

CREATING COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Growing Our Community: From Discussion to Action

70% of business leaders report critical skill gaps limiting growth and innovation. New Jersey faces a critical challenge to ensure our graduates are equipped with essential skills for higher education and the future STEM workforce.

Join our community of business leaders, educators, and industry experts as we move past conversation and develop actionable opportunities for STEM and career-connected learning. Help shape NJ's future talent pipeline.

Key Topics Include

- Defining the Challenge: The current reality of career readiness and skill gaps
- Future Pathways: Insights from industry collaboration, networking, and exhibits
- Action Planning: Using the "Five Pillars of Success" model to define and tackle our shared challenges

Location:

New Jersey Institute of Technology
NJIT Campus Center
Newark, NJ 07102
9:00am-1:30pm

[Event Detail](#)

Event Sponsor



The [Greater Newark STEM Ecosystem](#) is a **Connector, Collaborator and Central Resource** for educators & industry to supercharge STEM & career-connected learning. Through understanding the work and activities of our cross-sector partners, we co-design an educational support system that cultivates STEM and Career Ready Skills, building a future workforce of STEM-capable talent.

Newark STEM is part of STEM Learning Ecosystems, community-based collaborations that transform how students learn and connect to future opportunities. They bring together cross-sector partners—schools, afterschool programs, colleges, businesses, community organizations, and government agencies—to create powerful STEM learning experiences.

www.newarkstem.org

PANEL: INDUSTRY INSIGHTS



Anthony Russo

President

Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey (CIANJ)

Anthony Russo is president of the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey (CIANJ), a business association representing the interests of more than 900 companies. In this capacity, Mr. Russo is responsible for all aspects of the association. Mr. Russo is also the CEO and publisher of COMMERCE Magazine. COMMERCE magazine is a business to business magazine with a readership of more than 40,000 professionals.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Russo served as Executive Vice President of Government Affairs and Communications for CIANJ as well as Deputy Executive Director of the National Lime Association in Washington, DC representing the interests of mining companies producing calcium oxide (aka lime) at the federal level.

Mr. Russo started his career at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection as a senior engineer issuing water quality permits. He then spent 5 years as an environmental consultant working for two firms, GES and ERM. He began his government affairs career when he served as Director of Regulatory and Legislative Affairs for the Chemistry Council of NJ, representing chemical and pharmaceutical companies in Trenton on legislative and environmental matters.

Mr. Russo is a graduate of the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) with a degree in mechanical engineering.



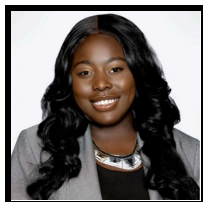
Michael D. Burke, PG, CHMM, LEED AP - Senior Principal LANGAN

Mike Burke is a geologist/environmental scientist with 25 years of experience, whose practice involves site investigation and remediation, transactional due diligence, environmental site assessments, in-situ remedial technology, and manufactured gas plant (MGP) site characterization and remediation.

Burke's additional services include multi-media compliance audits, sub-slab depressurization system design, non-hazardous and hazardous waste management, emergency response, community air monitoring programs, environmental and geotechnical site investigations, and health and safety monitoring.

He has experience with projects in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and New York State Brownfield Cleanup (NYS BCP) Programs; Inactive Hazardous Waste, and Spill Programs, and New York City Office of Environmental Remediation (OER) e-designated and New York City Voluntary Cleanup Program (NYC VCP) sites

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**Jessica McKenzie**

Mgr. of Corp. Contributions and Program Officer
Panasonic North America

Jessica leads corporate citizenship with over a decade of experience in social impact. As Manager of Corporate Contributions and Program Officer at Panasonic North America, she oversees philanthropic strategy and grantmaking to promote education equity through the Panasonic Foundation. Jessica is dedicated to advancing economic and educational equity, launching national initiatives, and encouraging corporate involvement in addressing societal challenges related to economic mobility and education. She also founded 908 Visionaries, a youth nonprofit in Plainfield, NJ. Jessica earned her BA from Delaware State University and an MPA from Kean University.

**Caroline Jackson**

Business Consultant
Honeywell International. Energy & Sustainability

Caroline Jackson is a seasoned business professional with a background in leading teams to drive improvement projects across various sectors, including education, healthcare, and commercial markets. With a specialized focus on performance contracting, she has successfully collaborated with over 75 schools and municipalities in New Jersey and Pennsylvania to implement impactful energy savings and infrastructure improvement initiatives.

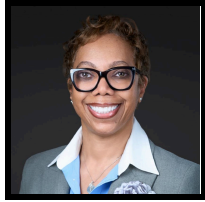
A graduate of Clarkson University with a BS in Mechanical Engineering and Management, Caroline's career includes pivotal roles at Honeywell, Siemens, Duke Energy, and several start-up building solutions companies. At Honeywell, she has honed her expertise in HVAC systems, lighting technology, and energy conservation strategies, including solar and battery energy storage. She consults with clients to evaluate energy alternatives that enhance their building infrastructures.

