

# Board of Directors Meeting

September 11, 2026

Avantor

Bridgewater, New Jersey



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY

*Advancing Innovation. Improving the World.*

# Moment of Silence



# Agenda



## Welcome



## Host Presentation

Nandu Deorkar, PhD  
Avantor



## Guest Speaker

William Noonan  
Choose New Jersey



## Approval of June 12, 2026 Minutes



## Financial Update

Audit  
Current Financials



## Chair's Report

New Representative  
Dues' payments



## Discussion Items

Strategic Plan  
47th Edison Patent Awards



## STEM Programs

Governor's STEM Scholars



## Workforce/Talent Development Inquiry





# Host Presentation

Nandu Deorkar, PhD  
Senior Vice-President, R&D  
Avantor



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY

**choose.**  
**new jersey**

# Guest Presentation

**William Noonan**

Chief Business Development Officer

Choose New Jersey



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY

# Coffee break

Duration: 15 min



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# 6/12/26 Meeting Minutes

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



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# Financial Items



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# FY25 Audit Complete

## Audit Committee

- Jeff Stokes, Treasurer
- Jeff Cartmell
- Judith Sheft

# FY25 Audit Summary

- Unmodified opinion - best you can receive
- No material weaknesses
- Five deficiencies and observations (quick summary; full explanation in Independent Auditors' Communication of Internal Control Matters Identified in the Audit)
  - **Writing off uncollectible receivables in a more timely manner**
    - Can be complicated approval policies for dues and we work with members to facilitate payments
  - **Billing membership dues for the upcoming year vs. current year**
    - Will review current timeline and identify the new process for FY28
  - **Limit debit card use**
    - Completed
  - **Review journal entries and confirm documentation**
    - ED meets with bookkeeper on a weekly basis to review expense and revenue / require documentation
  - **Adopt an accounting manual**
    - In progress: sent over to accountant and bookkeeper for input



# FY25 Audit Action

- Recommendation of the Audit committee for the Board to receive and file the final findings.
- Motion?
- Second?
  - **All in Favor?**
  - **Against?**
  - **Abstentions?**

# Current Financials

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Cash Accounts | \$513,162.27 |
|---------------|--------------|

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Accounts Receivable | \$179,525 |
|---------------------|-----------|

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Accounts Payable | \$108,093 |
|------------------|-----------|

# Chair's Report



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY

# Chair's Report



## Fall Dues

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



# Nokia Bell Labs New Representative

**David J. Apigo, Ph.D.**  
Thermal Researcher  
Optical Systems and Device Research Lab

# Discussion Items



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY

# Strategic Plan Update



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# Strategic Plan Goals and Updates

## Goal #2: The Board's Role

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.

- Small committee discussion
- Reviewed market
- Discussed options with Executive Committee and will merge discussion with Goal #4

Will host small group discussions with Board members to refine options for January Board Meeting discussion and vote

## Goal #4: Organizational Structure

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.

- Small committee discussion
- Individual Board member discussion
- Exec Committee discussion

Updates to Bylaws January 2026 Board Meeting.



