



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY

**R&D Council of New Jersey:
Statewide STEM Investments and Activities Supporting FY27 State Budget Resolutions**

Note: This is not a comprehensive record of Council-hosted and Council-supported activities, but rather a list of those featured in our legislative outreach communications.

\$25,000 Innovation Grant to the Jersey Shore STEM Ecosystem to establish an engineering lending library through which teachers become certified in mobility engineering systems and may borrow Lectec electric scooter kits for classroom use in physics, algebra, environmental science, computer science, and engineering courses, bringing equitable access to hands-on engineering experiences.

\$25,000 innovation grant provided to Wow! Science Summer Camp at Woodland Middle School in Barrington will expand its Digital Innovation Sandbox Summer STEM Experience, an eight-week hands-on program serving K–8 students that incorporates robotics, coding, engineering design challenges, and STEM-focused field experiences to strengthen engagement, confidence, and achievement in STEM among underserved learners.

HSMC (Hunterdon, Somerset, Mercer Counties) STEM Ecosystem received a \$21,500 ecosystem capacity grant to support Green Brook School District's integration of the Greenpower USA electric racecar program into its middle school curriculum during the 2026-27 school year, engaging approximately 125-175 students in hands-on engineering, design, and teamwork through the construction and racing of an electric car.

More than 70 educators, nonprofit leaders, higher education representatives, Department of Labor officials, and private sector partners from Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties gathered at Rowan University for the South Jersey STEM Ecosystem Convening to align around a shared vision for STEM education and workforce development across the region.

The Greater Newark STEM Ecosystem hosted a convening at NJIT bringing together nearly 100 educators, nonprofit leaders, higher education representatives, and private sector partners to move from discussion to action on career-connected STEM learning — focusing on closing skill gaps, aligning education with workforce needs, and building New Jersey's future talent pipeline.

Here's the same grouped order with no headings:

The Greater Newark STEM Ecosystem and Union College of Union County hosted a Connecting Classroom to Career workshop, bringing together educators, business representatives, and community partners to tackle a shared challenge: nearly 60% of employers report difficulty finding candidates with the essential skills needed in today's workforce. Spark Talks from UCNJ, Morristown High School STEM Academy, South Orange-Maplewood School District, Students 2 Science, and the Panasonic Foundation set the stage for roundtable discussions and small group work focused on building stronger connections between STEM education and career pathways across the region.

Greater Newark STEM Ecosystem is developing a Teacher Professional Development Working Group to identify and advance strategies for strengthening STEM learning through improved educator support.

NJ NEST (North STEM Ecosystem) hosted its STEM C² Research Symposium & Summit, an end-of-summer showcase where 50 students presented research projects and outcomes from their summer programs.

NJ NEST welcomed 53 students from Garfield High School to Bergen Community College for an annual campus experience.

NJ NEST engaged students through two USDA-supported initiatives: the Summer in Food Science and Green-Tech Innovation programs.

NJ NEST and Bergen Community College launched the PepsiCo Women in STEM Mentorship Program.

The Delran STEM Ecosystem Alliance, in collaboration with Delran Township Schools and ecosystem partners, held its 9th annual STEM Fair on May 18 — where middle and high school students who participated in their respective Science Fairs showed off their projects alongside demonstrations from 40 vendors, drawing 600 community members, businesses, higher education representatives, student organizations, and families. Cumulative participation has now reached 1,300.

200 students participated in Delran's summer STEAM programs: a STEAM Camp for students entering grades 2–5 built around weekly engineering design challenges, and a STEAM Academy in the Delran Innovation & Fabrication Lab for grades 6–8 focused on digital fabrication using the lab's full suite of software and equipment.

15 seventh and eighth grade students with strong interest or coursework in math and science spent a morning at Lockheed Martin for an engineering day featuring hands-on activities and presentations designed to inspire pursuit of STEM education and careers.

HSMC STEM Labs will open at four Flemington-Raritan schools.

HSMC hosted a Google Computer Science Day of Learning where 732 students participated.

HSMC hosted Google Sites and AI professional development sessions for member educators.

Green STREAM Ecosystem based out of North Brunswick High School hosted teacher training on the OpenSciEd curriculum for up to 100 teachers.