She has adeptly leveraged utility incentive programs from NJ Clean Energy, JCP&L, PSE&J and Atlantic City Electric to support funding the projects which are paid for primarily through utility incentives, grants, energy and operational savings.

Caroline has taken on leadership roles as a Business Development Manager and Team Leader, where she has designed strategic business plans and fostered collaborations with architects and engineers to deliver comprehensive technical solutions. Her consultative approach ensures the optimal balance of energy savings and financial solutions for her clients.

Caroline is passionate about inspiring the next generation of innovators in STEM. She advocates for the vital skills and experiences that students need to succeed in an ever-evolving technological landscape.

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**Tracey A. Robinson****Sr. Trading Operations Analyst – Risk
PSE&G**

Tracey Robinson has been a Senior Trading Risk and Market Operations Analyst at PSEG for the past nine years, leveraging extensive expertise from her prior experience on Wall Street. In her previous role, she led a hybrid team responsible for managing Fixed Income, Currency, Commodities, and Equities markets at Société Générale Investment Bank and other financial institutions.

With a solid 15+ year background in financial and physical commodities, Tracey expertly oversees the entire trade lifecycle for various derivatives, including futures, options, and physical contracts. Known for her exceptional relationship-building skills and strong analytical skills, she effectively reconciles trade from various exchanges, develops P&L and risk dashboards, and minimizes settlement discrepancies through enhanced operational processes.

Her meticulous attention to detail and capacity to excel in high-pressure trading environments contribute to a robust control framework. Dedicated to enhancing trading efficiencies and ensuring regulatory compliance through technology and data, Tracey collaborates effectively with front office traders, auditors, risk and compliance teams, and external clients.

She is currently pursuing a master's degree in organizational training and development at St. Elizabeth University. In addition to her academic endeavors, she holds a certification in Human Resources from SHRM and has previously obtained a Series 99 license in trading operations through FINRA. This diverse background highlights her dedication to continuous learning and professional advancement within the dynamic energy markets.

<https://njbja.org/pseg-publishes-whitepaper-on-need-for-green-skills/>

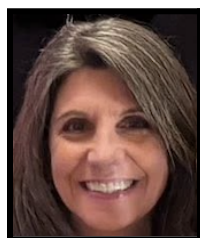
SPARK TALKS



Juliette Lantz - Professor of Chemistry
Drew University (Madison, NJ)

Juliette recently completed a rotation as the Associate Dean of Curriculum in the Arts and Sciences. Early in her career, her research focused on the development, implementation, and assessment of active learning strategies in chemistry, particularly in the areas of case studies, role-playing laboratories, and Process-Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning (POGIL). She has been active in the POGIL Project for over 20 years, designing and facilitating professional development workshops and mentoring faculty in guided inquiry curriculum development. Juliette was the PI on the NSF-funded project that produced POGIL materials for analytical chemistry: Analytical Chemistry: A Guided Inquiry Approach - Quantitative Analysis Collection, and Analytical Chemistry: A Guided Inquiry Approach - Instrumental Analysis Collection.

Juliette's ongoing research is now centered on the development and assessment of student process skills (also known as professional, transferable or durable skills) across STEM. She was a PI on the NSF-funded Enhancing Learning by Improving Process Skills in STEM Project (elipss.com). Through this project, she has designed and facilitated numerous professional development workshops to hundreds of instructors across STEM disciplines on the ELIPSS instructional strategies and materials that support the implementation and assessment of process skills. She is currently a PI on the ongoing SkillBuilder NSF grant, in which a web application was designed and built to deliver actionable skill development feedback to students at scale.



Debra Gulick - Director, Student & Academic Education Programs
IEEE

Debra joined the IEEE team in October 2022, after serving as a long career in New Jersey's public schools, holding a variety of senior administrative posts including Mathematics Supervisor, Director of Curriculum and Superintendent of Schools. Debbie started her career as an engineer before moving into education, and continues to teach at Rutgers University. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Engineering from Lafayette College and a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Kean University.



Dan Barnett
Chief Development Officer (CDO)
Students 2 Science, Inc.

Students 2 Science provides students with authentic, dynamic lab and in-class learning experiences that challenge them in new ways. They connect science to real-world applications, demystifying STEM jobs and illuminating pathways for a better future.

Student Lunch Q&A



Students from Borough School, Maplewood Middle School and Morristown High school will share thoughts and experiences with STEM learning. Our discussion will be facilitated by Rachel Kim, a licensed professional engineer with over 15 years of experience in civil infrastructure. Her background is geotechnical engineering and hydrogeology and is currently working in potable water supply and system design. She has a B.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering with minors in Engineering Management and Architecture from Cornell University

H2M is a multi-disciplinary consulting and design firm with over 90 years of experience, offering architectural, engineering, and environmental services. H2M actively participates in a wide range of community initiatives and is passionate about local youth STEM outreach.

Invention Education Workshop Facilitator



Andrea Dulac

Educational Outreach

National Inventors Hall of Fame®

Andrea develops and sustains education partnerships with public school districts on the East Coast and Northeast. She will be leading the post-convening professional development workshop, **I Can Invent®: A STEM Mindset for PreK-8 Educators**

Table Exhibitors



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