impact thousands of learners.”



Through I CAN STEM, the NJSPN aims to increase the diversity of New Jersey's STEM workforce and academic pipelines. I CAN STEM will highlight diverse STEM role models so that all students will be able to see themselves participating and succeeding in STEM courses and careers. Each year, 12 I CAN STEM New Jersey Role Models will be highlighted, one each month.

NJSPN features both historical and famous I CAN STEM Role Models, such as physicist Shirley Ann Jackson, mathematician Alberto Pedro Calderón, and molecular biologist Flossie Wong-Staal, as well as I CAN STEM New Jersey Role Models representing people of color, LGBTQ+ community members and women who work in a STEM field here in New Jersey.

The I CAN STEM New Jersey Role Models are identified through an online nomination process. Nominations for 2021 are closed and nominations for 2022 will be open in September. Anyone can submit a nomination that meets the diversity criteria and works in New Jersey in a STEM field. The nomination form will be available at [_njstempathways.org](https://njstempathways.org).

For more information on I CAN STEM visit <https://njstempathways.org/i-can-stem/>.

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 six STEM learning ecosystems as part of an international network of ecosystems supported by the STEM Funders' Network. You can learn more about the Jersey STEM Pathways Network and New Jersey's STEM Ecosystems by visiting www.njstempathways.org.