



The Future Ready Schools - NJ Monthly Newsletter

The 2019 Certification Cycle Has Begun!

February 28th marked the official launch of the 2019 Future Ready Schools - New Jersey certification cycle!

To mark national [Digital Learning Day](#) each year, FRS-NJ kicks off the certification cycle with the [FRS-NJ Certification Summit](#) at NJIT. This year, nearly 300 educators and leaders from across New Jersey joined us at NJIT to learn about the certification program and process, to learn from and collaborate with each other, and to prepare for their 2019 certification efforts. Almost 200 more joined the celebration via the first ever summit live-stream from locations across the state, including one group hosted by the [SRI&ETTC](#) at Stockton University in collaboration with the NJDOE.

The event was initiated by NJIT's Dr. James Lipuma, director of [CSLA's CLEAR Collaborative](#) who led the development of the FRS-NJ program in 2016 and 2017 in collaboration with the NJDOE and NJSBA coalition partners. Dr. Lipuma highlighted CLEAR's collective impact efforts through FRS-NJ, the NSF INCLUDES [Life project](#), and other CLEAR collaborative efforts.



Dr. James Lipuma (NJIT CLEAR) initiates the 2019 FRS-NJ Certification Summit

[CSLA's Dean Kevin Belfield](#) welcomed attendees, highlighting the college's recent launch of [cyber-psychology](#) and [forensic science](#) programs and the importance of providing our students with paths to success in their futures and careers that they can be proud of. **Continued on pg. 4**



CSLA Dean Kevin Belfield welcomes attendees to the live summit at NJIT

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Community News

[The Future is Now](#)

Jeremy Reich via NJSBA's School Leader Magazine

[Our Future Ready Schools - NJ Journey](#)

Christine Lion-Bailey via NJSBA's School Leader Magazine

[Executive Word: Creating the Future](#)

NJSBA's School Leader Magazine

[Applications Being Accepted for STEM Innovation Fellowship](#)

NJSBA's School Leader Magazine

[NJIT Workshop Introduces New Jersey Teachers To World of Fantasy RPG Education](#)

NJIT

[When should we run a Free CS 100 for High School Teachers at NJIT?](#)

NJIT Survey

[Report: Access to reliable internet, devices outside of class ongoing challenge](#)

EducationDive

[3 Myths of Personalized Learning](#)

Edutopia

[Reading Fuels Empathy. Do Screen Threaten That?](#)

EdSurge

[NJIT hosts Middle School Cyber Robotics Competition](#)

NJIT

[Group Summer Scholars Research Program](#)

Kean University

[How to change your school culture on the cheap](#)

eSchool News

[How to change your school culture on the cheap](#)

Edutopia

[Career and Technical Education prepares our students for jobs that haven't even been created yet, N.J. commissioner says](#)

NJ.com

NJIT's CLEAR Collaborative Celebrates NJ STEM Month

By Dr. James Lipuma and Dr. Bruce Bukiet

March is [STEM Month](#) in New Jersey and in recognition, there are many STEM events taking place in the state. The [Collaborative for Leadership Education, and Assessment Research](#) (CLEAR), a center in the College of Science and Liberal Arts (CSLA) at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), is hosting a number of them. These events further our missions of promoting pathways for student success in college, career and digital citizenship, and supporting effective education and collaborative leadership through a cradle to career, multi-stakeholder approach. Our work is accomplished through outreach and community engagement.

On March 1, the [New Jersey STEM Pathways Network](#) will hold its quarterly meeting at NJIT kicking off [NJ STEM Month](#). At this event, there will be discussions around the areas of teacher recruitment & training, workforce development, early childhood education, and the expansion of computer science education.

Saturday, March 9 will bring dozens of student teams to the NJIT campus to participate in the Northern NJ Regionals of the [STEAM Tank challenge](#). Teams of two to five students at the elementary, middle and high school levels will present their work inventing something new, modifying an existing product, or identifying a situation or real world problem that needs resolution. The STEAM Tank Challenge is led by the US Army in partnership with NJ School Boards Association and NJIT.

