June 2, 2015

TO:                Chief School Administrators
Charter Schools Lead Person
Public and Non Public School Principals

FROM:          Meghan Snow, Director
Office of STEM
Division of Academics

SUBJECT:    2015 STEM Partnership Program

The New Jersey Department of Education, in a continuing effort to increase STEM education capacity statewide, is currently working with partners in the state to explore best practices in teaching and learning in STEM. We aim to support districts in building more systemic approaches and accessing shared learning and resources.

To that end, the Department invites public school districts (including charter schools) to participate in the 2015 STEM Partnership Program. The STEM Partnership aims to provide teams of teachers and their administrators with access to the tools and resources to build or expand upon STEM programming in their schools to inspire students to transformative academic achievement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The goals of this program are to:

1. Form a statewide learning community to share effective STEM teaching and project-base learning practices.
2. Engage in shared professional development that utilizes the expertise of New Jersey’s unique STEM resources, including colleagues from our own informal STEM education, industry and higher education partners.
3. Develop leadership capacity in our teachers to increase high-quality STEM teaching and learning in schools and districts.

The Department invites administrators from districts and schools that currently have existing STEM programs in place or have a strong interest in developing a STEM program to apply. Please note: Districts/schools without any current STEM programming are welcomed to apply but should be able to demonstrate stakeholder support for developing and launching a STEM program.
If interested, please obtain an application by emailing Meghan Snow at meghan.snow@doe.state.nj.us, by June 12, 2015. Applications must be submitted by Friday, June 26, 2015.

MS/ic/STEMbroadcast
c: Members, State Board of Education  
   David C. Hespe, Commissioner  
   Senior Staff  
   Diane Shoener  
   Pam Castellanos  
   Executive County Superintendents  
   Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers  
   Executive County Business Officials  
   Garden State Coalition of Schools  
   NJ Lee Group