T. A. EDISON.  
Electric-Lamp.

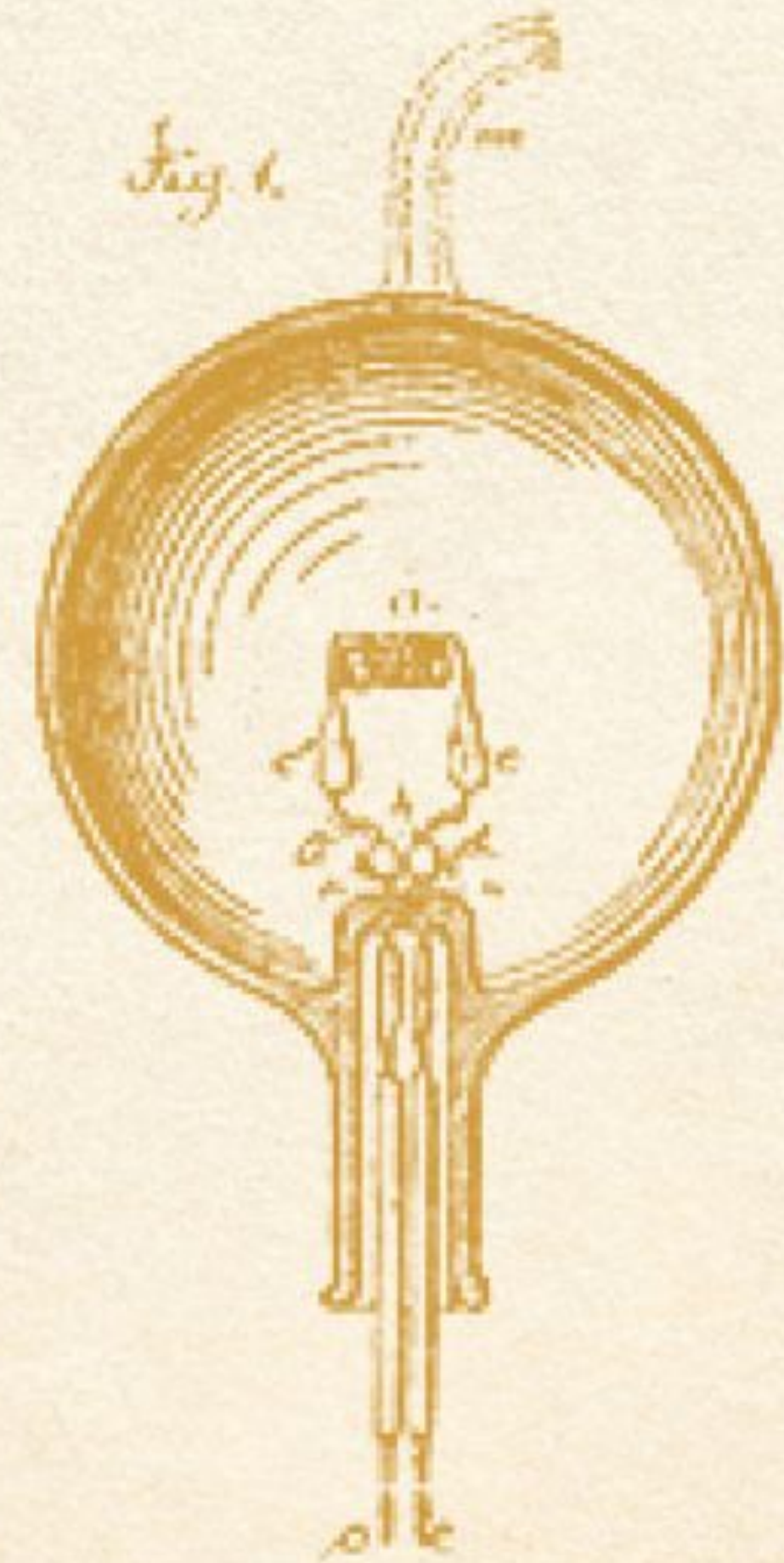
No. 223,898.

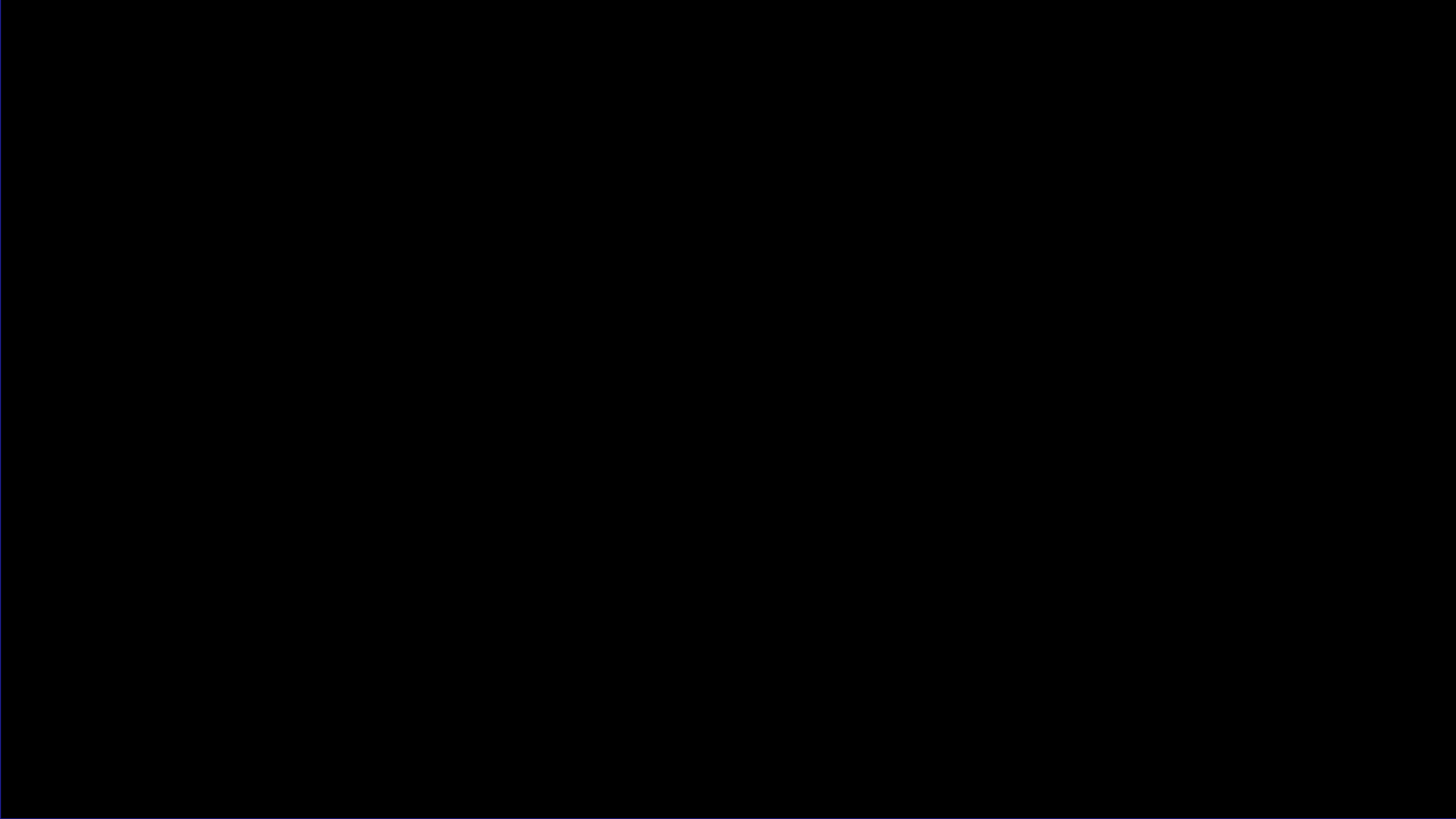
Patented Jan. 27. 1880.