Mid-Jersey Green STREAM Ecosystem expanding into Metuchen for 2026-2027 year.

Liberty STEM Ecosystem hosted a summer STEM camp for 4th and 5th graders at Greenway Family Success Center, with sessions covering nutrition and cheesemaking, cell structure and DNA extraction, color matching and physics, STEM and literacy integration, and water filtration and pool pollution.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant to Coriell Institute for Medical Research brought more than 100 students from Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties in grades 6–12 the opportunity to demonstrate their passion for science.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant to Future Leaders STEM Lab to support their Spring Equinox STEM Celebration in Laurel Springs, reaching 200 learners.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant to Girl Scouts of Central and Southern New Jersey supported a career exploration event celebrating STEM and Women's History Month, giving middle and high school Scouts the opportunity to earn related badges.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant to Mount Laurel-based Mindbytes supported a project-based learning activity for learners and families in grades 1–8, providing hands-on STEM learning experiences that encouraged creativity, problem-solving, and exploration.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant to Monroe Township Library supported a day of hands-on demonstrations, crafting, electronics, 3D printing, and STEM activities that drew 700 learners from the community.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant to Agraj Seva Kendra's DataNova 2026 connected 100 learners with professionals across multiple fields to conduct research and present their findings.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant supported WeMake 4-H's NJ Makers Day event at Piscataway Library, where 150 participants of all ages explored forensic science through a hands-on fingerprinting activity, learning to collect and analyze prints and identify patterns including loops, whorls, and arches.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant provided to Woodbridge Public Library expanded STEM engagement through take-home STEM kits, weekly themed activities at the children's train table, and a town-wide birdhouse-building contest tied to Mayor McCormac's Earth Day Celebration.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant to Elizabeth Public Library supported a one-day Makers Day event across its main and branch locations, where 389 children and families built bird feeders, designed rockets, created candy molecules, and explored other hands-on STEM projects promoting creativity and collaborative learning.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant to University High School supported its STEAM Expo, where nearly 500 students across all grade levels presented original projects spanning physics, chemistry, forensics, disease research, art, and mathematics.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant supported Institute for Girls Academy's Mission on Mars, a series culminating in a showcase event where 1,000 learners demonstrated their growth in STEM knowledge and enthusiasm.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant to Eastside High School supported two events with over 1000 learners: the Annual STEM Fair and the Planet Smilez Discovering Dentistry Symposium.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant supported Science Day at New Jersey City University.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant to the Latinas in STEM Foundation supported From the Earth to the Stars: Over the Moon with Barbie.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant to Bowser Elementary supported Discovery Zone.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant provided to Paterson Public Schools supported the Silk City Drone Competition.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant to Bogota Public Library supported its Super Mario Bros.-themed Makers Day.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant awarded to the Flemington Raritan/HSMC STEM Ecosystem covered transportation for 20 students.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant to Branchburg Township School District supported a New Jersey Makers Day event.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant supported a New Jersey Technology and Engineering Education Association site visit to John Deere.

\$500 NJ STEM Month mini-grant to InfoAge Learning Center to support NJ Makers Day at Camp Evans National Historic Landmark.

LEAP Academy Charter School in Camden gained access to immersive VR/AR science experiences through a new connection with Rowan University, expanding STEM learning opportunities for 1,080 students in grades 4–12.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools hosted a NJ STEM Month STEM Expo where 75 students in grades 5–8 presented original investigations and projects spanning robotics, chemistry, and health sciences in a poster and project session.

A student from Academy for Information Technology led a NJ STEM Month hands-on session for Union Chinese School Science Club, guiding participants through building DNA models while introducing the basic structure of DNA and Punnett squares.

NJIT partnered with Newark Public Schools to host the AMC 10 and 12 math competitions for approximately 130 high school students.

Science Park High School hosted a showcase where 1,000 learners experienced student projects across multiple disciplines.

400 students at 13th Avenue School presented their second schoolwide STEAM showcase.

Jersey City Public School PS 22 marked NJ STEM Month with weekly hands-on challenges.

Throughout NJ STEM Month, Liberty Science Center delivered STEM education programming across all science domains and grade levels.

Northern Bergen STEM Academy celebrated NJ STEM Month with a series of events including a Research Showcase.