

# Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, April 17, 2026

Rowan University, Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY

*Advancing Innovation. Improving the World.*

# Agenda



**Welcome and Introductions**



**Approval of January 23, 2026 Minutes**

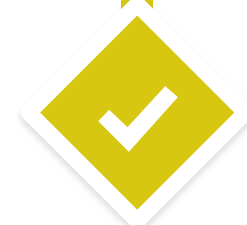


**Chair's Report**



**Guest Presentation**

*The Hon. John J. Burzichelli*  
NJ State Senator, District 3



**Host Presentation**

*Mei Wei, Ph.D., VP Research, Rowan*  
*Anthony Lowman, Ph.D., Chancellor, Rowan*



**Discussion Items**

47th Edison Patent Awards Discussion  
Strategic Plan Update



**STEM Programming**

NJ STEM Month  
Governor's STEM Scholars



**Finance Update**

Audit  
Current Financials  
2027 FY Budget



**Veterinary School Tour**

*Optional*



# 1/23/26 Meeting Minutes

- Review.
- Amendments?
- Motion to Approve?
- Second?
  - All in Favor?
  - Against?
  - Abstentions?



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY



**Mallie Romanowski**



**CORIELL INSTITUTE**  
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

New Board Member Representative  
**Coriell Institute for  
Medical Research**



**Brian McArdle**



New Board Member Representative  
**New Jersey Economic  
Development  
Authority**



Keith Luhmann



New Board Member Representative  
**DEVCOM**  
**ARMAMENTS CENTER**

# Chair's Report



## Spring Dues

- Due by June 15, 2026
- Late dues should be remitted ASAP



## Elections

- Elections to take place electronically
- Deadline is May 30, 2026
- Current Board members up for election/reelection include: Avantor Performance Materials, Casabona Ventures, Lexicon Pharmaceuticals, Merck & Co., Montclair State University and Stockton University





# Guest Presentation

**The Honorable John J. Burzichelli**  
New Jersey State Senate, District 3



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY

Rowan University



SHREIBER SCHOOL OF  
VETERINARY MEDICINE

# Host Presentation

Mei Wei, Ph.D.

Anthony Lowman, Ph.D.



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY

# Coffee break

Duration: 15 min



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY

# 47th Annual Patent Awards

November 19, 2026

Bell Works

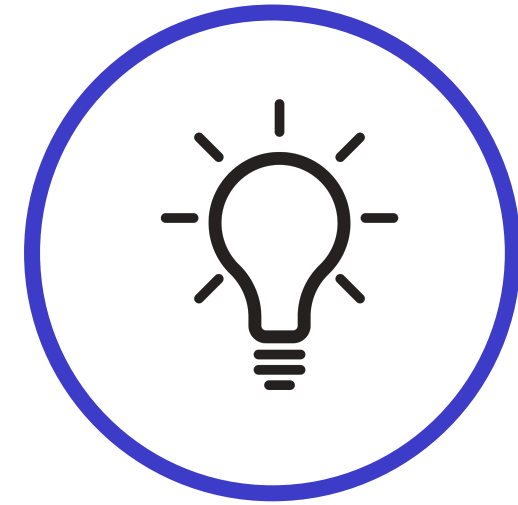


# 2026 Patent Award Goals



## Fundraising Goal

\$225,000



## Patent Award Nominations

Bring in nominations from outside Board organizations.

Nominations due  
May 22, 2026



## Attendee Goal

200+ Attendees



## Increase Brand Recognition

Social and traditional media strategy

# 2026 Patent Awards Budget

	2026 Proposed	2025
<b>Revenue</b>	\$225,000	\$233,234
<b>Expenses</b>	\$138,077	\$143,305
<b>Net</b>	\$86,922	\$89,929

# 2025 Sponsorship Levels

## innovator

\$50,000

- 20 VIP event tickets with gift bag and premier seating
- award underwriter for one of the year's special awards
- remarks by company representative during award presentation
- premier branding on event signage
- premier branding in awards program, including full-page ad
- premier recognition in all pre & post media
- name, logo, and link on R&D Council website for 2025-2026

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### winner bonus

unrestricted rights to their winning film

## explorer

\$25,000

- 20 event tickets with prominent seating
- prominent branding on event signage
- prominent branding in awards program, including full-page ad
- prominent recognition in all pre & post media
- name, logo, and link on R&D Council website for 2025-2026

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### winner bonus

unrestricted rights to their winning film

## pioneer

\$20,000

- 2 event tickets
- award underwriter for one of the year's special awards
- remarks by company representative during award presentation
- prominent branding on event signage
- prominent branding in awards program, including full-page ad
- name, logo, and link on R&D Council website for 2025-2026

## inventor

\$15,000

- 10 event tickets
- awards program listing
- event signage listing
- recognition in all pre & post media

