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November 8, 2017

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Nonpublic School Administrators

ROUTE TO: Curriculum and Instruction Supervisors, Directors of Technology

FROM: Joshua Koen, Chief Innovation Officer
Office of School Innovation
Division of Teaching and Learning

SUBJECT: Launch of New Innovative Communities of Practice Collaboration Portal at
InnovateExchange.org and innovateNJ Edcamp

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to announce InnovateExchange, a new online collaboration portal that permits educators to connect with other educators throughout the state. The program began three years ago with an initial cohort of districts, and is now being expanded to include all interested districts. By bringing together like-minded educators and administrators in an environment of openness and collaboration, more educators will be able to implement and scale next generation models of teaching and learning.

The portal will connect innovative communities of practice through five themes: Competency-based Learning, Computer Science, Digital Citizenship, the Maker/Tinker movement, and STEM/STEAM.

Developed in partnership with the New Jersey Educational Computing Cooperative (NJECC), an International Society for Technology Educators (ISTE) NJ affiliate, InnovateExchange.org provides the opportunity for educators to:

- Find neighboring schools and districts implementing innovative programs in the five themes through an interactive map;
- Find and share innovative events and professional development in New Jersey in the five themes;
- Join groups and discussions with innovative experts across New Jersey; and
- Read and share spotlight stories to acknowledge the great work of innovateNJ participants and partnerships.

Learn More

Educators can attend the NJDOE's innovateNJ Edcamp to present and learn from other schools and districts implementing programs in the previously mentioned themes:

innovateNJ Edcamp conference: Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Interested in sharing an innovative practice you or your school is leading in Competency-based Learning, Computer Science, Digital Citizenship, the Maker/Tinker movement, or STEM/STEAM? Sign up to present or attend at our first innovateNJ Edcamp. Most sessions are informal conversations or demonstrations. It's common for many different people to take the floor during a session to share an idea, show student work, or ask questions.

- [Apply to be a session facilitator](#)
- [Register to attend](#)

Educators can also learn more by signing-up for one of the following informational webinars:

- **InnovateExchange 101:** Informational webinar to set-up and personalize InnovateExchange.org to best suit your school's needs.
 - November 10, 2017, 3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.: [Sign up to attend](#)
 - December 5, 2017, 3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.: [Sign up to attend](#)
- **InnovateExchange 201:** Advanced webinar to share and learn about promising practices.
 - January 24, 2018, 3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.: [Sign up to attend](#)

We encourage anyone interested in learning more about the InnovateExchange Communities of Practice online collaboration portal to visit the [InnovateExchange website](#) or to contact Chris Cox, NJDOE Innovation Specialist, at christopher.cox@doe.state.nj.us.

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