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January 2023 I CAN STEM New Jersey Role Model Announced

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

David possesses a PhD in Biomedical Science from Rutgers University, a Masters in Biotechnology from Kean University and a Masters in School Administration from Rowan University. David has over 8 years of experience in the life sciences specializing in immunology and protein characterization. At Bristol Myers Squibb in 2005, David helped validate an isoelectric focusing technique to study the purity of a potential therapeutic agent. Later in 2007, at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center's Bone Marrow Transplant lab, he was a member of a team that generated Wilm's Tumor 1-specific CD8+ T cells for adoptive transfer into a leukemia-inoculated model. As a graduate student, he discovered functional and phenotypic differences between two subsets of human plasmacytoid dendritic cells.

As an educator, David has experience as a High School Science Teacher, Curriculum Writer, Data Coordinator, STEM Trainer, Department Chairperson, Adjunct Professor and District Supervisor of Secondary Science. In 2008, through the American Association of Immunologists, he helped develop a High School Immunology curriculum. In 2016, David was the teacher of the year at East Orange Campus High School and a recipient of Kean University's Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2018. As an adjunct in the Biology department at Kean University, he has handled courses taken by Biology majors; Virology, Microbiology, Molecular Genetics and Cell/Molecular Biology. He has facilitated the implementation of successful programs, improved the use of data in decision-making, and implemented inquiry-based instructional strategies in science. He continues to support the implementation of STEM Pathways at the district flagship school, East Orange STEM Academy. 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 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 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.