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New Jersey Teachers Learn New Ways to Help Students Become Advocates for Sustainability in Their Communities

Honeywell and New Jersey Audubon Partner to Educate the Educators Through Hands-On Lessons

JERSEY CITY, N.J. – On August 20, 18 teachers from Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Middlesex Counties will cut their summer vacations short for an immersive educational experience focused on urban ecology and sustainability thanks to the Honeywell Institute for Ecosystems Education (HIEE).

The four-day innovative summer institute, which is a partnership between Honeywell and New Jersey Audubon, combines classroom instruction with a variety of outdoor experiences in the urban environment. It helps teachers learn about their communities and provides them with methods for empowering students to tackle environmental sustainability projects in the upcoming school year.

The decade-long partnership between Honeywell and New Jersey Audubon has engaged more than 170 New Jersey educators in the program, teaching more than 8,000 students how to identify and address local environmental issues, and inspire them to become the next generation of advocates for sustainability in their communities.

The program's impact is evident through statements from students of last year's HIEE teachers.

"Soil erosion is an environmental threat for our community. Cooperating with Honeywell and New Jersey Audubon has helped us get new and innovative ideas so that we can fix this problem," said eighth-grade student, Rachel.

"Through the help of New Jersey Audubon and Honeywell, we can inform other people of our purpose, which is to make the earth green again," said another student.

“HIEE has empowered students to be the advocates for a better environment in their communities and to reduce pollution or waste in order to be eco-friendly,” said Manisha Shah, Science Supervisor at Jersey City Public Schools.

Teachers will visit Jersey City Reservoir Number Three, providing them with direct access to exploring nature in an urban setting. They will also visit Franklin L. Williams Middle School’s pollinator garden, an integrated project that involved approximately 500 students with a focus on science, art and music.

Later in the week, teachers will visit Honeywell’s headquarters in Morris Plains to observe key features of sustainable landscapes including biodiversity, capturing storm water runoff, and analyzing air quality by calculating the carbon sequestration of campus trees. Honeywell’s headquarters has been awarded the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

“Honeywell Institute for Ecosystems Education stimulates change from the ground up. It not only focuses on ensuring schools and communities are more sustainable, but also helps develop students into advocates for sustainability, raising awareness of their impact on their school, community and the world,” said Dale Rosselet, Vice President of Education for New Jersey Audubon. “Through this collaboration between New Jersey Audubon and Honeywell, and through community involvement and school engagement, students are becoming conscious of their impact and committing to conservation efforts in their communities.”

“Honeywell, one of the world’s leading software-industrial companies, is committed to creating the next generation of advocates for sustainability through highly innovative educational programs such as the Honeywell Institute for Ecosystems Education,” said Mike Bennett, President of Honeywell Hometown Solutions. “Through HIEE, these 18 teachers will gain a new set of tools and knowledge to inspire more and more students to pursue careers in science, math, and technology, and create more sustainable communities.”

The 18 participating teachers represent 15 Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Middlesex County schools: Corpus Christi School, Hackensack Middle School and Leonia Middle School in Bergen County, Belleville High School and West Caldwell Tech in Essex County, Christa McAuliffe Elementary School, Ezra L. Nolan School - P.S. 40, Franklin L. Williams Middle School #7, Henry E. Harris Community School, Innovation High School, Joseph H. Brensinger School - P.S. 17, Dr. Michael Conti School - P.S. 5, Nicholas Oresko Community School and Academy of Greatness and Excellence in Hudson County, and John P. Stevens High School in Middlesex County.

Each HIEE participating teacher also receives a \$500 mini-grant from Honeywell to implement sustainability projects in their classrooms and to work toward an Eco-Schools USA certification. Using the Eco-Schools learning framework, students identify an environmental problem at their school, conduct a preliminary audit to collect data and devise a sustainable solution.

In June, 120 Bergen and Hudson County students from nine schools showcased their urban sustainability projects at the third HIEE Student Forum. These projects were the direct result of the teachers’ participation in last year’s institute. These students represented 263 students from throughout Bergen and Hudson County who engaged in school-based projects during the

2017-2018 year. Projects ranged from creating vertical, moveable gardens for planting herbs to creating a greenhouse from recycled water bottles to building small robots that monitor animal and plant diversity of a newly planted garden on school grounds.

HIEE utilizes the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science – developed from the National Research Council's Framework for K-12 Science Education and the Next Generation Science Standards. The standards require hands-on, inquiry-based learning that relies more on exploration and question-based learning approaches rather than memorization of facts. The new standards are expected to help prepare New Jersey graduates to enter an economy that is more reliant on STEM careers.

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About HIEE

Honeywell Institute for Ecosystems Education is part of Honeywell Hometown Solutions, the Company's corporate citizenship initiative, which focuses on several areas of vital importance: Family Safety & Security, Housing & Shelter, Science & Math Education, Habitat & Conservation, and Humanitarian Relief. More information on Honeywell Hometown Solutions can be found at: www.honeywell.com/hhs.

About New Jersey Audubon

New Jersey Audubon is a privately supported, not-for profit, statewide membership organization. Founded in 1897, and one of the oldest independent Audubon societies, New Jersey Audubon fosters environmental awareness and a conservation ethic among New Jersey's citizens; protects New Jersey's birds, mammals, other animals, and plants, especially endangered and threatened species; and promotes preservation of New Jersey's valuable natural habitats. For more information, visit www.njaudubon.org.