



August 26, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Kim Case Executive Director of
R&D Council of NJ at 973.274.8336 or
kcase@rdnj.org

R&D Council Hosts 10th Annual Merit Scholar Luncheon at Siemens

CHATHAM, NJ --- The Research & Development Council of New Jersey (R&D Council) held its 10th Annual Merit Scholar Luncheon at Siemens' Princeton research facility on Friday, August 16, 2019. The luncheon gave county college scholars the opportunity to meet with panelists from academia and industry who work in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields. They learned about the transfer process to four-year institutions and took a tour of Siemens' innovative facility. Attendees also heard from luncheon keynote speaker, Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker, who is a physicist at Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory.

Thirteen exceptional STEM students from three New Jersey community colleges (Essex, Hudson, and Passaic) were selected for the R&D Council's 2019 Merit Scholar program. Merit Scholars from Essex County Community College include: Shenekia Edwards (East Orange) and Manav Guzraty (Clifton). Merit Scholars from Hudson County Community College include: Mohanad Mohamed (Jersey City), Samikshya Poudel (Jersey City), and Brian Ribas (Harrison). Merit Scholars from Passaic County Community College include: Max DiGiacomo (Ringwood), Sebastian Echeverri-Perez (Paterson), Antonio Huanay (Clifton), Demi Matos (Paterson), Maximillian Mrozek-McCourt (South Orange), Iryna Muryn (Clifton), Loreidaly Perez-Garcia (Paterson), Jehan Shalabi (Paterson).

Each year, the R&D Council awards scholarships sponsored by Council members to outstanding New Jersey community college students studying in a STEM field. It awards these scholarships to students based on applicants' minimum 3.5 grade point average, STEM field of interest, extracurricular activities, financial need, other awards, and post-graduation career goals.

"In today's complex world, we need to bring industry representatives closer to the students so that they understand what is expected of them in future jobs," said R&D Council President Anthony Cicatiello. "When students can talk to executives and ask questions about how they decided to take a certain path in education, the students better understand the options available to them."

This year's scholarship recipients are pursuing degrees in a variety of subjects within STEM including civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering, computer science, and biology. The 2019 Merit Scholarships are sponsored by BASF, Casabona Ventures, ExxonMobil, Nokia Bell Labs, Novartis, Rowan University, Stryker, and the R&D Council.

Scholars will be honored at the R&D Council's 40th Edison Patent Awards Ceremony and Reception on November 14, 2019 at the Liberty Science Center. The Edison Patent Awards is an annual event the R&D Council produces that highlights the innovation that is taking place in the State.



As the Research & Development Council of New Jersey, we collaborate among industry, academic and government to grow and strengthen STEM in education, innovation and the economy. More information can be found at www.rdnj.org.