



Northern New Jersey

Press Release
For Immediate Release

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Empowering Girls and Women in STEM: YWCA Northern New Jersey to Co-Host “STEM Summit 2023 Changing The Face of STEM”

(Newark, DATE) YWCA Northern New Jersey (YWCANNJ) will proudly team up with the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) and the Albert Dorman Honors College to present “**STEM Summit 2023: Changing the Face of STEM.**” This empowering summit is scheduled for *Saturday, November 18th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.* at NJIT. A list of participants can be found by visiting https://yw_stem_day_2023.eventbrite.com/.

This exciting and free summit, commemorating National STEM Day observed annually on November 8th, is a rallying call to elevate the significance of STEM education and inspire women and girls to pursue STEM careers. Recognizing that women remain underrepresented, [constituting only around 28% of the entire STEM workforce](#), the summit is designed to remove barriers and open doors for women and girls to pursue opportunities within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers.

Through a series of conversations, the summit will provide guidance and insight into the myriad of STEM career opportunities, whether participants are navigating college majors or contemplating a career pivot into the tech sectors.

Keynoting the event will be **Kanesha Jones**, Director, Product Quality Vigilance (PQV) at Janssen Pharmaceutical. In her address titled, “Change is NOW”, she will shed light on the importance of representation in STEM jobs and why women and girls should seriously consider the dynamic STEM field.

The event will also feature a conversation between emerging young Black scientists, **Bobbi** and **Hayden Wilson**, and **Dr. Ijeoma Opara** of Yale University, about their research with Yale and their experience pursuing a STEM education. Bobbi was honored by Yale’s Peabody Museum for her efforts to reduce Spotted lanternflies in her community. She [was also in the news late last year](#) after an encounter in her neighborhood led to an unexpected incident with the Caldwell Police Department. Hayden currently works with Dr. Opara on the Youth Advisory Board at the Substances and Sexual Health Lab.

"At YWCA Northern New Jersey, we believe in the transformative power of education and innovation for women and girls. As staunch advocates for equality and diversity in STEM, we take pride in supporting and celebrating the remarkable achievements of women in these fields," **said Helen Archontou, CEO of YWCA Northern New Jersey.** "By encouraging women and girls to pursue careers in STEM, we envision a future where everyone has the opportunity and capability to contribute to groundbreaking discoveries and advancements. Our commitment to equity spans

across all sectors, as we are dedicated to creating an inclusive environment where women and girls can flourish in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics."

The career two panels, titled "*Successful Transitions*" and "*Trends & Insights*," will feature discussions with leading women in STEM about their careers, experiences, and backgrounds to help audience members understand the experience of women in STEM and what avenues young girls and women should follow if they want to enter the field. Following the panels will be a job fair where participants can speak with the panelists and representatives from STEM-based companies and organizations. Girls and young women will have the opportunity to participate in speed mentoring with professionals and representatives offering them insight into various careers, educational paths, and opportunities for students seeking a career in STEM.

YWCANNJ also recently launched its YWTECH Lab, a free workforce development program for women of all ages for a career in website and software development. The Lab is currently accepting applications for its next workshop. Those interested in enrolling can visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ywtech-lab-fall-enrollment-tickets-719286624657>. The program is part of a national partnership with Google.org and YWCA USA.

Sponsoring the STEM Summit 2023 Changing the Face of STEM are Veolia, Crestron Electronics, Stryker Corporation, and HNTB Corporation. To register and learn more about the panelists and event programming, please visit https://yw_stem_day_2023.eventbrite.com/.

About YWCA Northern New Jersey

For over a century, YWCA Northern New Jersey has improved the lives of thousands of women, girls, and families and is on the forefront of the fight against gender and racial discrimination. We work to build more just and inclusive communities through programs for women and girls, anti-racism training, and policy advocacy. We operate healingSPACE, Bergen County's only Sexual Violence Resource Center (hotline number: 201-487-2227) and provide year-round child care, and senior wellness programs. YWCA Northern New Jersey serves Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, and Passaic counties. To learn more, visit ywcannj.org and follow @ywcannj on social media.

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