The National Science Foundation-funded [Leadership and iSTEAM for Females in Elementary School](#) (LiFE) project will bring about 200 3rd-6th grade females to NJIT's campus on March 14, Pi Day, to learn about applications of STEAM and participate in hands-on activities and activities involving leadership, communication, presentation, and technology skills. Students will engage with peers from other schools, hear from NJIT female faculty researchers and showcase the work they have been doing in the LiFE Clubs in their schools. LiFE brings together Apple, US ARMY, and the Hillside, Morris Plains and Weehawken districts and uses solutions-based learning, Grand Design Challenges, and iSTEAM activities to engage and sustain elementary school girls' interest in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM). This

hands-on, integrated approach, coupled with mentoring and exposure to exciting role models, provides a scalable strategy for overcoming the obstacles that often discourage girls from pursuing STEAM pursuits.

On March 21 CLEAR will host a cocktail reception sponsored by Classcraft. This immersion event will engage participants with gamification. The Classcraft environment promotes problem solving, collaboration and communication among today's students by augmenting classroom interactions with gaming elements throughout the entire school year. Contact Jim Lipuma, the Director of the CLEAR Collaborative for more information on this event, at lipuma@njit.edu

Finally on March 29, the [Murray Center for Women in Technology](#) at NJIT will host its annual [Women Designing the Future Conference](#). This year's theme is Game Changers! Technological Innovations that Will Transform Our Lives. The Conference explores how these innovations will both disrupt and improve our lives over the next ten years—focusing on the role of leading women innovators. Experts will address a wide range of topics—including new applications of artificial intelligence, robotics and the future of work, cloning, and break-through medical technologies. Among the speakers will be Jane Oates, President, WorkingNation & former Assistant Secretary of Labor under President Barack Obama, Rochelle Hendricks, former NJ Secretary of Higher Education, Aisha Glover, President & CEO, the Newark Alliance and other industry and academic leaders.

To learn more about CLEAR and its activities, or to get involved in our projects or collaborate with us, please contact Jim Lipuma at lipuma@njit.edu



March is NJ STEM Month!

March is NJ STEM Month, a celebration of New Jersey's commitment to excellence in STEM. NJ STEM Month gives school districts and other organizations throughout the state an opportunity to highlight the work they've done to enhance and increase New Jersey's STEM pipeline.

Through the partnership of the New Jersey STEM Pathways Network (NJSPN) and Research & Development Council of New Jersey, NJ STEM Month was established as a way to showcase all the hard work schools and organizations have put and continue to put into STEM.

ALL organizations in the state are encouraged to

showcase and celebrate excellent work in STEM for NJ STEM Month by hosting/attending events and engaging on social media. STEM events and site tours can be added to the NJSPN calendar [here](#).

The New Jersey STEM Pathways Network is also holding a Twitter Sweepstakes through the end of March. To be entered, you must tweet and share photos using the hashtag **#NJSTEMMonth** and follow [@NJSTEMPathways](#). The winner will receive an NJ STEM Month gift basket including an official NJ STEM Month Quarter-Zip Sweater, framed Gubernatorial Proclamation, gift card, Lego WeDo2.0 Education set, and more!

The 2019 Certification Cycle Has Begun! (Continued from pg. 1)

FRS-NJ community chairs Wendy Morales (Middletown Township) and Evan Abramson (Millburn Township) set the energetic mood for the day, providing tips from their perspectives of both submitting districts and [Awards Committee](#) review leaders, and putting New Jersey's Future Ready initiative in context of national, and even international efforts. New Jersey is the only state thus far that has established a certification program based on the national [Future Ready Framework](#).



FRS-NJ community chairs Wendy Morales and Evan Abramson

A highlight of the event was the panel on the "Why" of the Future Ready Schools - NJ Certification Program. Dr. Scott Ridley (Hazlet Township), Christine Lion-Bailey (Morris Plains), Kimberly Pickus (Middletown Township), and Mark Bonjavanni (Howell Township) joined us to provide a variety of perspectives on why their districts undertook the FRS-NJ journey, what they learned from their self-assessment and certification experiences, and tips, tricks, and advice that they could provide to those just embarking on their own Future Ready journeys. Attendees in the audience, as well as



The panelists during the "Why" of Future Ready Schools - NJ (image by Wendy Morales via Twitter)

virtual attendees, had the opportunity to ask questions to dedicated educators and leaders who have experienced the benefits of the FRS-NJ process and community for themselves.

