# PROJECT FIBONACCI® FOUNDATION, INC.

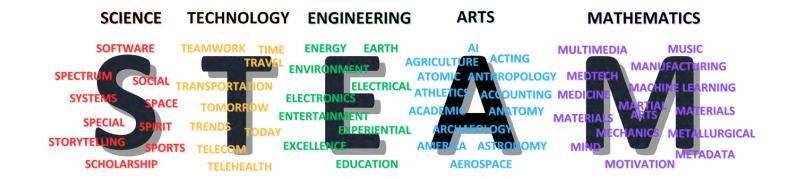


USING THE ARTS TO GROW THE STEM WORKFORCE

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#### WHAT IS PROJECT FIBONACCI®?

The Project Fibonacci®Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides a series of immersive learning programs on STEAM topics in cooperation with local schools, businesses, and non-profit organizations.

Our year-round initiative is focused on STEAM leadership education with an entrepreneurial focus to engage scientific and artistic critical thinkers in working together to solve complex STEM problems impacting society.

Our program is further intended to grow the STEM workforce in a new way--by tapping into artistic creativity to spur technological innovation, catalyze workforce preparedness, and contribute to economic development on a broad scale.

We use the ARTS to grow tomorrow's STEM workforce, cultivate a mindset of limitless possibilities, and guide the development of an inclusive cohort of diverse critical thinkers to tackle complex STEM problems, address future societal-technological challenges, and act as an AGENT to promote the creation of ecosystems for community revitalization and economic prosperity.

#### **OUR MISSION**

To introduce our youth to a culture of interdisciplinary STEAM learning, teaching them to become creative, independent leaders of community resurgence.

#### **OUR VISION**

Enriched STEAM Communities Driving a Modern Renaissance

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#### **OUR IMPACT**

The Project Fibonacci® Foundation, Inc.'s year-round STEAM programs have a positive impact on communities across New York State and beyond. These programs foster innovation, creativity, and leadership in young people, preparing them for successful careers in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.

The annual STEAM Leadership conference not only provides valuable educational opportunities for attendees, but also supports local businesses and vendors, boosting the economy. Innovation camps held in various school districts across the state have even started drone clubs, which provide students with hands-on experience in emerging technologies.

We also showcase local STEM experts and professionals as workshop presenters and lecturers. By doing so, participants are motivated to excel in STEAM fields and encouraged to stay and thrive in their communities.

Our hope is to support local businesses and encourage the next generation of scientists, artists, and leaders to stay in the area and make a positive impact. Additionally, the annual College and Career fair highlights professional and academic opportunities, paving the way for students to achieve their goals and reach their full potential.



#### **ONEIDA COUNTY**

- 2015-2024 Foundation Headquarters
- 2016-2023 STEAM Leadership Conference
- ESTEAMed Speakers Series & LifeSTREAM Series
- Innovation & Drone Camps

- Food Distribution Over 400 families monthly
- Annual Tap Into STEAM Fundraiser Benefits nonprofits in Herkimer & Oneida Counties



2018-2019 FCSD Two Week Summer Innovation Camp



2017-2018 Diocesan Innovation Camps, STEAM Conference Scholars



2019-2023 BOCES Innovation Camps, STEAM Conference Scholars, Fundraising Efforts with other nonprofits



2019 HCSD One Week Summer Camp, STEAM Conference Scholars



2018 IEEE EPICS Winning Team, 2016-2023 STEAM Conference Scholars





DR. ANDREW DROZD
Founder & Chairman of the Board;
Affiliation: ANDRO Computational Solutions, LLC

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Silicon Valley

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## AI IQ FOR TEACHERS

Our team is organizing a one-day professional development seminar aimed at enhancing educators' skills for the future of education, particularly in the realm of artificial intelligence. The event will feature breakout sessions, mock trials, as well as valuable tips, tricks, and tools that educators can implement in their classrooms. This event is tailored for educators working with students in grades 6-12 and will take place May 4, 2024. Scan the QR code to pre-register!



### ILIFT LITERACY PROGRAM

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The Foundation has developed an exciting literacy initiative called ILiFT - Inspire Literacy for Today - to improve literacy skills by providing books to our earliest learners, 3–5-year-olds. We believe basic literacy skills are precursors to developing creativity, imagination, and the ongoing skills needed in adulthood that are essential to future careers in STEM and beyond.

The program focuses on geographic areas needing increased literacy support by providing in-person reading events with our team and special guests to children throughout the area. After each reading session, we provide a copy of the book and reading tips to each child. Additional learning tools are provided to the kids based on the theme of the session.



