



MARYLAND STEM FESTIVAL

BRINGING STEM TO YOU

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Columbia, MD - March 10, 2020 – Following the lead of similar organizations, The Maryland STEM Festival has cancelled its annual PI DAY celebration, originally scheduled to be held in both the House & Senate offices in Annapolis today.

“We deeply regret having to make this difficult decision,” said Phil Rogofsky, Executive Director, “but at this time we feel it is the most prudent decision we can make for the health and welfare of our participants & state legislators who were excited to be participating in this annual event.”

Legislators were scheduled to join schools and organizations from across the state to participate in today’s event, including:

- Maryland School for the Blind
- Anne Arundel and Carroll Libraries
- St Louis School
- Salisbury Middle School
- Old Mill Middle School
- The Bryn Mawr School
- Anne Arundel Boys & Girls Club
- Baltimore Christian Homeschool
- Southwest Academy
- CMIT Academy North High School
- Bullis School

The mission of the Festival is to encourage all students, regardless of age, background, and experience to take a greater interest in STEM with the hope that they will pursue a STEM related/focused career. Our 2020 festival theme is “*Design & Manufacturing*”.

In keeping with that mission, theme, and in light of International Women’s Day this past Friday, it should be noted that current efforts in Maryland to develop a vaccine for the Coronavirus are underway at NovaVax in Gaithersburg. There, Director of Vaccine Discovery & Antibody Discovery, Nita Patel, is leading an all-female team of researchers working diligently to *Design & Manufacture* a vaccine.

Shining a spotlight on examples of diversity and inclusion in various fields of STEM are vital to our mission. Although today’s festivities have been cancelled, it creates a very real opportunity to showcase STEM in action, in our state, through the hard work and dedication of Patel & her team, as well as countless other people who have chosen to forge their careers in the world of STEM, we hope to see a quick and efficient solution to the Coronavirus outbreak.

learn more.

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