The agenda was capped by a training by project coordinator Jeremy Reich on the "How" of Future Ready Schools - NJ," providing the logistical and procedural information of the certification process, the tools of submission, and what school and district Future Ready teams can expect during and after the FRS-NJ certification submission process.

A recording of the entire summit is available on the event page at www.frsnj.org/2019_summit. A [Twitter Moment](#) is also available so that those who missed the live event can experience it through the eyes of those who were there, in-person or virtually.

The 2019 FRS-NJ certification cycle has begun and we look forward to supporting your Future Ready efforts! Is your school Future Ready?

Upcoming Community Events

NJSBA School Technology Conference

March 8th, 2019
West Windsor, NJ

Tri-State PBL Summit

March 12th, 2019
Somerset, NJ

2019 Mid-Atlantic Conference on Personalized Learning

March 13th-15th, 2019
Atlantic City, NJ

3rd Annual Educational Thought Leaders' Conference

March 15th, 2019
Union, NJ

Rutgers Online Learning Conference

March 18th, 2019
New Brunswick, NJ

RIISA Tech Equity Conference

March 20th, 2019
Somerset, NJ



NJ Makers Day

March 22nd-23rd, 2019
See website for listing of event locations

EdCamp Happy Camper

March 23rd, 2019
Sewell, NJ

Women Designing the Future: Game Changers!

March 29th, 2019
Newark, NJ

EdCampNewark

April 6th, 2019
Newark, NJ

NJASCD North/NJTEEA: Design Thinking with Jason Erdreich

April 11th, 2019
Madison, NJ

SpEdcampNJ 2019

May 18th, 2019
Long Branch, NJ

Pequannock Tech Summit

October 11th, 2019
Pequannock, NJ

Want to share your events with the FRS-NJ community?

Share them with by using the hashtag #FutureReadyNJ on Twitter or by emailing us at frs-nj@njit.edu!



If you see the FRS-NJ icon, we'll be there so come say hi!

Upcoming Program Events

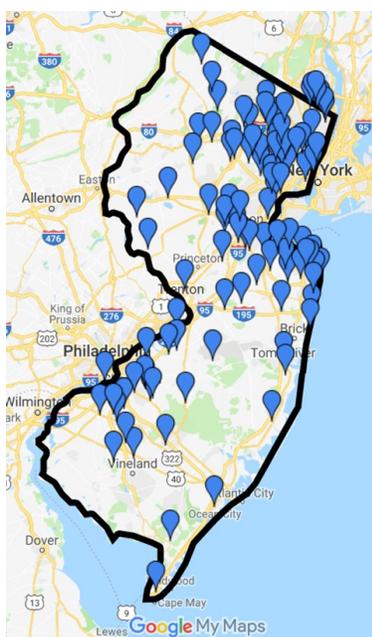
“Are You Ready for Future Ready?”

[April 4th](#), [May 2nd](#) (All 2019)

NJSBA, Trenton, NJ

“Are You Ready for **Future Ready**?” programs will engage participants in the process of creating or enhancing their school’s digital learning environments. Leaders from schools and districts across New Jersey will network, collaborate, and join a community dedicated to best preparing students for success in college, career, and citizenship in the digital age. Participants will also be guided through the FRS-NJ self-assessment and certification process and learn how the experience organizes, guides, and supports schools’ Future Ready efforts. The programs, formerly named the “Are You Future Ready?” Working Sessions, all offer the same content.

Learn more and register using the date-specific links above!



FRS-NJ By the Numbers

As of the date of publication, **115** NJ Districts have officially committed to support their schools’ #FutureReady efforts (left).

From those districts, **355** schools have officially declared their participation in the program (right).

Find out which districts are committed, participating, and more on our official [FRS-NJ Maps page](#)!

Is your school Future Ready?