# Revolution Through Innovation

47th Annual Edison Patent Awards

November 19, 2026





The Research & Development Council of New Jersey Presents

## 47th Annual Edison Patent Awards

# Revolution Through Innovation

Thursday, November 19, 2026

Bell Works, Holmdel

[Sponsorships & Tickets](#)

[Sponsorship Form](#)



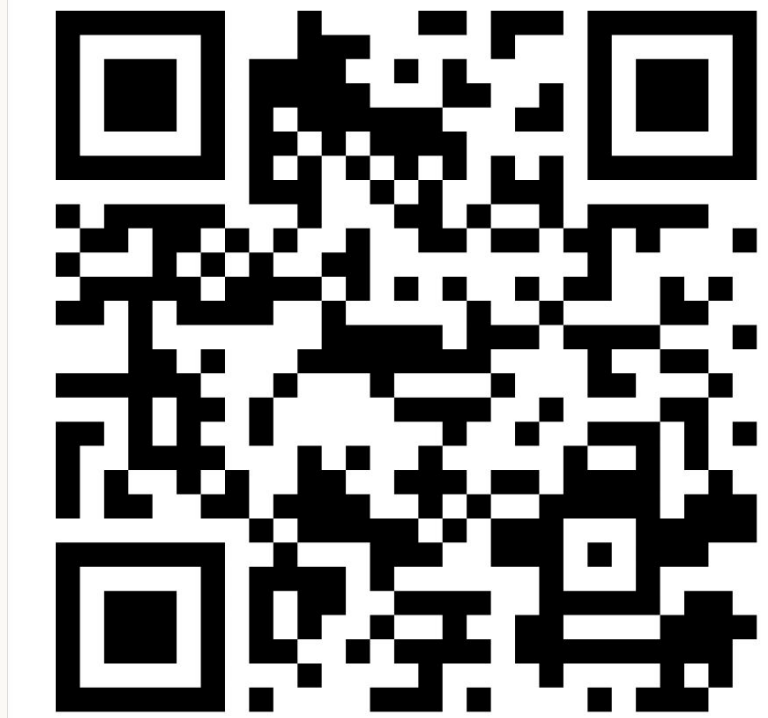
Thomas Edison didn't just invent the lightbulb — he invented the idea that relentless innovation changes the world. New Jersey took Edison's idea and ran with it. Today, New Jersey's industry leaders, government laboratories, and higher education institutions are driving the next great American revolution — one patent, one breakthrough, one world-changing idea at a time.

Celebrate with us on November 19, 2026 as the Research & Development Council of New Jersey gathers to honor the inventors leading the way.

