



GOVERNOR'S  
**STEM**  
SCHOLARS

**NEWS**

SPECIAL  
EDITION

## Scholars Take STEM Week to the Capitol



A group of STEM Scholars with Assemblymen Andrew Zwicker, Raj Mukherji and Dan Benson.

Each year, to draw attention to New Jersey's robust STEM economy, the Research & Development Council of New Jersey joins with the Governor and State Legislature in support of STEM Week.

This is one of the most important times of the year for the Council, which is the state's oldest STEM-focused organization. During STEM Week, the Council takes stock of where the Garden State is in relation to other states, it identifies areas of improvement, and it celebrates the work of its participants.

One highlight of STEM Week is the visit of the college Governor's STEM Scholars to the State Legislature. As a requirement of the program, college STEM Scholars

design a research project which they then lead teams of high school students in implementing. At the program's conclusion, the teams present their research to a panel of judges and whichever team comes up with the most compelling project is invited to the Thomas Alva Edison Patent Awards.

This year, the college scholars showcased their research, which ranged from STEM education policy to environmental hazards to a resilient emergency care package. The scholars presented the research to state legislators, gubernatorial staff, and policymakers. Following the presentation, each scholar received a joint legislative resolution commemorating STEM Week and the Scholars.

# A Message from Council Chairman Dr. Troy Sarich About STEM Week

**T**his STEM Week, I am pleased to report that New Jersey has much to celebrate. Our state continues to lead in intellectual talent density with over 225,000 scientists and engineers, by far the largest concentration anywhere in the world. Earlier this year, Bloomberg Business ranked New Jersey as the fourth most innovative state in the country. And over the coming decade, New Jersey is projected to have an eleven percent increase in the number of STEM jobs (by comparison, all other jobs are at seven percent). To meet this great opportunity, we need to ensure that we can retain and attract top STEM talent to help with the discovery of new innovations that improve our health, our economy, and our way of life.

“At the Council, we continue the work befitting the state’s oldest STEM-focused organization. Each year, we honor our state’s inventors at the Edison Patent Awards where our top minds celebrate New Jersey’s top STEM

achievements and STEM innovators. With the Governor’s STEM Scholars, we give our state’s best and brightest high school and college students a comprehensive introduction to the state’s STEM economy through a series of conferences, field trips, and internship opportunities. And finally, with the Merit Scholars program we award promising community college students scholarships and introduce them to STEM careers and professionals.”

— Dr. Troy Sarich is the Chairman of the Research & Development Council of New Jersey. He is also Vice-President of Real World Evidence at Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC a Johnson & Johnson company.



Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker with STEM Scholar Justin Seay.



Assemblyman Dan Benson talks with STEM Scholar Monika Chung about her research project.



Governor Christie and Lt. Governor Guadagno's Proclamation naming the week of March 13, 2016 STEM Week in New Jersey.

[www.govstemscholars.com](http://www.govstemscholars.com)



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY  
127 Main Street • Chatham, NJ 07928 • Tel: 973.274.8336 • Fax: 973.635.0301