



Hello Charter Members of NJAC!

Welcome to the NJAC Newsletter! This monthly communication will update you on the progress of STEAM Advocacy in New Jersey and will be a reference to any materials you might need while advocating. This is where we will be sharing every team's advocacy progress and success so we can learn and be inspired by each other's work.

During our conference, we shared our goal of implementing mentor based STEAM programs (MBSPs) in underserved areas of New Jersey. We met to discuss the effects of these programs and brought in several guest speakers that are all very willing to help you move forward with your effort. Data about the impact *FIRST* has on high school students was also provided. In addition, part of the conference involved tips on how to make appropriate presentations and the importance of mentorship. All of this is to help implement MBSPs in New Jersey and raise awareness about the importance of receiving the maximum amount of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) funding. We shared information about this bill that we received at the National Advocacy Conference (NAC) and hope that you will use these facts to advocate for the restoration of the full funding.

Exiting the conference, we all left with great ideas on how to help others. But how do we begin? Before you present to a school, a government official, or a company, do your research! Then, schedule a meeting. Explain *FIRST* and the opportunities available within the program, and our target audience being school districts in underserved areas. Remember, the goal is to create a working relationship.

All advocacy materials are available to download from our team website at [www.team1676.com/v5/advocacy.php](http://www.team1676.com/v5/advocacy.php). We would be very grateful for your feedback about our First Annual Advocacy Conference! Please fill out the survey.

 [NJAC Evaluation \(survey\)](#)

Please find our superintendent's contact information here. He is willing to contact school administration to help gain support for our project. Before contacting Mr. Gunderson, a mentor or coach should preview the email for appropriateness and relevancy.

**P. Erik Gunderson**

Email: [egunderson@pascack.k12.nj.us](mailto:egunderson@pascack.k12.nj.us)

Phone: 201-358-7004 x 21005

What is your advocacy progress? Keep us up to date with your work - who you have contacted, any good leads, etc. Spread the word and keep tweeting and posting on all social media using [#NJAC2016](#).

Thank you very much for your participation. We can't wait to hear from you!

The Pascack Pi-oneers

Team1676.com