



For Immediate Release

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Paterson Public Schools Students Showcase Innovation at Annual STEAM Symposium

Annual event highlights student-led workshops and advanced group STEAM research

Paterson, NJ (May 4, 2026) – The knowledge and innovation of Paterson Public Schools students were on full display at the annual Paterson STEAM Symposium held at William Paterson University on April 29. The event served as a powerful demonstration of student leadership, creativity, and technical expertise, bringing together young scholars from across the district to showcase their work in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM).

An empowering and unique experience for Paterson students, the annual symposium challenged students to conduct interdisciplinary research and deliver professional-level presentations in a collegiate environment. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson, cabinet members, and administrators attended the symposium to join the students in a day dedicated to academic exploration.

"This year's symposium was an impressive display of the extraordinary talent and potential of Paterson Public Schools students," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell. "Our brilliant students took complex scientific and technical concepts and turned them into presentations that were engaging and accessible. Their success is a testament to the collective support of our teachers, staff, families, and school leaders."

The event kicked off with workshop sessions led by the students themselves, allowing peers to learn from one another in a collaborative environment. Students engaged in discussion, asked questions, and reflected on their learning at the conclusion of each session.

Following the workshops, the program transitioned to group research presentations held in poster sessions across four different classrooms. These sessions covered an expansive range of topics, where student participants successfully translated high-level, advanced data in front of packed classrooms made up of their peers and educators.

The success of this year's symposium stands as a powerful reminder that when students are given opportunities to explore and innovate, their potential is limitless.

For more information about Paterson Public Schools, visit: www.paterson.k12.nj.us

About Paterson Public Schools

Paterson Public Schools serves over 22,000 students from pre-K to 12th grade in New Jersey's third-largest city. About 71% of the student population is Hispanic, 16% are Black, 6% are Asian, and 5.0% are Caucasian. Recognizing its proud traditions, diverse community, and strong partnerships, the mission of Paterson Public Schools is to provide an academically rigorous, safe, and nurturing educational environment that meets the social, emotional, and academic needs of all students. The district is committed to preparing students for post-secondary education and careers. Despite the Paterson community being classified as low-income, many of its students achieve high academic success. A growing number of elementary school students are reading at or above grade level, and more high school students are earning college credits through Advanced Placement exams and enrolling in college-level courses before graduation. Paterson Public Schools is distinguished as one of only 17 school districts in New Jersey to offer the competitive International Baccalaureate program and is among just four districts with a P-TECH high school. In collaboration with IBM and Passaic County Community College, the P-TECH program allows students to graduate with an associate degree in applied science and valuable tech sector experience. For more information, visit www.paterson.k12.nj.us

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