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### winner bonus

unrestricted rights to their winning film

## director

\$10,000

- 10 event tickets
- awards program listing

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### winner bonus

unrestricted rights to their winning film

## individual event tickets

**\$750**

industry & for-profit sectors

**\$500**

government & non-profit sectors

# 2025 Sponsors

explorer

\$25,000

**stryker**

inventor

\$15,000

 **avantor™**



**ELSEVIER**

**Johnson & Johnson**  
Innovative Medicine

**NJIT**  
New Jersey Institute  
of Technology

**SIEMENS**

director

\$10,000

 **KEAN**

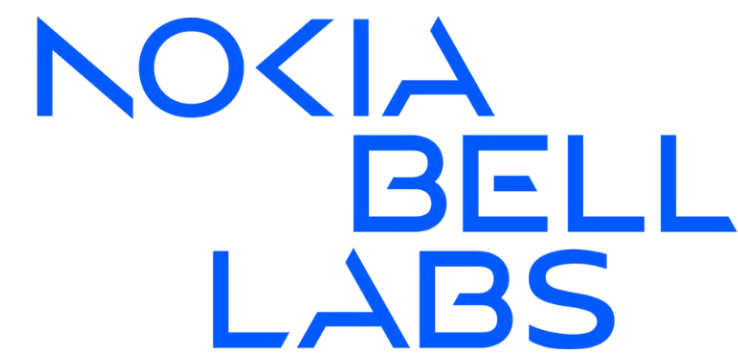
**NOKIA**  
**BELL**  
**LABS**

 **PRINCETON**  
UNIVERSITY

**Rowan**   
University

**RUTGERS**

# 2025 Winners



# 2026 Nominations Timeline



## Patent Award Nominations Released

Applications will be found at [www.rdnj.org](http://www.rdnj.org). Nominees will be solicited from past award winners, nominees, via LinkedIn, X, etc.

## Individual Award Nominations Due

Online nomination form. Nominations solicited from Council Board members and voted on during April BOD meeting.

## Patent Award Nominations Due

Nominations will be accepted until May 22, 2026. Nominations will be reviewed and distributed to the EPA Committee for review.

## Patent Awards Committee Selections Meeting

EPA Committee meets in person to review nominations. Nominations are scored and Committee determines award winners and categories.

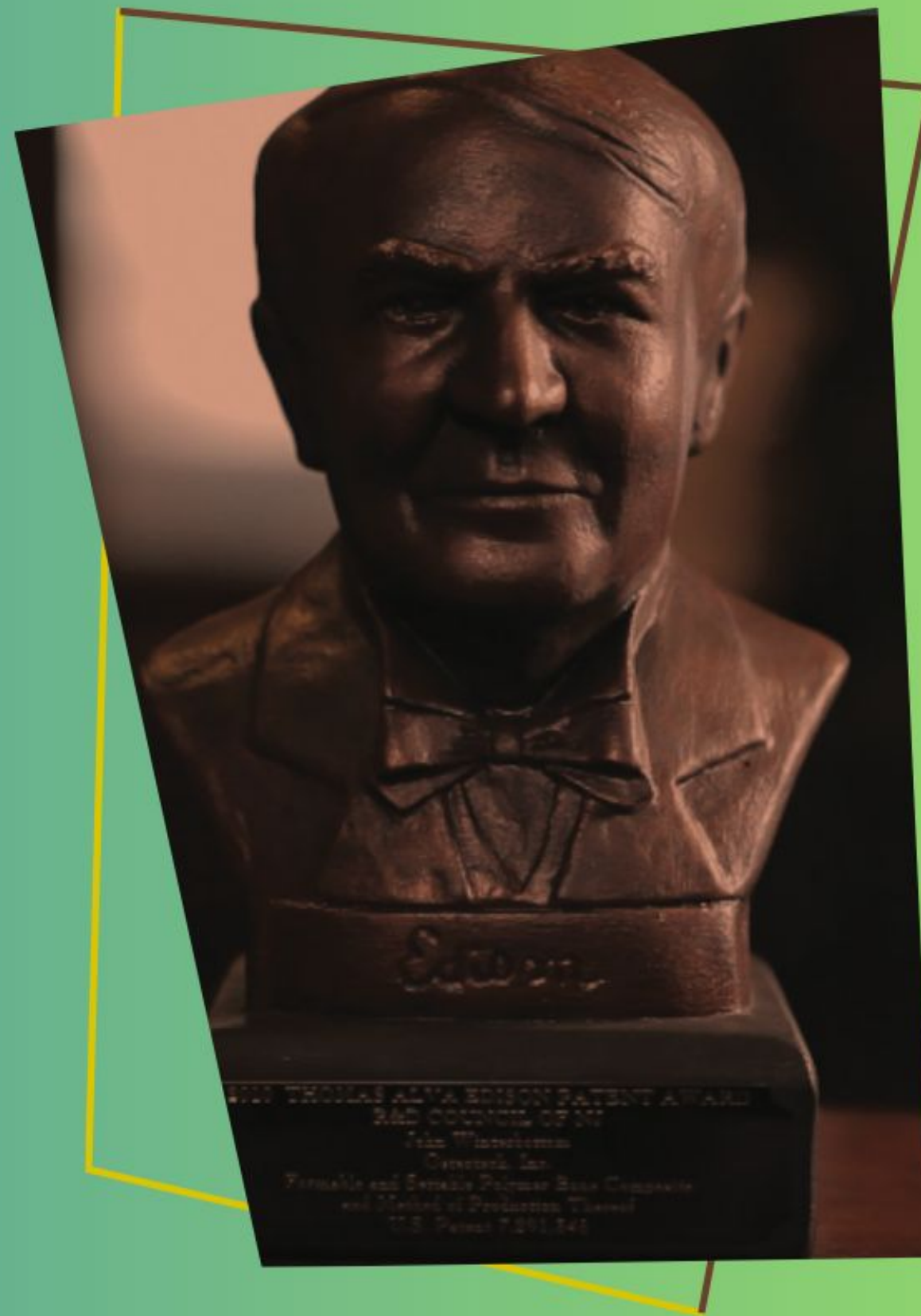
## Patent Award Winners Notified

Nominees are notified whether or not they are 2026 Edison Patent Award winners.

# Edison Patent Award Nominations Open

**Deadline 5/22/26**

We encourage submissions  
from all-small and large  
companies, higher  
education, and single  
inventors!



