



FOR SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION
"Encouraging excellence in science and math education"

STEM SYMPOSIUM



The Fourth Annual STEM Symposium and STEM Educator Awards took place on May 2, 2018, in Dover, Delaware. For the first time, Delaware State University in Kent County hosted the program, making the event accessible to people statewide. The Symposium and Awards were generously supported by **Ashland, DuPont, Christiana Care, Air Liquide, ILC Dover, Cengage Learning, DFSME, and Delaware State University.**

Daniel Suchenski, Executive Director of the Delaware STEM Council, and **Marsha' Horton**, the Dean of Education, Health and Public Policy at Delaware State University, welcomed the audience of over 250 educators, legislators, business representatives and college & high school students. The program is traditionally broken into two parts, the symposium, which deals with STEM topics, and the teacher awards.

This year, **the symposium** covered the three largest sources of employment and revenue in the state: Food and Agriculture, Health Care, and Information Technology. The symposium topics were introduced by **Patrice Gilliam Johnson**, former Secretary of Labor for Delaware and now the Dean of Graduate, Adult and Continuing Studies at Delaware State University. Dr. Gilliam Johnson commented that STEM is everywhere, involved in almost any job you can think of, and remarked that more needs to be done to draw women and minorities into STEM careers.



Dr. Patrice Gilliam Johnson introduces symposium topics. Photo by Ryan Gingo AFTEM LLC

Delaware Secretary of Agriculture **Michael T. Scuse** moderated the Food and Agriculture Panel with panelists from **Corteva Agriscience DowDuPont, Delaware State University** and the **University of Delaware**. Panelists discussed the wide use of STEM in food and agriculture, and the vital role cutting-edge STEM skills will play in our children's lifetime, if not our own. By 2050 the planet must produce food for between 9 and 10 billion people with reduced access to water, land and financial resources and must find green, sustainable methods. A STEM-savvy workforce will make or break our ability to do so.



An audience of over 250 students and representatives from business, education, nonprofits and government attended the May 2 event. Photo by Ryan Gingo AFTEM LLC

The Health Care panel was moderated by Delaware Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services **Kara Odom-Walker**. Panelists from **Beebe Healthcare, Delaware State University** and the **University of Delaware** credited their early introduction to science and technology as a motivator and pathway to their success in these fields. Students attending

the session had many questions for the panelists and all were engaged in a lively discussion about the different jobs in Health Care and education levels required to be eligible for those jobs.



Area high-school students ask questions during the panel discussions.



Photos by Ryan Gingo AFTEM LLC

The Computer Science and Information Technology Panel was moderated by Delaware Chief Information Officer **James Collins**, of the Department of Technology and Information. Panelists from **Christiana Care, Delaware State University, Dover Air Force Base, JPMorgan Chase, and Zip Code Wilmington** stressed the diversity of backgrounds of people who become involved in Information Technology as well as the shortage of people with computer science and coding backgrounds to fill the many lucrative jobs that currently exist in Delaware and that will exist in the future. Introducing students early to the fun of computers, through in-school and out-of-school programs is vital, as is making sure that girls and minorities are welcomed into these areas.

Between symposium sessions, the audience had a chance to see how Computer Technology and Information Technology are used in medical devices.



Photo by Ryan Gingo AFTEM LLC



Representatives from ILC Dover show DE Secretary of Agriculture Michael Scuse one of the space suits the company designed.

Photo by Ryan Gingo AFTEM LLC

The STEM Educator Awards, sponsored by **Ashland**, celebrates teachers who have a significant impact on preparing students to pursue careers in STEM fields and develop strong STEM skills. The award recognizes teachers or teams of teachers at the elementary, middle and high school levels who demonstrate STEM innovation and excellence through teaching, academic collaboration, and student engagement. Keynote speaker **Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long** spoke as a STEM advocate and educator.

Vito Consiglio, Vice President of Ashland's Consumer Specialties, spoke of the inspiration of those teachers in his life who taught him the value of hard work and guided him in setting educational goals to prepare for his future.



Left, Delaware's Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long speaks about the importance of STEM education. Right, Vito Consiglio of Ashland's Consumer Specialties division addresses Award nominees and the audience.



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Left: Vito Consiglio of Ashland Presents Elementary 1st place winner Cindy Isaacs with a check for \$7,500 for her project, "GET GET Girls." Ms. Isaacs teaches at Georgetown Elementary School. Right: Mr. Consiglio presents Secondary 1st place winner Christopher Harris with a check for \$7,500 for his project, "Architectural Drafting, Mechanical Drawing and Adaptive Devices. Mr. Harris is a teacher at Caesar Rodney High school. Helping to present the awards in both photos are Rita Vasta, Assistant Principal of DelCastle High School, and Mike Maksymow, Vice President and CIO of Beebe Healthcare.

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