[Individual Honorees](#)

[Patent Award Honorees](#)

[Event Logistics](#)



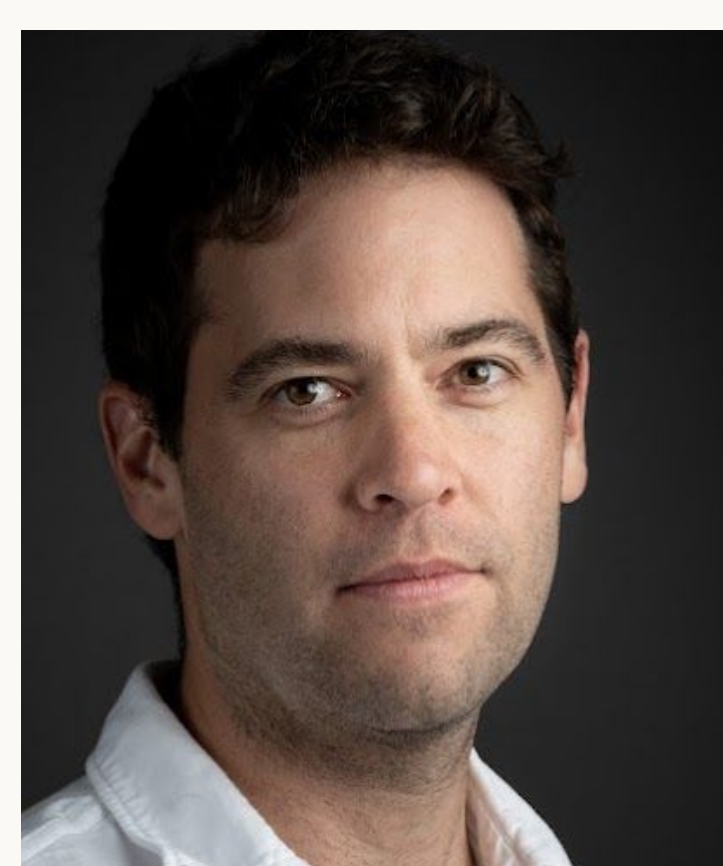
[rdnj.org/2026patentawards](https://rdnj.org/2026patentawards)



Peter Salanki



Mike Intrator



Brannin McBee



Brian Venturo

**CoreWeave Co-Founders**  
**Science & Technology Medal**



**Bob Carrigan, Audible CEO**  
**Visionary Award**



**Lamont Repollet, EdD, Kean University**  
**Educator of the Year**



**Atam Dhawan, PhD, NJIT**  
**Catalyst Award**

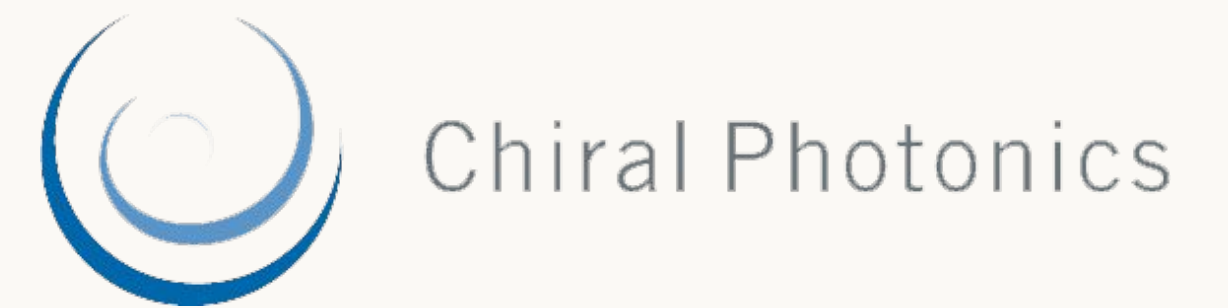


**Kathryn Carpenter, Cecilia Materials**  
**Emerging Tech**

**2026 Individual Award Winners**

# 2026 Winners

*American Standard*



**NEC**  
NEC LABORATORIES AMERICA

NOKIA  
BELL  
LABS



**SIEMENS**



**SIEMENS**  
**Healthineers**

INNERSTILL™

# 2026 Sponsorship Levels

## \$50,000 – Innovator

- 20 VIP event tickets 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 a full-page ad
- Premier recognition in all pre & post print, online and social media
- Name, logo and link on R&D Council website for 2026-27

### Award Winner Bonus

Unrestricted rights to their organization's award winner film

## \$20,000 – Pioneer

- 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 a full-page ad
- Name, logo and link on R&D Council website for 2026-27