[www.rdnj.org/program/edison-patent-awards](http://www.rdnj.org/program/edison-patent-awards)

March 20th  
April 1st  
Virtual Q&A  
Sessions Held

***Edison Patent  
Awards***

# Patent Awards Committee

Committee reviews Patent Award applications and selects 2026 winners.

Committee will meet  
June 5, 2026.

## 2026 Committee Members



**Ian Davies, Ph.D.**  
Princeton University



**Keith Bostian, Ph.D.**  
Kean University



**Jeffrey Carmell, Ph.D.**  
MTF Biologics



**Alan Main, Ph.D.**  
Lexicon Pharmaceuticals



**Deborah Perez  
Fernandez, Ph.D.**  
Rutgers University



**David Zimmerman, Ph.D., J.D.**  
Princeton Plasma Physics Lab



**Kim Case, J.D.**  
R&D Council of NJ

***Edison Patent  
Awards***

# Patent Award Nominations

Due May 22, 2026

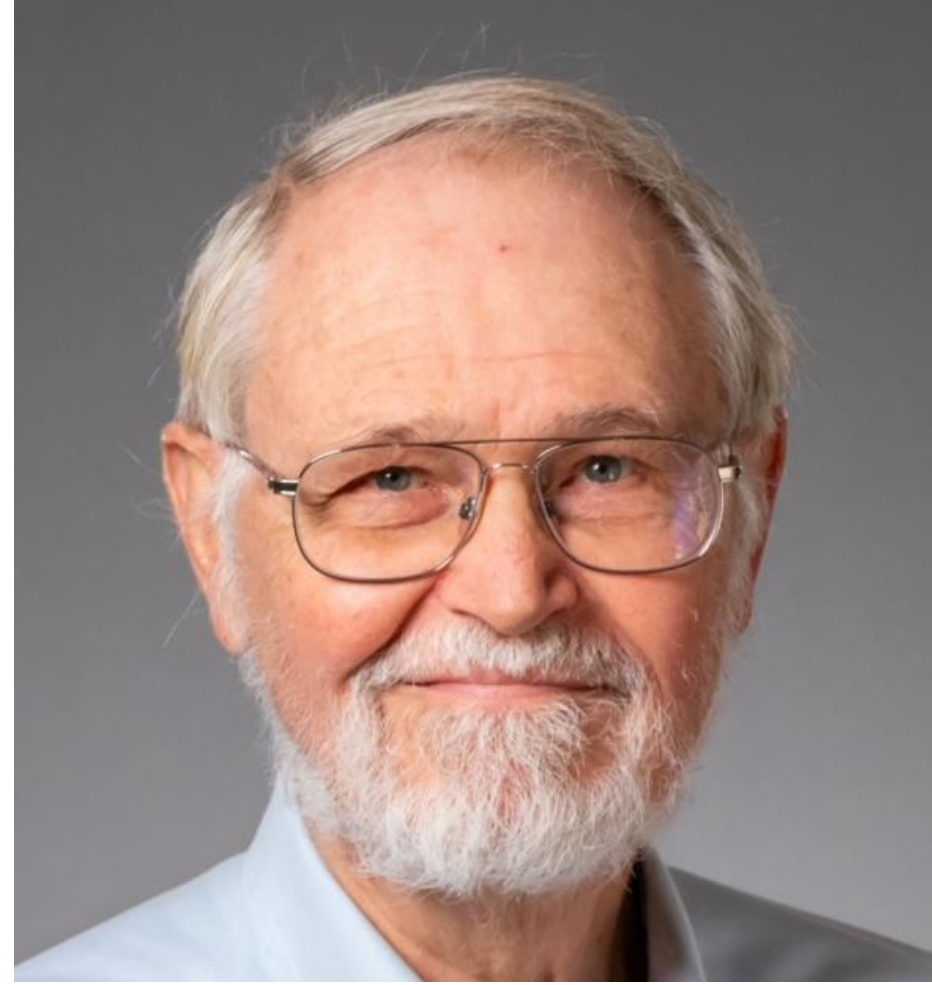


# Science & Technology Medal Past Honorees

Annually awarded to a New Jersey leader or leaders of a technology-based company or a university for extraordinary performance in bringing an impactful innovation to the marketplace.



**2025**  
**Robert Cohen**  
Stryker



**2024**  
**Brian Kernighan, Ph.D.**  
Princeton University  
Bell Labs



**2023**  
**Victor Lawrence, Ph.D.**  
Bell Labs  
Stevens Institute of  
Technology



**2022**  
**David MacMillan, Ph.D.**  
Princeton University



**2021**  
**Macaya Douoguih,  
Ph.D. and  
Remo Colarusso**  
Janssen

# 2026 Science & Technology Medal Nominees

Annually awarded to a New Jersey leader or leaders of a technology-based company or a university for extraordinary performance in bringing an impactful innovation to the marketplace.



**Mike Intrator, Brian Venturo, Brannin McBee, and Peter Salanki**  
Co-Founders  
CoreWeave



**Jordan Schecter, MD**  
Multiple Myeloma DAS  
leader and Inventor,  
Carvykti  
Johnson & Johnson  
Innovative Medicine



**Stephen K. Burley, D. Phil., MD**  
Founding Director of the  
Institute for Quantitative  
Biomedicine, and Director of  
the RCSB Protein Data Bank  
Rutgers University

# Visionary Award Past Honorees

Annually awarded to an individual who showcases exceptional and transformational leadership in uniting industry, academia and the state in pursuit of creating a research-based economy in New Jersey.