### **ESTEAMED SPEAKERS SERIES**

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Each year, the Project Fibonacci® Foundation presents an engaging speakers series that inspires, informs, and motivates attendees from across NYS coincident with our annual STEAM Leadership Conference. Past speakers include:

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#### **WOMEN & STEAM SYMPOSIUM**

The Project Fibonacci® Foundation held its second annual Women & STEAM Symposium on Thursday, March 7 at the Beeches Manor to an audience of over 150 high school students, teachers, business leaders, and political representatives. The symposium was sponsored by the New York State Technology Enterprise Corp. (NYSTEC) of Rome and supported by over 20 local small businesses and other organizations. The event drew participation from over a dozen high schools and school districts, including Rome Free Academy, Adirondack, Bishop Grimes, Camden, Hamilton, Mt. Markham, Oriskany, Thomas Proctor High School, Westmoreland, among others, and brought together 130 students and their teachers for a day dedicated to empowerment and inspiration across an array of STEM+Arts (STEAM) fields. The team is planning the third annual event to take place in March 2025. Visit our website for more information and for the 2024 recap.

#### **HISTORY - NOT HYPE**

Our team is dedicated to promoting lifelong learning by partnering with local businesses and organizations to host public events. One of the special events that we organized was The Community Clue Quest. This community-wide scavenger hunt aimed to support local restaurants and stores that were affected by the pandemic.

In 2022, the foundation launched the Not Hype educational series. This series delves into important historical, cultural, societal, and political themes, some of which are controversial yet relevant to our times. The topics are framed by concepts rooted STEAM. Our goal is to present compelling facts through storytelling by experts.





#### **DRONE & INNOVATION CAMPS**

The Project Fibonacci® Foundation teams up with local unmanned air systems (UAS) experts to bring together educators and students to learn about cutting-edge drone technologies and applications. Single and multi-day events are scheduled throughout the school year and summer. Teams of students and their teachers spend the day learning from recognized experts and professionals working in various STEAM fields to explain everything from flight engineering and piloting to aerodynamic design aesthetics. Our camps introduce participants to various STEAM topics and considerations, along with training and career opportunities. We provide educators with technical expertise and resources, enabling in-depth learning to take place at school in class and in co-curricular or extra-curricular settings, including Drone Technology Clubs.

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# COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER: MONTHLY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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between collaboration Project Fibonacci® Foundation, Inc., St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church, and the Food Bank of Central New York has been instrumental in bringing relief to families since 2020. distribution event, which place on the second Friday of every month, is held at the church, where those in need are invited to receive free food.

Thanks to the efforts of a network of over 70 volunteers, the initiative has successfully distributed over 150,000 pounds of food to members of our community.



## TAP INTO STEAM: ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Tap Into STEAM is an annual event that brings together local non-profit organizations that focus on STEM and the arts. The goal of the event is to raise funds for these non-profits and build a stronger community. During the event, attendees have the opportunity to meet representatives from each participating non-profit and donate to their programs. Tap Into STEAM offers a range of activities, including live auctions, basket raffles, live music, and food. This event serves as a kickoff for the Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties' 'Giving Day.' Mark your calendars for the third annual Tap Into STEAM in September 2024!

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#### ANNUAL STEAM LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

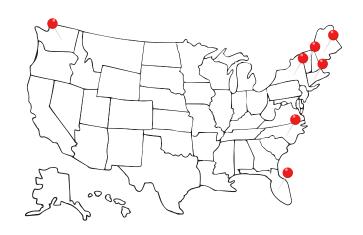
Since 2016, the Project Fibonacci® Foundation has held a week-long summer STEAM Leadership Conference, which has been attended by over 400 high school and college students from across NYS and the country.

Each year, the conference Steering Committee—consisting of over 30 business leaders, educators, artists, and community members—develops a highly interactive curriculum for our STEAM Scholars. Additionally, a team of over 70 volunteers dedicate their time to ensure a safe, fun, and educational learning environment for the weeklong event.

Participants are exposed to in-depth STEAM content, cutting-edge innovations, and hands-on workshops that provide STEAM Scholars with the confidence and skillset to reach further in their academic and professional pursuits.

Past STEAM Scholars who have aged out of the program often return as volunteers/team facilitators and share their experiences with the current cohort.

Since 2016, the conference has been attended by over 400 students from New York, Maine, Vermont, Florida, Massachusetts, Georgia, Washington, and even France!





