



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Governor Christie Proclaims March 9-13<sup>th</sup> New Jersey STEM Week**

**Chatham, N.J., February 19, 2015:**

Governor Chris Christie is proclaiming that March 9-13<sup>th</sup> will be known as STEM Week in New Jersey. New Jersey's inaugural STEM Week comes in recognition of the fact that STEM is uniquely important to this state: New Jersey is home to the best STEM public high school in the country, it has the highest concentration of scientific professionals in the nation, and is the site of government research facilities that are the envy of the world.

The Research & Development Council of New Jersey is proud to partner with the Governor's Office on this vital endeavor. By drawing attention to New Jersey's vibrant STEM economy, the Governor is helping shine a light on the state's three research & development sectors – industry, academia, and government – that do so much to improve the lives of not only New Jerseyans, but citizens all over the world. In working with the Governor, the Council is proud to help the state recognize its unique place in this country with the Council's own initiatives like the Edison Patent Awards and programs like the Governor's STEM Scholars and Merit Scholars.

“Celebrating the state's STEM economy is especially important today because by 2018, New Jersey needs to fill 269,000 STEM jobs,” says Council President Anthony Cicatiello. “Now is the time to embrace the STEM economy and encourage its growth in New Jersey, and also to introduce students to our state's rich history of innovation. Once they see what we've done in this state, from Edison to streptomycin, they're going to be inspired to keep the legacy going through this century.”

New Jersey STEM Week will kick off on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> with an announcement by Lieutenant Governor Guadagno, who will also simultaneously launch our state's Million Women Mentors initiative, of which she is the honorary chair. Other exciting events for this week include: launch of NJ STEM Pathways Network, Governor's STEM Scholars Poster Series and legislative visits at the State House (March 9), New Jersey Science Olympiad State Tournament (March 11), and Governor's STEM Scholars visit to Picatinny Arsenal (March 14). Events for New Jersey's STEM Week will be posted at [www.rdnj.org](http://www.rdnj.org).

*For more than half a century, the Research & Development Council of New Jersey has been dedicated to cultivating an environment supportive of the advancement of research and development in New Jersey. Established in 1962, the Council was created to serve as a unified voice for the three R&D sectors — industry, academia and government — to work with the State to create an environment R&D could thrive in. The R&D Council is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose membership includes representatives from academia, government and industry, including several Fortune 500 companies. More information can be found at the R&D Council's website: [www.rdnj.org](http://www.rdnj.org).*

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