



# The Future Ready Schools - NJ Monthly Newsletter

## FRS-NJ: A Collective Impact Success Story

By Dr. James Lipuma, Director of NJIT's CLEAR Collaborative

As Future Ready Schools – New Jersey (FRS-NJ) has developed, the key elements of collective impact and the NSF elements of collaborative change were employed to help make the program successful. Collective impact leverages the work of a backbone organization to convene groups of stakeholders, coalition members, and strategic partners and supporters to work with the vital elements: shared continuous open communication, mutually reinforcing activities, and shared metrics.

When combined with the principles of collaborative change from NSF INCLUDES, one of NSF's 10 Big Ideas, FRS-NJ has grown in scope and scale. INCLUDES seeks to capture a shift in the collective understanding about processes and progress that successfully lead to bringing together dedicated partners, finding solutions that work and building a nation where everyone has opportunities. To accomplish this they have identified elements of collaborative change embodied by FRS-NJ: Vision, Partnerships, Goals and Metrics, Leadership and Communication, and Expansion, Sustainability and Scale. As FRS-NJ has grown, we have worked to successfully engage partners and stakeholders while ensuring the vision and mission of the program remained true to its original charge.

Over the first two rounds of the certification program, great progress was made and the work was only possible through the collaboration with educational organizations, the schools, and most of all the volunteers across the state who made the work possible. As a totally voluntary program, the chairs and co-chairs of our committees gave of their time and expertise to make the metrics of success clear and relevant to those who use them to prepare their submissions. Moreover, it is the shared vision and collective impact of those involved which make the program not just successful but an exemplar and template for others.

To learn more about CLEAR's Collective Impact programs, or to get involved in the collaborative's programs, I invite you to visit our website at [csia.njit.edu/clear](https://csia.njit.edu/clear) or contact me at [lipuma@njit.edu](mailto:lipuma@njit.edu)

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# Community News

[Hazlet sixth-graders design motorized mini-car for 2-year-old with special needs](#)

app.com

[Future Ready Schools® Leadership Institutes 2019: Maximizing Equitable Opportunities](#)

Future Ready Schools

[7 ways to drive district-wide innovation](#)

eSchool News

[Celebrating school librarians](#)

NJEA

[An Experiment in Arts Education That Paid Off](#)

Education Week Blog

[Coaches and librarians: Sneak digital citizenship into lessons!](#)

ISTE

[Should we teach computer science in elementary school? Yes](#)

ISTE

[Creating Classrooms That Teach the Whole Kid](#)

MiddleWeb

[Leveraging the ‘extra information’ in the grade book](#)

District Administration

[Howell students present idea for bus safety to industry professionals](#)

CentralJersey.com

[Why Teach Social Media?](#)

AACE Review

[Social Media and Seamless Learning](#)

AACE Review

[FPF Releases The Policymaker’s Guide to Student Privacy](#)

FERPA|Sherpa

[5 Ways to Create Relevant Cultures of Learning](#)

Eric Sheninger via Blogspot

[Five Ways Technology Can Transform Classrooms](#)

Alliance for Excellent Education

[How Education Is Closing the Digital Divide](#)

THE Journal

[Preparing Our Students to be Responsible Citizens of the World Through Global Education](#)

Wendy Morales in @MTPSpride Visions & Reflections of Learning & Leadership Blog

[Tell Us about Your District’s Social-Emotional, Mental Health Programs for Children. What Exists? What’s Possible?](#)

NJSBA



**Hundreds compete in regionals**

A team at the North STEAM Tank Competition, hosted by NJIT, excited for their presentation (via NJSBA)

## Student Teams Participate in STEAM Tank Tournaments

Reprinted with Permission from the [April Issue of NJSBA's School Board Notes](#)

The recently completed [STEAM Tank Challenge](#) regional tournaments attracted hundreds of students in each of three regions to compete in an open-ended design challenge.

STEAM Tank regionals are held each March. In the north, NJIT hosted the regional competition with more than 400 students pitching their ideas in front of judges. Students also had the opportunity to visit the college campus.

In the central region, the Camp Evans InfoAge Science Center and History Museum in Wall Township played host to more than 1,500 students, parents and school staff. When the students completed their presentations, they had the opportunity to tour the historical museums at InfoAge.

The Army Reserve Center in Blackwood hosted the southern regional STEAM Tank competition. Student teams had the chance to see a federal government facility that is also a green building certified by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Hundreds of amazing, innovative and creative ideas came from a variety of grade levels, from third graders through the high school level.

During this fourth year of STEAM Tank Challenge, the judges were impressed again with the passion and enthusiasm of the students.

When the competition started in the morning, judges asked questions and guided the students through their entrepreneurial journey. For example, a team of middle school girls designed a new type of chair that would be better suited for students in classrooms. On that particular judging panel, there were two professional architects with design experience to help improve their idea.

Another team proposed repurposing libraries into STEAM innovative spaces. Another team wanted to create a new and safer smoke detector that could save more lives.

Judges are scoring the teams later this month, and notices will be sent to winning teams of their acceptance to the finals being held at [Workshop 2019](#), taking place from Oct. 21 – 24 at the Atlantic City Convention Center.

A difficult task for the STEAM Tank judges is letting some teams know that they didn't make it into the finals. They all had the courage to compete, but unfortunately, only 90 teams can qualify.

However, this year the NJSBA and the Army will be offering mentoring for teams that want feedback so that they can improve and, much like entrepreneurs do, get back into the game when faced with adversity. For more information and to schedule a mentoring session, email STEAM Tank.



