



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March I CAN STEM New Jersey Role Model Announced

Chatham, N.J. (March 10, 2021) The New Jersey STEM Pathways Network (“NJSPN”) is excited to announce its March I CAN STEM New Jersey STEM Role Model, Kimberly Cook-Chennault, Ph.D.

Dr. Cook-Chenault is an Associate Professor of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering at Rutgers University. She holds BS and MS degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan and Stanford University respectively; and a PhD from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Her research interests include design of integrated hybrid energy systems and investigation of the structure-property relationships in ferroelectric, dielectric and piezoelectric materials in the form of thin films and bulk composites for sensing/actuation and energy storage/harvesting applications.

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 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 were identified through an online nomination process. Nominations for 2021 are closed and nominations for 2022 will begin 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.

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 for 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.