## \$10,000 – Director

- 10 event tickets
- Listing in awards program

### Award Winner Bonus

Unrestricted rights to their organization's award winner film

## \$25,000 – Explorer

- 20 event tickets with prominent seating
- Prominent branding on signage
- Prominent branding in awards program, including a full-page ad
- Prominent recognition in all pre & post print, online and social media
- Name, logo and link on R&D Council website for 2026-27

### Award Winner Bonus

Unrestricted rights to their organization's award winner film

## \$15,000 – Inventor

- 10 event tickets
- Listing on event signage
- Listing in awards program
- Recognition in all pre & post print, online and social media

### Award Winner Bonus

Unrestricted rights to their organization's award winner film

## Individual Event Tickets

### \$750

Industry & For-profit sector

### \$550

Government & Non-profit Sector

# 2026 Sponsors

explorer

\$25,000

inventor

\$15,000

director

\$10,000





## Ning Lin receives Edison Patent Award



GENERAL BUSINESS

R&D Council of NJ Announces 2026 Edison Patent Awards Honorees

## Revolution Through Innovation

### Industrial Processes Award



Thomas Nosker, PhD



Jennifer Lynch-Branzoi, PhD



Richard Lehman, PhD

### Aquaculture Award



Ximing Guo, PhD

Research & Innovation

## Two Rutgers Research Teams Receive 2026 Edison Patent Awards

## BINJE: R&D Council announces 2026 Edison Patent Awards honorees



## NJIT's Atam Dhawan to Receive 2026 Catalyst Award

Home / NJIT'S ATAM DHAWAN TO RECEIVE 2026 CATALYST AWARD



## Audible, CoreWeave execs lead 2026 Edison Patent Awards honorees

## Rowan engineer to accept 2026 Edison Patent Award

August 20, 2026

Share [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Email](#) [Print](#)

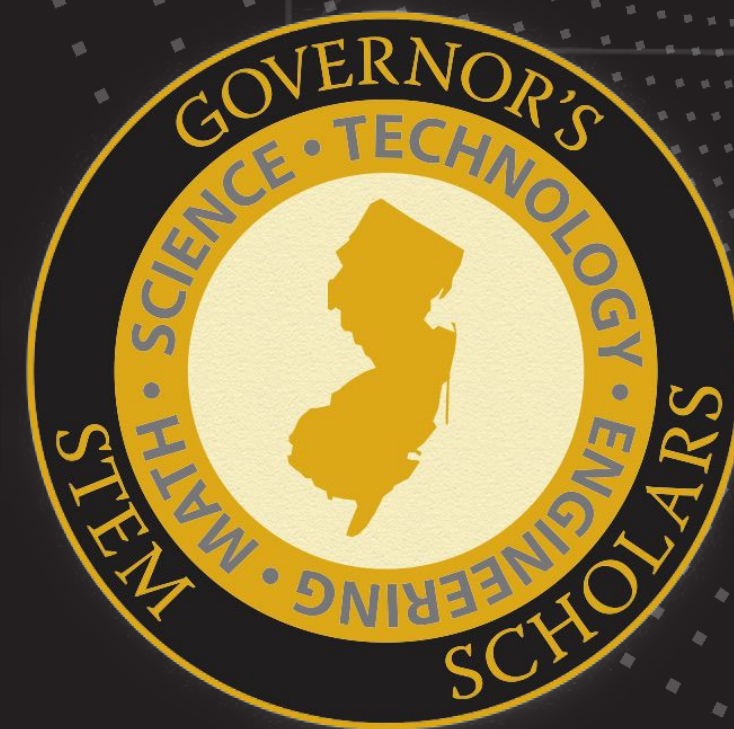


Vince Beachley is a biomedical engineering professor in the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering.