Teams line up in NJIT's Campus Center for the opening of the North Regional STEAM Tank Competition

# New Jersey Makers Day

By Doug Baldwin, Allen McGinley, and Kate Vasilik via the NJASL

The 5th Annual New Jersey Makers Day took place on Friday, March 22nd and Saturday, March 23rd with events throughout the state at public libraries, school classrooms and libraries, museums, colleges and universities, businesses, local community organizations, and more. New Jersey Makers Day celebrates all things maker and making. The goal of this statewide event is to enhance community engagement and facilitate connections through education, entrepreneurship, and hands-on learning experiences.

"New Jersey Makers Day recognizes the importance of strengthening community efforts to bring STEAM, making, and other hands-on learning experiences to residents of all ages across our state," said Doug Baldwin, President of New Jersey Makers Day. This year, alongside a total of over 300 participating locations, 68 schools made New Jersey Makers Day their own!

Schools participate as New Jersey Makers Day locations in a variety of ways. Online registration is accepted by school library media specialists, teachers, or administrators, and the school's representative then has access to networking, support, and marketing materials in order to create and provide students with a variety of experiences. Often, educators are already incorporating maker activities in their classroom.

This is the case for Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School in Summit, New Jersey. LCJSMS has been a registered New Jersey Makers Day site for the last four years. The School Library Media Specialists encourage making daily--the library is home to a 3D printer, LEGO wall, and green screen. On New Jersey Makers Day, the library is full of chaos and creation. Students can choose from over 20 high-tech and low-tech maker stations, with many of the materials purchased from funding provided by PTO and Summit Educational Foundation grants. From coding with Raspberry Pi to sewing a bookmark, cardboard construction to LittleBits circuits, or building structures with Keva Planks to magnetic poetry, there's truly a way for everyone to participate. Activities cover all levels of technological ability and give students exposure to hands-on, tactile experiences. New activities are added each year and special guest facilitators are invited to run stations and

engage with the students. In the words of one student, New Jersey Makers Day at LCJSMS is the "Best experience EVER!!!"

The New Jersey Makers Day Executive Board is always looking for creative and committed voices to add to the Board and numerous committees to better support NJ communities. It is no secret, nor any surprise, that teachers and school librarians, in particular, have fresh and innovative ideas for engaging students and community partners to support curriculum, spark imagination and creativity, and motivate children and teens to explore new possibilities in science, technology, engineering, math, art, entrepreneurship, manufacturing . . . and so much more. As more and more schools embrace maker culture, initiatives like New Jersey Makers Day will serve to further engage students throughout the state to work together for a better, more constructive and more creative future.

For more information on New Jersey Makers Day, visit <https://njmakersday.org/>



Students at LCJSMS collaborating with Python

# Upcoming Community Events

[How School and District Leaders Can Create the Conditions for Innovation and Change](#)

Recording

[Learn How Librarians, Instructional Coaches, and Teachers Are Leading Innovation in Schools](#)

Recording

[NJSPN Webinar Series - Early Childhood STEM Learning](#)

Recording

[Building a Cyber-Secure Environment for NJ Schools](#)

May 9th, 2019  
Trenton, NJ

[NJSBA Special Education Symposium](#)

May 13th, 2019  
Princeton Junction, NJ

[NErDCamp](#)

May 18th, 2019  
Chatham, NJ

[SpEdcampNJ 2019](#)

May 18th, 2019  
Long Branch, NJ

[SEL FORWARD: NJDOE Conference on Social and Emotional Learning](#)

May 23rd, 2019  
Piscataway, NJ

[Leap into Science Early Literacy Workshop](#)

May 24th, 2019  
Ridgewood, NJ

[EdCamp Equity & Inclusivity 2019](#)

June 8th, 2019  
West Windsor Township, NJ

[STEM Leadership Forum](#)

July 16th, 2019  
NJIT, NJ

[NJEA TechStock](#)

July 31st, 2019  
Galloway, NJ

[Hunterdon County EdTech Fest](#)

August 7th, 2019  
Flemington, NJ



[Spring Open House 2019 at NJIT](#)

August 28th 2019  
Newark, NJ

[Assistive Technology Summit \(ATAC of DRNJ\) 2019](#)

September 24th 2019  
West Windsor Township, NJ

[FRS Leadership Institute](#)

September 24-25th, 2019  
Manchester, NH

[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](mailto:frs-nj@njit.edu)!



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

# Upcoming Program Events

## 2019 FRS-NJ Awards Ceremony at NJSBA's Workshop

October 22nd, 2019

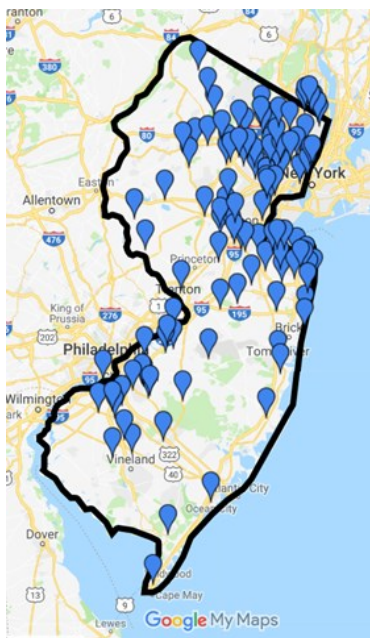
Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ

Join us at NJSBA's Workshop 2019 in Atlantic City for this year's FRS-NJ Awards Ceremony to celebrate the accomplishments of the #FutureReadyNJ community! The exact timing is still to be determined, but the ceremony takes place each year on the first full day of the convention at the main state after the conference opening. Then, join us in the FRS-NJ Center to learn from fellow New Jersey educators who have been certified!

Stay tuned for more information and learn more about Workshop 2019 here: <https://workshop.njsba.org/>

We hope to see you there!

## FRS-NJ By the Numbers



As of the date of publication, **123** NJ Districts have officially committed to support their schools' #FutureReady efforts (left).

From those districts, **400** 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?

