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June I CAN STEM New Jersey Role Model Announced

Chatham, N.J. (July 1, 2021) The New Jersey STEM Pathways Network (“NJSPN”) is excited to announce its July I CAN STEM New Jersey STEM Role Model, Dr. Vanashri Nargund-Joshi.

Dr. Vanashri Nargund-Joshi is a science educator who promotes STEM learning through her research, teaching and practice. Her scholarship focuses on in-service and pre-service teachers' Pedagogical Content Knowledge development. She has published in top journals, such as *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*, *International Journal of Science Education* to name a few. Dr. Nargund-Joshi has edited a book entitled *Science Education in India* in 2019. In recent years, her research has been focused on families of young children to address the gap between school and home. To address this issue, in 2019, she established a platform called The Parent Academy. Through this avenue, she collaborates with several family success centers across New Jersey to conduct STEM workshops for families and children. Dr. Nargund-Joshi serves as an Associate Editor for *Journal of Science Teacher Education* (JSTE). She also serves on the Board of Directors for a national organization called *Association for Science Teacher Education* (ASTE). She is co-lead for Liberty STEM Alliance. Dr. Nargund-Joshi currently serves as an Associate Professor at New Jersey City University (NJCU) in departments of Elementary/Secondary Education & Biology.

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.