



Professional Development

Register

8th Annual STEM Forum for School Leaders

November 14, 2024

NJIT Campus – CKB 116

Virtual Option

Leading the Digital Transformation in Our Schools

8:30 – Light Breakfast and Networking

9:00 – Greetings and Introductions – Dr. Cusack

9:15 – The Potential Impact of AI on the Cognitive Abilities of Learners - Dr. Deek

9:35 – Ethics in Technology Education – Dr. Estrada

9:55 – AI and Cell Phones in Classrooms: One District’s Approach – Mr. McHale

10:15 – Enhancing Learning: Apps and Websites in Science – Mrs. Gayed

10:35 - Using Technology to Enhance Learning: AR/VR Applications – Dr. Vinnikov

10:55 – Legal Considerations – Katherine A. Gilfillan, Esq.

11:15 – 11:55 – Interactive Discussion to Inform Your Practice

11:55 – 12:00 – Closing Remarks

Our Panelists

Dr. Jacqueline L. Cusack has served NJIT in various roles since December 2012. Before NJIT, she held public school positions including classroom teacher, principal, and curriculum supervisor to acting assistant commissioner of education for the New Jersey Department of Education, assistant superintendent of schools, and superintendent of schools. She also taught educational administration and foundations courses at the undergraduate, masters, and doctoral levels at Teachers College, Columbia University, Virginia Tech, New Jersey City University, and Saint Peter's University. Dr. Cusack has a B.A. from Elmira College, M.A. and Ed.M. from Teachers College, Columbia University, and Ed.D. from Virginia Tech.

Dr. Fadi P. Deek is Distinguished Professor of Informatics, jointly appointed with Mathematical Sciences. He received his B.S. and M.S. in Computer Science, and PhD in Computer and Information Science; all from NJIT. Dr. Deek has also served as NJIT's Provost and Senior Executive Vice President for a decade and Dean of the College of Science and Liberal Arts for another decade. Returning to the faculty in 2022, Dr. Deek reactivated his research program with a keen interest in the intersection of philosophical, ethical, and technological aspects of artificial intelligence.

Dr. Daniel Estrada teaches courses in engineering ethics, AI ethics, and philosophy of mind at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, NJ. Dr. Estrada holds degrees in computer science and philosophy, and he does research in agency, participation, and robot rights.

Mr. Vincent McHale has been the Superintendent of Schools in Closter, NJ since 2019. He has an extensive technology and teaching background including as a trainer for Apple, Inc., and 23 years in the Teaneck Public Schools as a technology teacher, principal, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, and acting superintendent. Mr. McHale also has credits as a Broadway performer and currently serves as a choir director.

Crstina Gayed has been a high school biology teacher for the past 11 years. She was born in Egypt and moved to the U.S. at the age of 14. She holds a B.S. in Biology from the University of California, Irvine, and an MAT from Montclair State University via the Newark-Montclair Urban Teacher Residency Program. At Newark Technology High School, Crstina taught a variety of CTE Biomedical Science courses using the PLTW curriculum, as well as Forensic Science. She currently teaches Biology, Advanced Biology and Anatomy and Physiology at Ridgewood High School. She's the HOSA advisor for future health professionals.

Dr. Margarita Vinnikov holds a BEd in Computer Science and Mathematics, a Master's in Computer Science, and a PhD in Computer Science. She has extensive teaching experience, including teaching computer game programming to students through the Real Programming 4 Kids (RP4K) program. Currently, she is an assistant professor at NJIT, where she continues to focus on technology education. Her research now centers on using virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) to enhance educational experiences. Dr. Vinnikov is passionate about exploring how immersive technologies can improve learning outcomes in various educational settings.

Katherine A. Gilfillan, Esq. has more than 15 years' experience providing advice and counsel to public institutions, boards of education, trustees, and administrators in the areas of labor and employment, public contracting, public governance, teacher and student discipline, FMLA/FLA, Title IX, FERPA, special education, Freedom of Speech and other constitutional issues, collectively negotiated agreements, compliance and risk management, construction, workers compensation, conflicts of interest, policy development and implementation, OPRA/OPMA, and all facets of internal investigations and litigation.