



Scholars Introduced to Industry at NJIT

Rich Kram (TE Subcom) speaks to scholars about New Jersey careers.

The Governor's STEM Scholars held their Industry and STEM Conference at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. This conference gave the scholars a thorough introduction to STEM opportunities in the state's private sector.

The day began with a speech by Dr. May Shawi, a Governor's STEM Scholars board member. As Integrated Evidence Team Leader at Janssen, Dr. Shawi has considerable experience in genetics, immunology, neuroscience, and oncology. She dedicated her time to talking about building networks, introducing oneself to like-minded contacts, and charting the course of one's professional career.



A group of scholars poses prior to the presentations.

Following Dr. Shawi's speech, the scholars spent the next hour working on their research projects. STEM

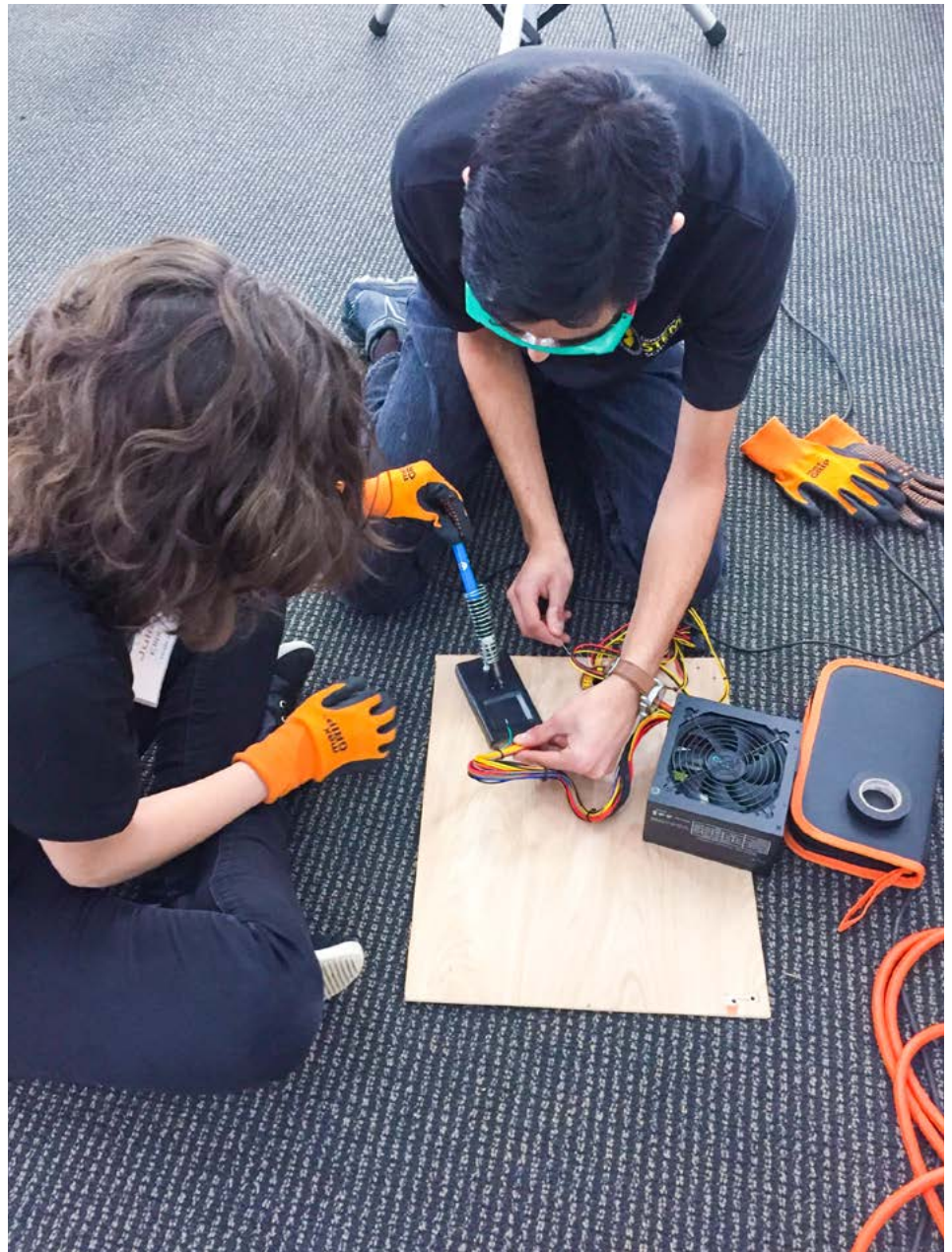
Scholar alumnus Nandini Isaac visited to show the scholars her work from the previous year. At present, there are 15

ongoing research projects that will be presented at the program's final conference on May 12 at Kean University. A select group of college and graduate scholars will also present their research at the New Jersey General Assembly during STEM Month.

After the scholars worked on their research projects, they were treated to back-to-back presentations by two professional development experts. First, they heard from Greg Mass, NJIT's Executive Director for Career Development. Mass educated the scholars about the opportunities available in the STEM fields and showed them the majors that they should consider pursuing to make the leap between school and the workforce. Second, the scholars heard from Lisa Giannattasio, a human resources leader at Johnson & Johnson. Giannattasio gave an informative talk about what the landscape looks like at one of the top companies in the world. She also led the scholars on a networking exercise where they had to develop their elevator pitches with fellow students.

Following the presentations, the scholars had the chance to put these lessons to work in a unique professional setting called STEM Speed Networking. During this session, the scholars circulated around the room meeting with 18 professionals from some of the state's top STEM companies, including BD, BMS, IBM, BASF, Exxon, Celgene, Janssen, PSEG, Bell Labs, and TE SubCom.

These are people who worked on nuclear submarines, who lay the underground cables for modern telecommunications, who develop the drugs and medical devices that save our lives, and who create the chemistry for cleaner energy and a greener world. Each professional spoke about their own professional journeys and life within their companies. In addition, many



A group of scholars works on their research project.



Lisa Giannattasio (Johnson & Johnson) talks to the scholars about branding.

were able to guide interested scholars to potential internship opportunities with their employers.

Feedback from the conference was overwhelmingly positive with many of the scholars enthusing that this was the best event of the year. After seeing their fellow scholars starting internships at Picatinny Arsenal and other Council partners, the number of students interested in having a STEM internship experience in New Jersey markedly increased.



Ellen Ferguson (Nokia Bell Labs) talks with scholars at STEM Speed Networking.



GSS alumnus Nandini Isaac shows scholars her research presentation.



Scholars meet with one another in a networking exercise.



STEM Scholars and professionals pose at the day's end.



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