2025

**John Crowley**

Biotechnology Innovation  
Organization (BIO)



2024

**Chris Paladino**

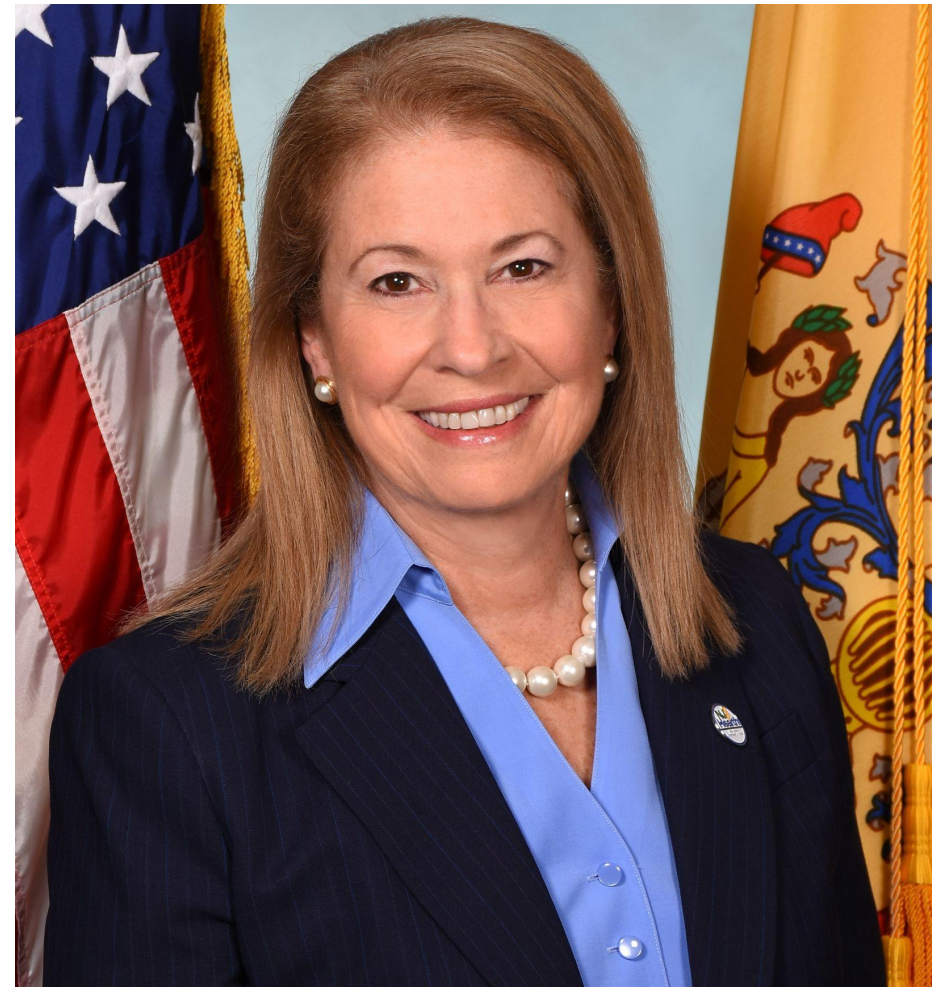
DevCo/Helix



2023

**Robert C. Garrett**

Hackensack Meridian  
Health



2022

**Judith Persichilli**

NJ Department of  
Health



2021

**Kenneth Frazier**

Merck & Co.

***Edison Patent  
Awards***

# 2026 Visionary Award Nominees

Annually awarded to an individual who showcases exceptional and transformational leadership in uniting industry, academia and the state in pursuit of creating a research-based economy in New Jersey.



**Ralph Larossa**  
Chairman, President & CEO  
PSEG



**Bob Carrigan**  
CEO  
Audible



**Amy Mansue**  
CEO  
Inspira Health

# Educator of the Year Past Honorees

Annually awarded to an individual for their achievements in the advancement of science and technology education and workforce development across New Jersey.



2025

**Brian Strom, M.D.**  
Rutgers Biomedical  
and Health Sciences

2024

**Dr. Anthony Lowman**  
Rowan University

2023

**Sen. Dr. Andrew Zwicker**  
Princeton Plasma  
Physics Lab

2022

**Sen. Teresa Ruiz**

2021

**Comcast**

***Edison Patent  
Awards***

# 2026 Educator of the Year Honorees

Annually awarded to an individual for their achievements in the advancement of science and technology education and workforce development across New Jersey.



**Lamont O. Repollet,  
Ed.D.**  
President  
Kean University



**Aaron R. Fichtner and Catherine  
Starghill**  
President / Vice President  
NJ Council of Community  
Colleges



**Dena K. Seidel, Ph.D.**  
Co-Instructor & Research  
Analyst  
Rutgers University

# Catalyst Award Past Honorees

Annually awarded to an individual or organization who significantly supports the innovation ecosystem within New Jersey.



2025

**Craig Arnold, Ph.D.**  
Princeton University



2024

**Judith Sheft**  
NJ Commission on Science,  
Technology & Innovation

# 2026 Catalyst Award Nominee

Annually awarded to an individual or organization who significantly supports the innovation ecosystem within New Jersey.



**Atam P Dhawan, Ph.D.**  
Chief Strategic  
Innovation Officer and  
SVP-Research, New  
Jersey Institute of  
Technology

# Emerging Tech Award Past Honorees

Annually awarded to a New Jersey individual, team or organization whose early stage inventions or innovations have the potential to make a significant impact on the marketplace.



