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April 2023 I CAN STEM New Jersey Role Model Announced

Chatham, N.J. (April 1, 2023) The New Jersey STEM Pathways Network (“NJSPN”) is excited to announce its April I CAN STEM New Jersey STEM Role Model, Pedro Azcona.

Mr. Azcona teaches at East Orange STEM Academy as a Technology Lead. He has been in the technology field for over 18 years and attained his BS from Rutgers University and MS in Education Media Design & Technology from Full Sail University. Throughout his career, he has written curriculums for robotics engineering as well as Digital Media Design and production for beginners to advanced kids. He has spent his last 13 summers teaching robotics engineering and film editing at the Kean University Upward Bound TRIO program. His motto is "the day I stop learning is the day I will stop teaching." We're so honored to have him be part of our 2023 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 highlights 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.

The 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 closed and nominations for 2024 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.