



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact:**

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## **June I CAN STEM New Jersey Role Model Announced**

Chatham, N.J. (June 1, 2021) The New Jersey STEM Pathways Network (“NJSPN”) is excited to announce its June I CAN STEM New Jersey STEM Role Model, Eric Ekoue.

Eric Ekoue is the Superintendent of the New Brunswick Water Utility NBWU. He is a Certified Public Manager. He holds a Public Water Treatment System T4 License and Public Water Distribution System W4. He is serving on the board of examination for the Water and Wastewater license Operator. Eric has fifteen years of experience in treatment, distribution, compliance, and project management. His utility thrives on providing the best water quality to the residents of New Brunswick and surrounding communities. Eric manages a very diverse workforce and champions the licensing of everyone. He enjoys presenting the word of water operators at various schools and facilitating tours of his Plant by students.

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](http://njstempathways.org).

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



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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](http://www.njstempathways.org).