2025

**Nathaniel Banks &  
Yidian Liu**  
Polygone Systems



2024

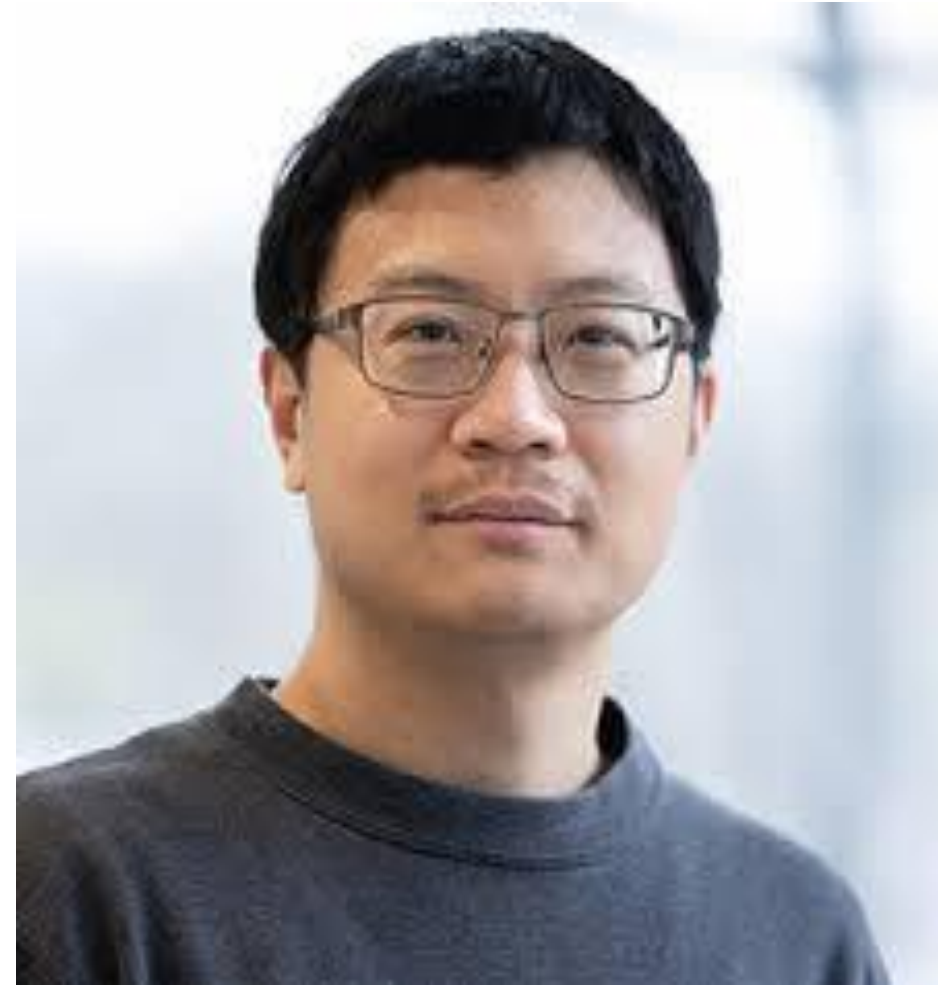
**Olivier Loudig, Ph.D.**  
Hackensack Meridian  
Health's Center for Discovery  
& Innovation

# 2026 Emerging Tech Award Nominees

Annually awarded to a New Jersey individual, team or organization whose early stage inventions or innovations have the potential to make a significant impact on the marketplace.