# Governor's STEM Scholars

Fall 2026 Update



# 2026-2027 Recruitment

**1221 Applicants**  
*(19% increase from 2026)*

**20 Counties Represented**

**55% Female**

**80% Students of Color**

**19% First-generation college students**

**19% English language learners**

**21% From low-income communities**

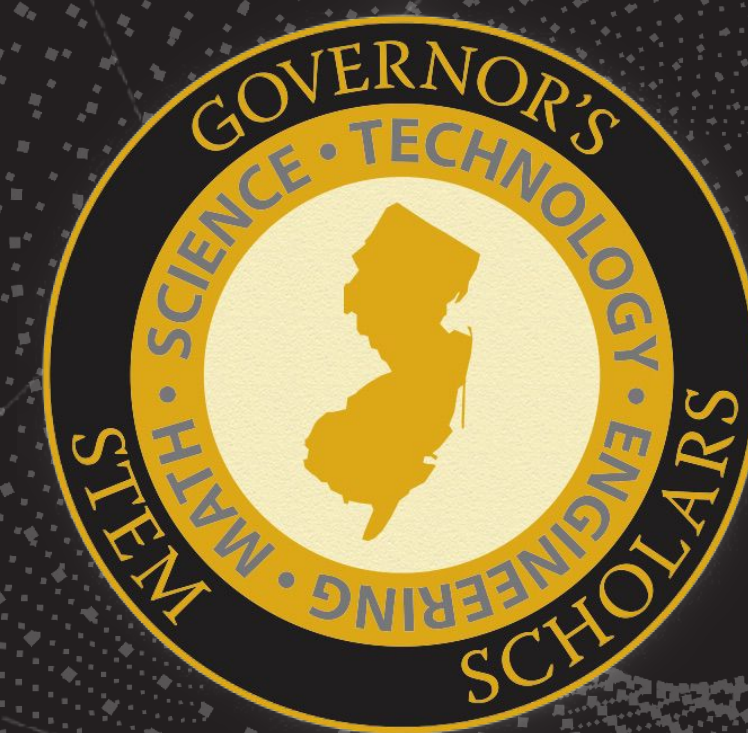
**99 College students**

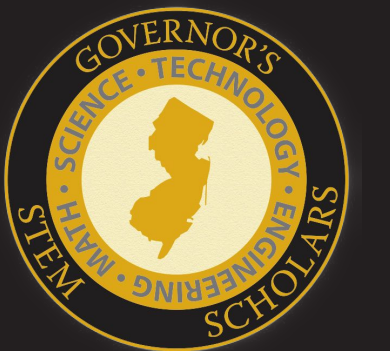
**1121 High school students**





# 2027 Governor's STEM Scholars Class





# 2026–2027 Governor's STEM Scholars

INCOMING CLASS AT A GLANCE



**111**

Scholars



**15**

Team Leads



**20**

Counties



**60%**

Female

**40%**

Male



**34%**

Under-represented  
races in STEM



**28%**

From low-income  
communities



**24%**

1st generation  
college students



**24%**

English as a  
second language





**Jaya Choudhary**  
Junior  
Mechanical and Aerospace  
Engineering  
Princeton University



**Zaid Choudhry**  
Junior  
Biomedical Engineering  
Ernest Mario School of New  
Jersey Institute of Technology



**Rafael Cottom**  
Ph.D. Student  
Planetary Science  
Rutgers University - New  
Brunswick



**Zion Harris**  
Ph.D. Student  
Computational Biology  
Rutgers University - Camden



**Aliya Laliwala**  
Master's Student  
Computer Science, AI  
Jersey Institute of Technology



**Alex Le**  
Ph.D. Student  
Molecular Biosciences  
Rutgers University - New  
Brunswick



**Franco Miyashiro**  
Senior  
Neuroscience  
Ramapo College



**Rishi Shah**  
Junior  
Business Information Systems  
New Jersey Institute Of  
Technology



**Kabir Singh**  
Senior  
Mathematical Biology  
New Jersey Institute of  
Technology



**Ananya Tyagi**  
Senior  
Computer Science  
New Jersey Institute of  
Technology



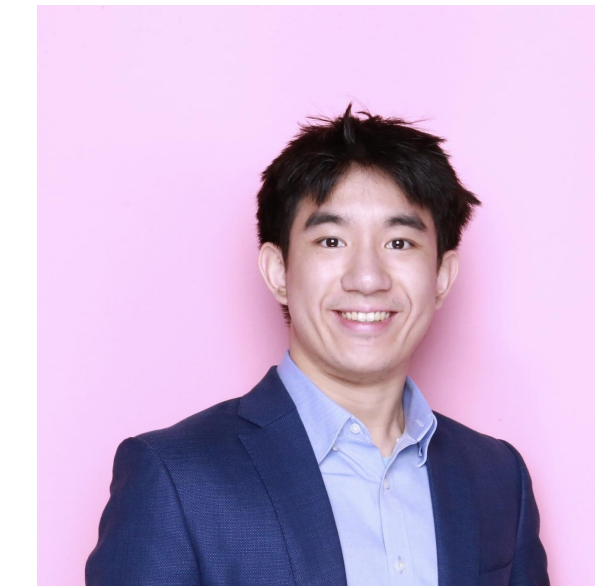
**Varshaa Venkitesh**  
Senior  
Applied Physics  
Rutgers University - New  
Brunswick



