



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact:

Kim Case

908.875.7167 or kcase@rdnj.org

September 2022 I CAN STEM New Jersey Role Model Announced

Chatham, N.J. (September 1, 2022) The New Jersey STEM Pathways Network (“NJSPN”) is excited to announce its September I CAN STEM New Jersey STEM Role Model, Erica DeMichele.

Erica DeMichele has been an educator in NJ for 24 years, educating both urban and suburban communities in South Jersey in the areas of biology, environmental science and forensics. As a K-12 Supervisor in Delran, a suburban school district outside of Philadelphia, she has had the pleasure of creating new programming to build culture and enhance in and out of school time programs in the area of STEM.

As Co-lead for the Delran STEM Ecosystem Alliance, with Mary Jo Hutchinson, family engagement, quality STEM learning aligned to standards, partner development, real world STEM application and continued teacher professional development has been implemented in the culture of the community. Their most notable achievements since being adopted as a SLECop: The \$1.2 million dollar Delran Innovation & Fabrication Lab opened its doors in 2019; 6 years of the ever growing/ever inclusive Delran Cubs STEAM Up Camp, an intensive Sustainability program K-12 through Sustainable Jersey for Schools, a robust K-12 robotics program and STEM Fair initiatives inclusive of all ecosystem partners. Currently, she is working on building the STEM career pathway for the middle grade students in Delran, thanks to a competitive Middle Grades Career Grant from the NJDOE, she has brought Fab Maker Studio, CNC routing and die cutting to the students at Delran Middle School. The goal is to bring more digital fabrication tools such as laser cutters this coming school year. We're so honored to have her be part of our 2022 I CAN STEM Role Models!

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 are 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 2023 are now open. 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.