**Kathryn Carpenter**  
President  
Cecilia Energy



**Yongfeng Zhang**  
Associate Professor  
Rutgers University



**Rik Mehta**  
CEO  
Lactiga

# Individual Award Voting

- Vote by email beginning Monday
- Voting open until 5 PM on Fri. 4/24



# Individual Award Nominations

Today



# Strategic Plan Update



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY

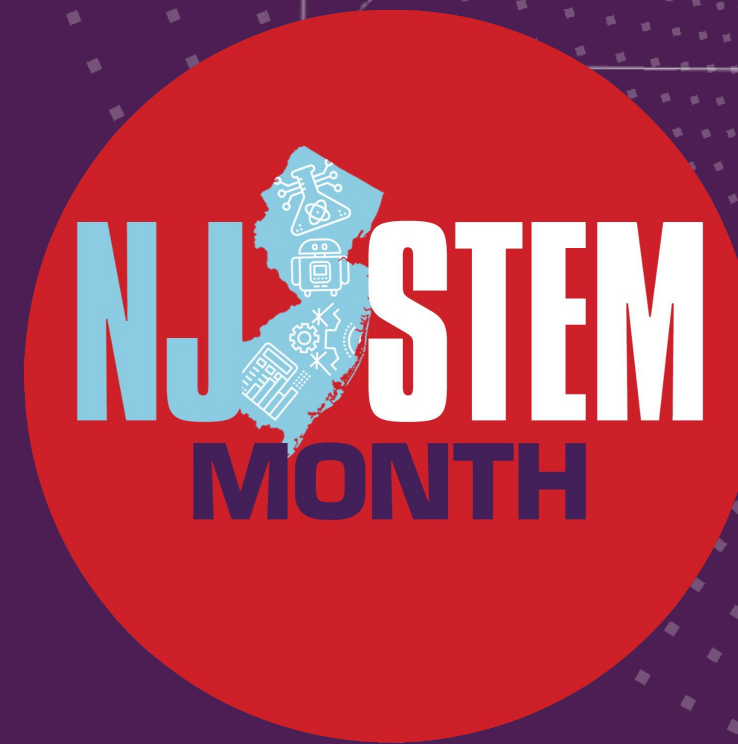
# Strategic Plan Goals and Updates

<p><b>Goal #1: Mission/Purpose</b></p> <p>The mission statement and organizational purpose will be inclusive of the existing education programs and more clearly define the expectations for visibility and advocacy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Whole Board Discussion</li> <li>-Executive Committee reviewed/proposed</li> </ul>	<p><b>COMPLETE (Jan 2026)</b></p> <p>Website and materials updated with new mission/vision.</p>
<p><b>Goal #2: The Board's Role</b></p> <p>The Board will refine its role around governance, fiduciary responsibility, annual planning, and volunteerism to ensure that each Member maintains a sense of ownership and clarity on their roles in relation to everything the organization is aiming to accomplish.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Small committee discussion (Aug)</li> <li>-Reviewed market</li> </ul>	<p>Review of external/similar organizational structures by April Board Meeting.</p> <p><b>Discussed with Executive Committee; update shortly.</b></p>
<p><b>Goal #3: Fundraising</b></p> <p>Fundraising revenue will be expanded through careful consideration of opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Additional capacity for Edison Patent Awards</li> </ul>	<p>Develop goals/description for fundraising need and commit resources in FY27 Budget (<b>June</b>).</p>
<p><b>Goal #4: Organizational Structure</b></p> <p>Further advance the scope, impact, and visibility of the organization through structural/organizational changes that make the benefits of the mission accessible to a wider audience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Small committee discussion</li> <li>-Individual Board member discussion</li> <li>-Exec Committee discussion</li> </ul>	<p>Updates to Bylaws by <b>June Board Meeting</b>.</p>
<p><b>Goal #5: Programming</b></p> <p>The array of programming will be designed to match the new mission, membership, and priorities of the organization.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Awaiting progress on Goals #1-4</li> </ul>	<p>Review programming as part of FY27 budgeting process. (<b>June</b>)</p>

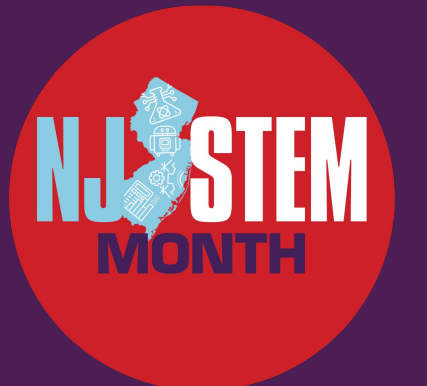




# NJ STEM Month

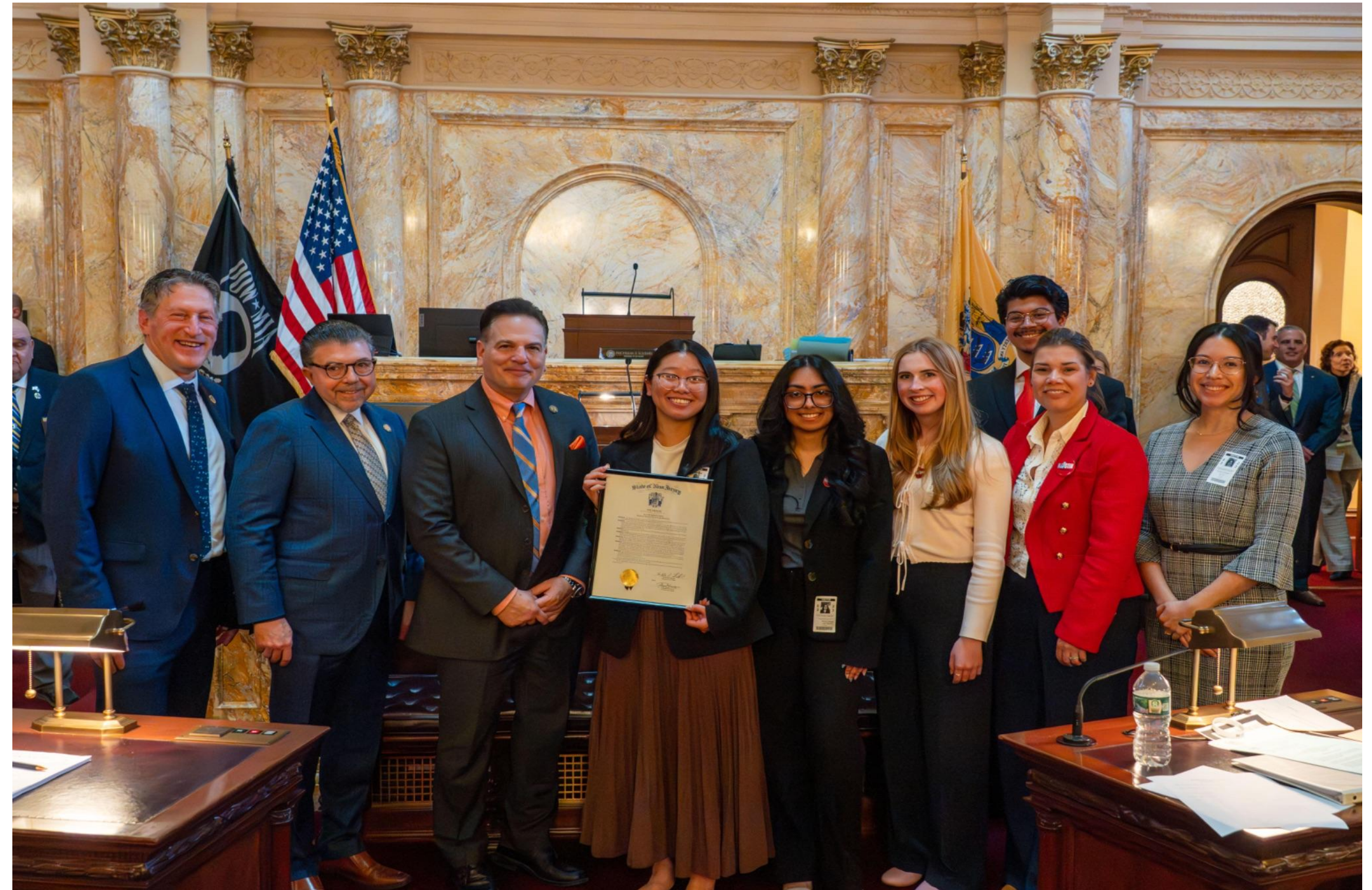


# NJ STEM Month Kickoff



# NJ STEM Month: New Jersey State House

On March 23, RD Council and GSS students attended a NJ Senate Voting Session at the State House recognizing NJ STEM Month's ceremonial resolution which was spearheaded by Senator Andrew Zwicker.



