

Atlantic City/SJSIP

Meet the newly AC Board-appointed STEM Pathways Professional Learning Community (PLC) School District Champions responsible for embedding STEM throughout the curriculum!



Dr. James McGinn

Dr. James McGinn currently teaches middle school science at the Richmond Ave school in Atlantic City, NJ and serves as the schools STEM specialist. He considers himself a scholar-practitioner and works to ensure that his students can relate the STEM principles

they are learning about to their community and personal lives. He is a Project Lead the Way Launch Lead Teacher/trainer, PLTW Gateway certified, and has helped to develop and lead the Environmental Ambassadors Collaboration between the ACBOE and the Atlantic City Aquarium, Developed and lead SeaQuest with the American Littoral Society and worked to establish the Sea Perch and Lego Robotics Projects within the city. He has served on ACBOE Science Curriculum Development Teams District Science PLC and Secondary STEM PLC. Additionally, Dr. McGinn has served as a reviewer and contributor for several science and social studies textbooks and has previously develop curriculum and provided teacher development for NASA, Disney and Earth Shuttle in the fields STEM as well as worked with University of Massachusetts-Amherst to develop teacher materials following their Global Warming – Arctic Expedition. Recently he has served a curriculum reviewer and field test teacher for the OpenSciEd (www.opensci.org). Dr. McGinn has served as both a Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Explorer Leader both within the school district and community and is himself an Eagle Scout.



Mark Chando

Mr. Mark Chando has been an educator for over 30 years in the Atlantic City School District. Mark has taught science at the both the Junior High and High School levels. Mr. Chando is a graduate of Drexel University with a Master's in Education

and is currently an adjunct professor at Stockton. Mr. Chando loves working with STEM and using hands-on activities in the classroom. He has co-chaired several morning STEM robotics programs at the Junior High level and has worked on an afterschool STEM program at the High School.



Devan Heckler

Mrs. Devan Heckler currently teaches mathematics and computer science at the High School. She is a 2014 graduate of Ursinus College where she studied mathematics, computer science, and secondary education. She creates STEM projects and

programs every single day in her AP Computer Science A classes. Mrs. Heckler became interested in STEM at a very young age and has always wanted to share her passion with others.



Stephen Nagiewicz

Stephen Nagiewicz teaches Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences at Atlantic City High School. He has also runs afterschool STEM classes for elementary and high school students in Atlantic City. Mr. Nagiewicz is an Adjunct Professor of

Marine Science at Stockton University. Capt. Steve is a USCG licensed ships Master and has over 40 years' experience scuba diving. He is an author, photographer, marine scientist, and archaeologist. He has published two books; *Hidden History of Maritime New Jersey*, Arcadia Press in 2015 and *ROBERT J. WALKER. The History and Archaeology of a U.S. Coast Survey Steamship*, University of Press of Florida; July 2020.



David Alston

Although he is an eleven-year veteran English teacher, Mr. David Alston entered Rutgers University's Cook Campus as a marine science major. Mr. Alston's passion for ocean life first manifested itself as a teenager where he was

employed at Atlantic City's Ocean Life Center Aquarium. Even though his love for marine biology did not take him into the science field, his passion for science and marine life has never ceased. Mr. Alston has a passion for working with young people and wants the youth of Atlantic City to experience the aquatic richness that their hometown provides for so many others. He served as a co-advisor for the Atlantic City High School STEM club and is a community advocate who encourages young people to embrace the STEM initiative as they seek new innovative college and career opportunities.



Jennifer Off

Ms. Jennifer Off majored in mathematics at The College of William and Mary and took two computer science courses in C++ at the time. Miss Off then attended graduate school at The University of Central Florida and attained her master's in

Engineering Management and did her research at Kennedy Space Center. She taught Algebra I for a year in Boca Raton, Florida and then went to law school at Villanova where she took math and engineering based courses—securities, corporations, patent law—and began her master's in tax law. Ms. Off has taught AP Computer Science A and soon will take coursework to be able to teach cybersecurity. The name of the course just sounds intriguing, especially in today's world. She can only imagine how interesting it will sound to a student in eighth grade deciding which high school to attend the following year. Cybersecurity will put Atlantic City High School on the map.



WELCOME NEW PARTNERS

Continent 8 Data Center

The Atlantic City Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING TO ATLANTIC CITY

Fall 2021

MARK CUBAN FOUNDATION

INTRO TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE BOOTCAMP

SJSIP Quarterly Meeting

March 19, 2021 10-12 p.m.

Register here:

[Register to attend](#)

Mark Cuban AI Bootcamp

Special thank you to **South Jersey Industries** for endorsing and supporting a partnership with the Mark Cuban Foundation and his Artificial Intelligence Bootcamp. The AI Bootcamp began in Mr. Cuban's home state of Texas and is expanding to cities across the country. The camp is designed to introduce students underrepresented in the field of technology to artificial intelligence with the goal of spurring their interest to pursue technology or other STEM field as a career. Read more about the bootcamp here: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/mark-cuban-is-seeking-the-next-generation-of-ai-superstars-11603816551>

AC NAACP Student Contest!