**Kirithika Vimalanathan**  
Sankarapandian  
Junior  
Biochemistry  
New Jersey Institute of  
Technology



**Christina Weber**  
Sophomore  
Biology  
Brookdale Community College



**Michael Yang**  
Senior  
Cell Biology and Neuroscience  
Rutgers University - New  
Brunswick

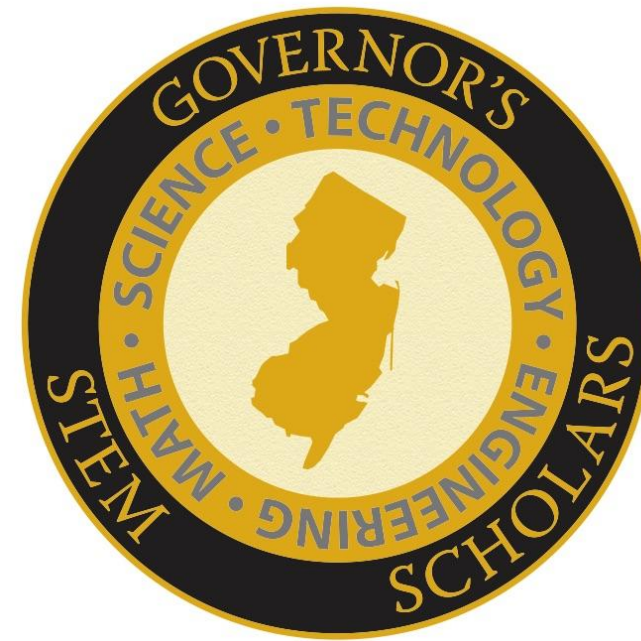


**Nazli Yildiz**  
Sophomore  
Actuarial Science  
Sophomore





**Tessa Chow**  
Novartis Girls in Science and  
Business Mentoring Program



**Grace Fine**  
Merck / EyeBio Summer Intern



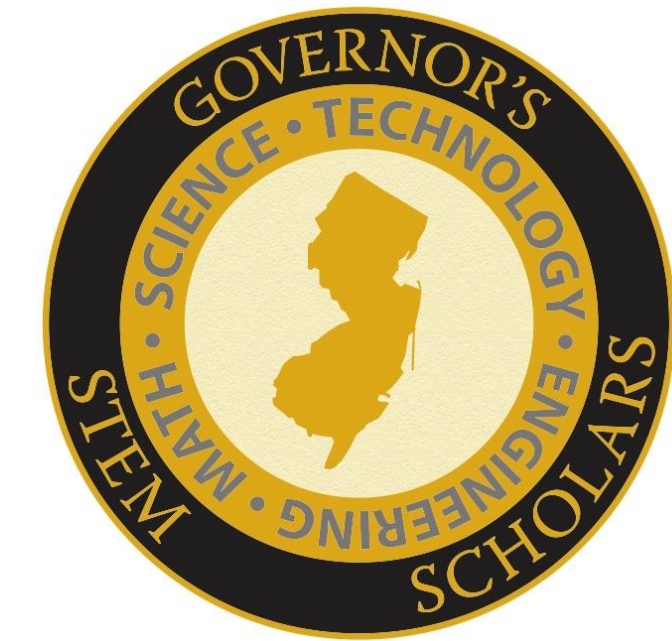
**Varshaa Venkitesh**  
Merck University STEM  
Mentorship Program



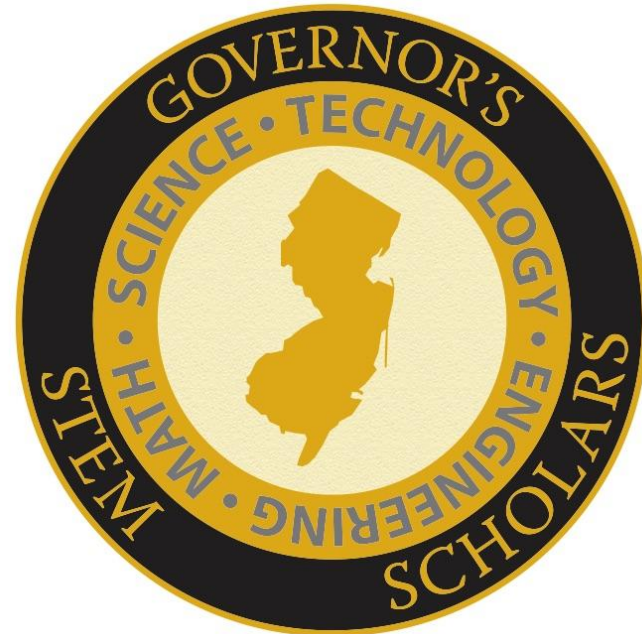
**Shreyashi Kumar**  
Liberty Science Center's  
partners in Science, Placed at  
Rutgers University