# 2026 Mini Grants



**46**

ORGANIZATIONS AWARDED



**19**

COUNTIES REPRESENTED



**\$24,349**

TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED



**13,500+**

# OF LEARNERS IMPACTED

# NJ STEM Month Postcard Campaign

- **Goal:**  
To raise awareness of NJ STEM Month among New Jersey's policymakers.
- Distributed over 2,000 postcards
- **Mailed to:**
  - Governor Sherill
  - Legislative Leaders
  - Cabinet Members



# NJ STEM Month Awards



**STEM**  
**Civic Leadership Award**

**Richard Anderson,**  
Director of Emerging  
Technology, Rutgers,  
The State University of  
New Jersey



**STEM**  
**Collaboration of the Year**

Paterson Museum,  
Paterson Great Falls  
National Park, P-Tech  
Planetarium/Paterson  
Public Schools and NASA  
Solar System Ambassador



**STEM**  
**Educator of the Year**

**Sheila Tabanli, Ph.D.,**  
Associate Teaching  
Professor of  
Mathematics, Rutgers,  
The State University of  
New Jersey

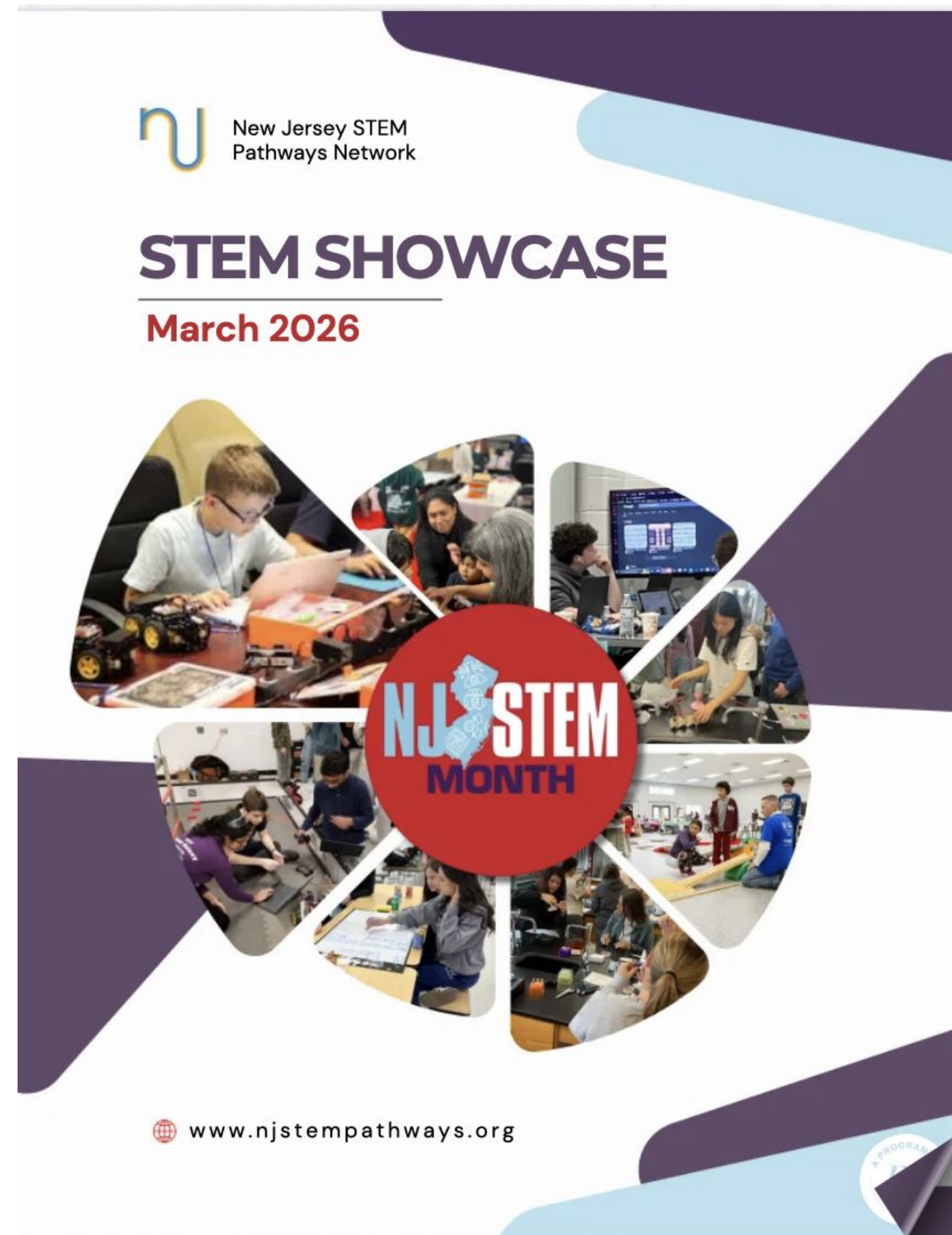


**STEM**  
**Corporate Champion**

American Water



# STEM Showcase Booklet





# Governor's STEM Scholars



# STEM in Academia Conference



# STEM in Industry Conference



# 2027 Applications

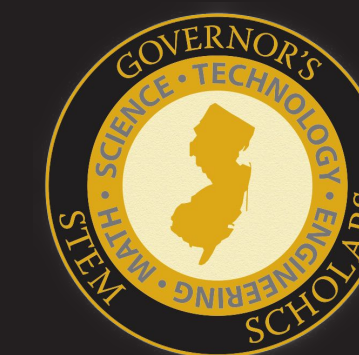


**24**  
Completed  
Apps



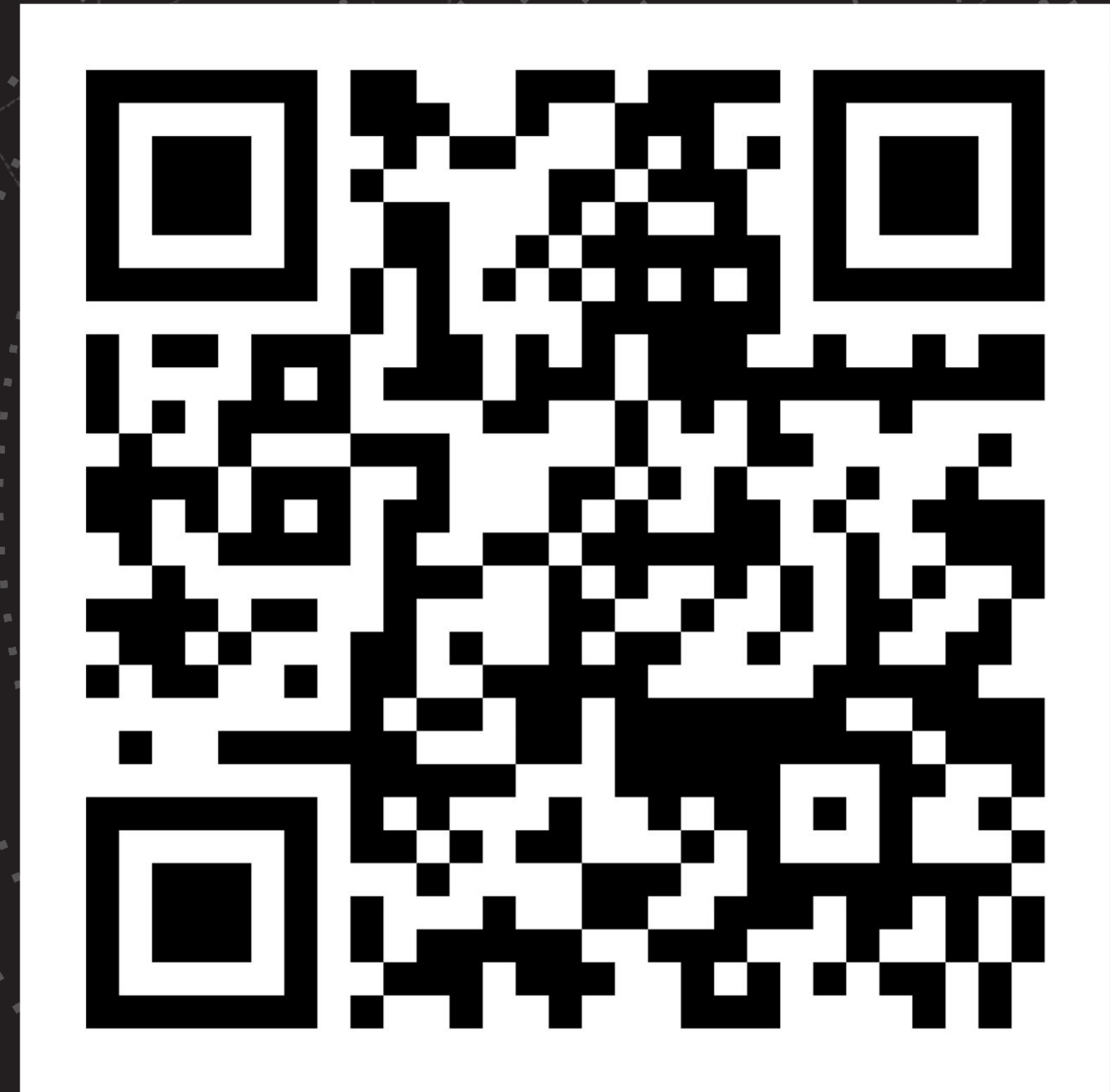
**764**  
Started  