To celebrate STEM Month, the Atlantic City chapter of the NAACP is sponsoring a student contest to help Atlantic City students learn about the *blue economy*. This activity is part of a larger strategic plan of the chapter to promote the importance of STE(a)M knowledge and strengthen residents' awareness and preparedness for new opportunities that will come with diversifying the Atlantic City economy.

Contest:

Atlantic City students are challenged to develop a promotional video or logo artwork about the blue economy. The blue economy is set to become a significant economic driver for the state, with the largest offshore wind farm located 15 miles off the coast of Atlantic City. Students are suggested to gain inspiration from national poet laureate Amanda Gorman, who in July 2020 collaborated with Atmos Magazine and Future Earth to create "Ode to Our Ocean," in celebration of World Oceans Day, <https://lnkd.in/ejavYk6>, and other resources that explain the blue economy. As the NAACP and other organizations work to spread information throughout the community about the blue economy and the types of jobs created, most of which are STEM-related, the winning logo and video may be offered for use in promotional material.

Learning Objectives:

- * Students will learn about the blue economy, jobs and career paths
- * Students utilize and/or merge STE(a)M skills and subject matter content
- * Students will learn about marketing and branding concepts

When: The contest is announced this March for STEM Month.

Two prizes: Best video and Best Logo art. Prize money \$200.00 for each category.

One winner per category.

Deadline for Submission: To be determined. More information regarding this contest is forthcoming!

Cohort Project Updates - moving along.....

2020 EDA STEM Challenge Grant, Project lead Stockton University - not awarded

Cuban Foundation AI Bootcamp, Project lead Atlantic City Initiatives Project Office - awarded

Summer Drone Camp, Project lead Atlantic Cape Community College - in progress

March **#STEM Month** participants - AC School District, AC Boys and Girls Club, AC Housing Authority, South Jersey Industries, AC NAACP, Ideal Institute of Technology, Continent 8

Pilot STEM Community Asset Map - Public reveal in March.

Cybersecurity curriculum alignment - AC school district created Cybersecurity PLC Advisory Board, ACCC completing curriculum to offer degree program in cybersecurity

AC School District created the STEM Pathways PLC to ensure STEM activities take root across the district.

Areas of Interest

The Digital Divide

With the pandemic forcing the majority of us to work and learn from home, society had to quickly adapt. However, we know that the digital divide that affects Atlantic City residents requires deeper exploration. Who has internet access; if not, why? If so, how good is it? Is it cost or something else that remains a barrier? These are just a few of the questions municipalities across the country are asking, knowing that in today's world, high speed internet access is critical to accessing fundamental services and opportunities. We're actively seeking funding to have a comprehensive study conducted in Atlantic City to determine the extent and quality of broadband coverage, adoption and usage.

The “*Blue Economy*”

Atlantic City is set to host the largest offshore wind farm on the East Coast, with turbines generating wind energy just 15 miles off its coastline. Over the next decade, the wind industry is projected to be a major multi-billion dollar economic driver for the state. Aside from related industries such as manufacturing and construction that will support the growth of this new industry, the *blue economy* encompasses maritime transport, fisheries, tourism, waste management and climate change. The Network is working with members of the Governor's Working Group for the Recovery and Restart of Atlantic City and exploring how it can support or play a role in advancing diversification of the local economy.

SJSIP Quarterly Meeting - open to the public

The next quarterly meeting of the **South Jersey STEM & Innovation Partnership (SJSIP)** is scheduled for March 19, 2020 10:00 - 12:00 p.m. This meeting is **open to the general public** and provides an opportunity to engage with the members of the south Jersey ecosystem. Hear from Executive Dean Margo Venable of Camden County College, Ms. Terrenny Robinson of the NJ Department of Labor Office of Industry Partnerships and our industry partner panelists South Jersey Industries and Puratos.

SJSIP connects STEM stakeholders at a regional level to develop and expand initiatives that build a STEM talent pipeline in South Jersey. SJSIP Partnership is a renowned community dedicated to enriching STEM opportunities in South Jersey by incorporating all voices, creating pathways, and serving as an information hub. We are kick starting this year's quarterly meeting (virtually) on Friday, March 19, 2021 between 10 am and 12 noon.

You will have an opportunity to learn more about our efforts and explore partnership opportunities, mentoring, career programs and more! *Please feel free to share this invitation.*

RSVP here : [Register to attend](#)

About SJSIP

The South Jersey STEM & Innovation Partnership is a diverse community of individuals, institutions and industry. We collaborate to ensure an inclusive STEM culture that champions access to innovation, opportunity, equity, and lifelong learning. We are making South Jersey the “Go-To” place for STEM Talent.

Atlantic City Initiatives Project Office, NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA)