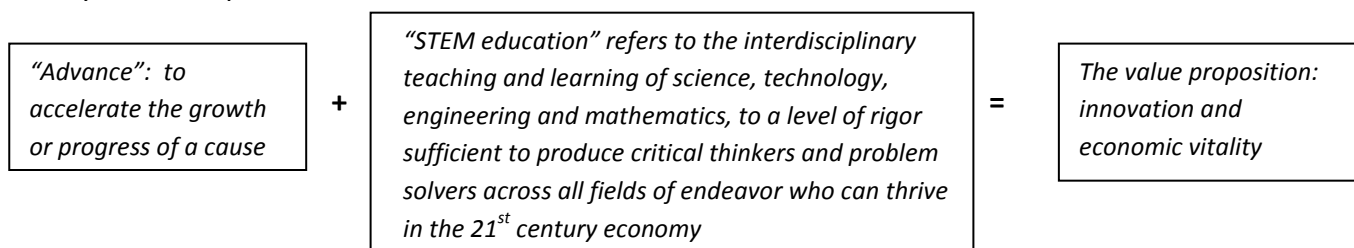


MARGARET ASHIDA

2015 STEM LEADERSHIP AWARD

To honor the memory of Margaret Ashida, the New York State STEM Education Collaborative announces the creation of The “Margaret Ashida STEM Leadership Award.” Margaret was an outstanding woman who created a wave of change by her tireless efforts to create connections between business/industry and STEM educational leaders in colleges and the K-12 sector, not only here in New York State, but across America! She was a “thought leader” often creating ideas and connections between and among educators and business/industry to further the implementation of pathways for developing America’s STEM workforce. Through her advocacy, the NYS State STEM Hubs were created, pulling together New York communities in unique ways to foster the development of STEM career pathways. The Margaret Ashida STEM Leadership Award seeks to honor persons who are making significant STEM connections within their community through their time, actions, talents and dedication. The honorees selected serve as a role model for STEM Leadership as they are striving to enhance the STEM workforce through their connections between business/industry and STEM educational leaders.

The Mission of the Empire STEM Learning Network (STEM Hubs): to advance STEM education to prepare all students – regardless of their career goals – for college and career success, to fuel innovation and economic vitality in the Empire State:



Margaret was the Founding Chair for the Empire STEM Learning Network, a statewide, community-led collaborative; and a board member for the NYS STEM Education Collaborative, a coalition of AMTNYS, NYSSPE, NYSTEEA and STANYS work collectively and collaboratively to deliver STEM Education in the spirit and vision of New York State’s MST Frameworks and Learning Standards to skillfully and completely address the concerted national cry for STEM Literacy. Margaret will be missed, but forever remembered by her work ethic, her dedication to excellence and her friendship to all she met. The first three honorees are:

- STEM Workforce: Cheryl Davidson ~ Corporate Director, Workforce Readiness at North Shore – LIJ Health System
- Post-Secondary: Nina Leonhardt ~ Associate Dean for Continuing Education, Suffolk County Community College
- K-12 Education: Dr. Donna DeSiato ~ Superintendent- East Syracuse-Minoa School District

*Brief write up: <http://www.cnystem.com/news/>

NYS STEM Education Collaborative

Honoring Margaret's Legacy

STEM Workforce: Cheryl Davidson



Cheryl Davidson has spent most of her career tirelessly advocating for the STEM cause. For over 20 years, Cheryl has been a well-known and respected leader in STEM on Long Island and across the state. She is responsible for transforming the region through her unyielding passion, commitment and determination. For many years, Cheryl worked closely with Margaret, whom she considered a mentor, supporter and friend. Margaret inspired Cheryl to persist in her efforts, which have led to countless young lives impacted. Cheryl currently holds the title of Corporate Director of Workforce Readiness at North Shore-LIJ Health system, the largest private employer in New York State. Cheryl also serves as Co-Steward of the Long Island STEM Hub, along with Ken White from Brookhaven National Lab. Driven by a firm commitment to create and sustain a workforce equip with STEM skills, and to bridge the gap between business and education, Cheryl launched and served as Executive Director of Long Island Works Coalition in 1999.

K-12 Schools: Dr. Donna DeSiato



Dr. Donna DeSiato is the leader of the CNY STEM Hub. She has led the development of a collaborative education model to use STEM(STEAM) to change instruction in the classroom, while instituting an effective business engagement model to support the efforts of her district and the CNY STEM Hub. Donna has opened the doors at ESM to about 70 learning tours for educators, business leaders and community representatives from around the region, New York State and several other states. Dr. DeSiato's work has been recognized at the local, state and national levels. ESM was recently recognized with the CNY STEM Award for their School College Career Advisory Board that engages a broad range of professionals in guiding the curriculum for the district. ESM was also the only district in New York State that was highlighted in the new book- "The STEM Shift- A Guide for School Leaders". Finally, at the invitation of the White House, Donna has been actively engaged in strategic discussions about the future of STEM in the USA and the development of a business engagement model. Dr. Donna DeSiato, a long-standing colleague of Margaret Ashida, epitomizes the type of leadership that Margaret demonstrated in advancing student success through high quality STEM education.

Higher Ed: Dean Nina Leonhardt



For more than 30 years, Nina Leonhardt has led educational projects that inspire students, expand their interest in STEM, and support professional development for STEM educators. In addition to her responsibilities as Associate Dean at Suffolk County Community College (SCCC), she has been active on the national, state and local levels, receiving appointments as an Implementation Strategist and Community College Research Associate to Battelle's STEMx network, as a charter member of the Empire State STEM Learning Network, and as a founding member and leader of the Long Island STEM Hub. Dean Leonhardt has also played a leadership role in projects sponsored by the National Science Foundation - the Scholarships for STEM (S-STEM) and Advanced Technological Education (ATE) programs - the US Department of Labor, and New York State, including the Collegiate Science & Technology Entry Program (CSTEP), Science & Technology Entry Program (STEP) and Liberty Partnerships Program. Dean Leonhardt continuously seeks ways to strengthen local STEM-related industries and increase students' awareness of STEM careers through networking, company tours, job shadowing and exploration events.