Apps

**499**  
Nominations



# Nominate a Scholar

- **New Jersey-Based Student**
- **High school 10th–12th grader or a college/graduate student (sophomore through doctoral level) as of Fall 2026**
- **3.5 GPA or Higher**
- **Passion for STEM**



# Financial Update



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY

# RDNJ Financials

<b>Operations/Grants/Fiscal Sponsorships</b>	<b>\$704,481.23</b>
<b>Governor's STEM Scholars</b>	<b>\$126,694.20</b>



# FY26 Audit

## Audit Committee

- Jeff Stokes, Treasurer
- Jeff Cartmell
- Judith Sheft



# FY27 State Budget

## Actions to Date

- March 4: Meeting with Governor's Office and Treasury
- March 23: State House Event with State Senate
- Plan for Legislative outreach for budget resolution
  - Request additional meetings with State Senators, Assembly Science, Technology and Innovation Committee Members, and Assembly and Senate Education Committee Members
  - Meetings with Dept of Ed and Sec of HE requesting meetings



# 2025-2026 Meeting Schedule (remaining)

June 12, 2026  
Princeton University



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY

# Meeting Adjourned

*Host Tour Option*

*Thank you for attending and please enjoy a boxed lunch.*



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY

*Advancing Innovation. Improving the World.*