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August 2025 I CAN STEM New Jersey Role Model Announced

Chatham, N.J.- The New Jersey STEM Pathways Network (“NJSPN”) is excited to announce its August I CAN STEM New Jersey STEM Role Model, Edward Sanchez.

Trained as a Medical Doctor in the Dominican Republic, Edward transitioned from clinical practice to education with a deep commitment to student mentorship. His journey began with non-profit medical work in the Caribbean and South America, but it was in the classroom where he discovered an additional talent: the ability to connect with and inspire students through teaching. As a Biology Professor, he has had the privilege of guiding students—many from underrepresented backgrounds—through the challenges of academic life and helping them realize their potential.

Edward currently serves as the Project Director for a USDA NIFA-HSI Grant and Site Coordinator for an NSF B2B grant at Bergen Community College, while also teaching as a Biology Professor at NJIT. His work focuses on creating inclusive pathways into STEM, business supply chain, nutritional science, and environmental studies. His teaching philosophy emphasizes accessibility and relevance, aiming to clear the cognitive fog many students face by making complex STEM concepts approachable and connecting them to both his lived experiences and students' career aspirations.

Mentorship is central to his mission. Often seeing a younger version of himself in his students, Edward is dedicated to helping them build confidence, set ambitious goals, and persevere through both societal and academic challenges. He recalls nearly giving up on academia himself until a STEM mentor reignited his passion—an experience that now drives his efforts to empower the next generation. Through every lecture, lab, and conversation, he strives to spark curiosity and foster a lifelong love of learning. We're so honored to have him be part of our 2025 I CAN STEM Role Models!

Through I CAN STEM, the NJSPN aims to expand participation in New Jersey's STEM workforce and academic pathways. I CAN STEM showcases accomplished STEM professionals to inspire students to pursue opportunities in STEM courses and careers. Each year, 12 I CAN STEM New Jersey Role Models are featured, one each month, highlighting individuals who have made significant contributions to STEM fields in New Jersey.

The I CAN STEM New Jersey Role Models are selected through an online nomination process. Anyone can submit a nomination for a STEM professional working in New Jersey who has demonstrated excellence and impact in their field.



For more information and to submit a nomination 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 800 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 eight 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.