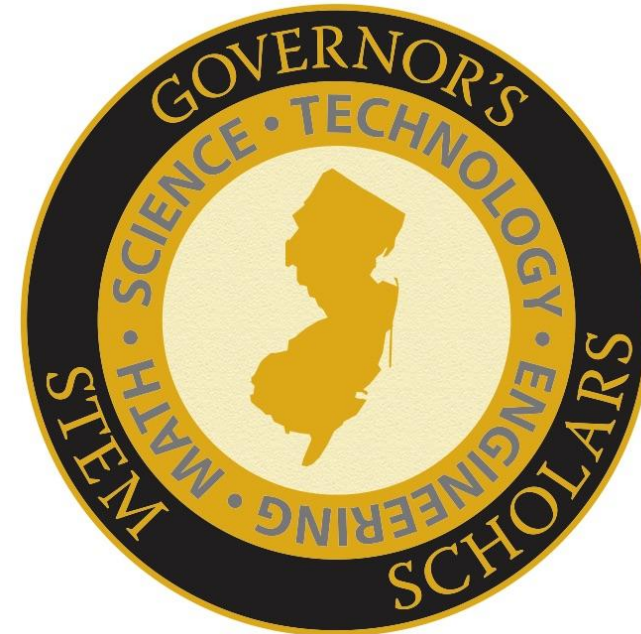
**Arsh Gupta**  
Kean University Summer  
Scholars Research Program



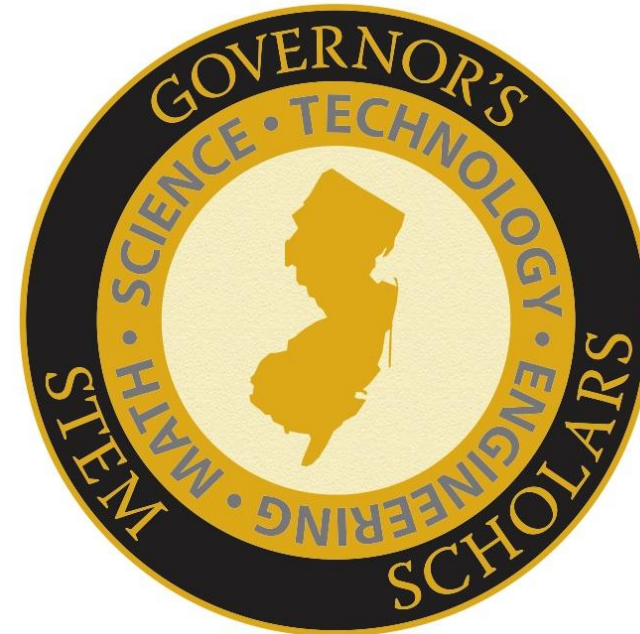
**Eloah Bispo**  
Rutgers Pathway to Scientists  
Program



**Jacob Ayala**  
NJIT's Real World Connections  
Program



**Aadi Bhatia**  
Stevens Institute of Technology  
Summer Researcher



**Rhea Menon**  
Rowan University Biomedical  
Lab researcher



**Giuliana Demma**  
Watershed Institute & Princeton  
University High Meadows  
Environmental Institute Water  
and Climate Academy



**Fatima Poonawalla**  
Received FitzRandolph Gate  
Award at Princeton University  
Research Day



**Aarush Batra**  
Rutgers' Department of  
Materials Science and  
Engineering Researcher



# 2026-2027 Conference Schedule



**STEM in Government  
Conference**

Saturday,  
October 17, 2026



**STEM in Academia  
Conference**

Saturday,  
December 5, 2026



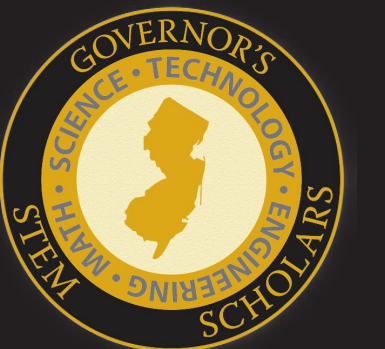
**STEM in Industry  
Conference**

Saturday,  
March 6, 2027



**Commencement  
Conference**

Saturday,  
May 1, 2027



# 2026-2027 Activity Schedule...so far



**Research Lead  
Retreat**

September 25,  
2026



**Welcome Reception**

October 6, 2026  
\*Board welcome to  
attend



**Innovation Center  
Site Visit**

October 28,  
2026



# Workforce Development / Talent Inquiry



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# Meeting Adjourned

## 15-20 min Optional Tour



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