



**Executive Co-Chairpersons:**

**Lisa Doyle**

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**NEW JERSEY SCIENCE CONVENTION (NJSC) 2018**

**<http://www.njscienceconvention.org>**

**Mission of the New Jersey Science Convention and Goals**

The New Jersey Science Convention is an annual event held each October. This year 2018 marks the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual New Jersey Science Convention. Science Convention of NJ (NJSC) provides professional development and science education information to thousands of NJ teachers. Over the past 41 years, NJSC has featured the best in science education instructional strategies for grades K-12. For the NJSC 2017 convention, the schedule included 170 presentations over two days of convention and reached an attendance of over 1,000 teachers. Sessions covered topics all science areas, technology integration in the classroom, instructional strategies, updates on state and national science standards, lab safety, supervision and instruction for science supervisors, as well as effective ways to engage students in science. The New Jersey Science Convention is the only local science based professional development opportunity for NJ classroom teachers K-12.

We have identified three objectives for this coming year:

1. Providing programs that support teachers with teaching materials and for immediate implementation in their classrooms. Programs that encourage the active engagement of participants and focus on K-12 Classroom Instruction and Implementation of NGSS, Effective and Appropriate Use of Technology, STEM, STEAM education, Middle School Integrated Science Curriculum, and Earth and Space Science with an Eye on NGSS will be given priority.
2. Introducing educators and supervisors to the latest information and trends in the Sciences and Science Education, in particular, Next Generation Science Standards and 3-D Assessment and the means for effectively incorporating the standards into their classrooms and schools
3. Sponsoring Forums for educators and supervisors to meet, discuss, and formulate new ideas that will extend and enliven classrooms throughout New Jersey

**Measure of Success**

Measureable outcomes will be based upon the following:

- Increased attendance overall as measured through year to year electronic records
- Greater attendance at sessions involving hands on NGSS (K-12), lab inquiry skills (K-12), effective classroom technology integration (K-12), and the latest updates in science education and curriculum development
- Science teacher attendance and feedback to convention is measured via survey at the end of the event. Designated Steering Committee Volunteers observe sessions and information is recorded for review post convention. Data collected focuses on

the number of attendees to a session, the use of technology, information/resources distributed, types of session (discussion, hands on, group process, etc.). As a future goal, a Convention App will be available for attendees and provide feedback metrics to the NJSC Steering Committee.

### **Building Capacity and Publicity**

- Results from the convention are reviewed annually at the November meeting and recommendations for the following year are made by the steering committee. Feedback from attendees is electronically gathered and used to improve the professional development offerings for the next year.
- News items and publicity are distributed via the website and social media, through the newsletter from the supporting organizations (New Jersey Science Teachers, NJSTA, and New Jersey Science Education Leadership Association, NJSELA), and via science listserv and CVENT, the NJSC electronic invitation provider service. During the NJSC 2014, NJ.com recognized the New Jersey Science Convention for outstanding teacher outreach.  
([http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2014/10/teachers\\_from\\_across\\_the\\_state\\_attend\\_38th\\_new\\_jersey\\_science\\_convention.html](http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2014/10/teachers_from_across_the_state_attend_38th_new_jersey_science_convention.html))

### **Intended Population**

- The agreed upon objective for the first NJ Science Convention held at the Coachman Inn, Cranford, New Jersey on October 13 and 14, 1977 was to contribute to the improvement of the learning and teaching of science at all educational levels K-12. This continues to be the continuing objective.
- In 2017 approximately 1000+ K-12 science educators attended one or two days of the convention. The 170 sessions provide the attendees with instructional strategies, updated science content, exposure to the state and national science standards, as well as a venue for collaboration and support.

### **Exhibit and attendance offerings**

- In addition to the professional development offerings for teachers, the convention hosts approximately 75+ exhibitors and vendors with the latest products and resources for effective science education.
- The Annual Banquet is held on the Tuesday night of convention and features a guest speaker. In 2017 our distinguished guest was Andres Ruzo a National Geographic Explorer. Over the years, speakers have included Dr. Arno Penzias, Nobel Laureate, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Jim Fowler, Host of Wild Kingdom, Dr. Sally Ride, Astronaut, Tim Samaras, Severe Storms Researcher, Dr. Luke Dollar, National Geographic Explorer, Dr. Robert Landsman, ANOVA Science Education, Dr. Kenneth R. Miller, Professor of Biology Brown University, Dr. David Robinson, New Jersey State Climatologist, Dr. David Gallo, an oceanographer and professor at Columbia University and many other distinguished guest speakers.