



**Executive Co-Chairpersons:**

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**NEW JERSEY SCIENCE CONVENTION (NJSC) 2020**

**<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 2020 year marks the 44<sup>th</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 43 years, NJSC has featured the best in science education instructional strategies for grades K-12. The NJSC 2019 convention included 187 presentations over two days of convention and reached an attendance of over 1,000 teachers. Sessions covered topics in 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 the 2020 convention:

1. Providing programs that support teachers with teaching materials for immediate implementation in their classrooms with a focus on current K-12 Classroom Instruction.
2. Introducing educators and supervisors to the latest information and trends in the Sciences and Science Education, in particular, NGSS/NJSLS-S and 3-D Assessment and the means for effectively incorporating both 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
- Teacher attendance at convention is measured during each of the two days utilizing scanned entrance data. Designated Steering Committee Volunteers observe sessions and information is recorded for review post convention. Data collected focuses on the number of attendees in selected sessions, the use of technology, information/resources distributed, type of session (discussion, hands on, group process, etc.). As a future goal, use of a Convention App for attendees and exhibitors is being explored in order to provide feedback metrics to the NJSC Steering Committee.
- Feedback from attendee survey collected post convention

### **Building Capacity and Publicity**

- Results from the convention are reviewed annually at the November post convention 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. We hope to continue reaching a greater population of NJ K-12 teachers each year.

### **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 2019 approximately 1000 K-12 science educators attended one or two days of the convention. The 187 sessions provided 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.

### **Exhibits 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 2020 our distinguished guest will be Dr. William Gutsch Distinguished Professor of the College of Arts & Sciences at Saint Peter's University.
- 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. The 2019 featured speaker was Dr. Sabine Kastner a Professor of Neuroscience and Psychology in the Princeton Neuroscience Institute and Department of Psychology. Dr. Kastner serves as the Scientific Director of Princeton's neuroimaging facility.