# 2023 Adapting to Climate Change: Sustaining our Planet, Its Oceans, and the Global Population



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2019 Exploring & Colonizing Mars







2018 Design a Smart STEAM Campus of the Future







2017 STEAM Entrepreneurship: Turn Your STEAM Passion into Profitability



2016 The "Big Bang" of STEAM Education







#### 2024 CONFERENCE THEME

# Artificial Intelligence, the Smart Machine and the Human Factor



Our team is gearing up for the 6th Annual STEAM Leadership Conference, where we will explore the fascinating intersection of Artificial Intelligence, the Smart Machine, and the Human Factor. This conference is a unique opportunity for students from all over New York State and beyond to come together and engage in hands-on learning, critical thinking, and collaboration.

Over the course of one week, students will have the chance to dive deep into some of the most pressing issues facing our society today, from the ethical implications of AI to the role of automation in the workforce. They will also have the opportunity to hear from some of the brightest minds in the field, including leading researchers, entrepreneurs, and educators.

But perhaps most importantly, this conference is about bringing together a diverse group of students with a shared passion for STEAM and a commitment to making a positive impact on the world. Whether you are a seasoned coder or a curious beginner, whether you come from a big city or a small town, you will find a supportive community of peers and mentors who are eager to learn from each other and work together to create a better future.

We hope you will join us for this exciting and transformative event. Together, we can unlock the full potential of AI and the Smart Machine, while keeping the Human Factor at the center of everything we do.

# 100% OF 2023 STEAM SCHOLARS HAD THEIR TUITION FULLY COVERED BY THE GENEROSITY OF OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS!

# ATTENDING IS AS EASY AS 1,2,3



### NOMINATION

Are you new to the conference? You can nominate yourself to attend then just have a teacher, professor, family member, or mentor complete a reference form. Are you a returning STEAM Scholar? Just fill out the self-nomination form!

Scholar Nomination:



Reference Form:



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#### **ACCEPTANCE**

The Project Fibonacci® Foundation, Inc. Admissions Board will carefully review each nomination. Upon review, accepted students and their families will receive further information via email/mail.

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#### REGISTER

Register to reserve your spot at the conference! Registration will provide our team with additional information (dietary restrictions, preferred roommate, interests)

#### Early Bird Registration starts in Spring 2024!

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Once you register, you will be eligible to receive tuition assistance!

100% of our 2023 STEAM Scholars had their tuition fully sponsored to attend.



Project Fibonacci is a place for me to meet other people who are like minded, to help me focus on what fields I want to go into, or other fields just to see their journey and learn about what others did...Over the last 3 years I learned a lot from the projects, like developing new skills to adapt to challenges. My favorite part was working with my teams, brainstorming, and being immersed in how our ideas would play out.

-ALEXANDRA B., STEAM SCHOLAR 2016-2019

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

OCTOBER 2023
NOMINATION PERIOD OPENS

JANUARY 2024
ESTEAMed SPEAKERS SERIES ANNOUNCEMENT

MARCH 2024

ADVANCE PROGRAM LAUNCH &

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

JUNE 2024
REGISTRATION ENDS

Due to the limited number of spots available for conference attendees, those interested after registration closes will be added to a waiting list.

JULY 2024 VIRTUAL WORKSHOP SELECTION

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AUGUST 4 -10, 2024 CONFERENCE WEEK



Have questions, comments, or suggestions?
Contact the 2024 Conference Manager,
Amy (Singletary) Jaworski:
asingletary@projectfibonacci.org
(315) 527-6030

## **CONFERENCE TUITION**

Tuition for the week-long conference includes:

- Lodging at the Hampton Inn Rome, NY
- All Meals & Snacks
- Workshops with local and regional experts
- Keynote Speeches from world-renowned, celebrity keynote speakers with exclusive meet & greet opportunities
- Discounted Merchandise
- Project Fibonacci®Swag
- Entertainment & Special Events
- Medical & Security Services
- Project Materials
- Shuttle Service
- Off-Site Tour Access
- Private College & Career Fair for STEAM Scholars

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STEAM Fair, Project Presentation & Award Ceremony for STEAM
 Scholars and their families on closing day

#### **TUITION ASSISTANCE**

Our team is dedicated to providing equal opportunities for all students to attend our conference, regardless of financial background. We are grateful for the generosity of our sponsors, supporters, and donors, which allows us to offer tuition assistance in most cases. During registration, please select the "I am seeking tuition assistance" option.

Schools are also encouraged to cover the cost of their student's tuition.

We will do our best to allocate full or partial funding to eligible students. Families who can cover the tuition cost may opt for a payment plan as well.

#### ATTENTION EDUCATORS

The Project Fibonacci Foundation is advocating for schools to nominate several students to attend the 2024 STEAM Leadership Conference. Teachers may be eligible for Professional Development credit through full or partial-day registration during the conference week. Also, the LifeSTREAM & ESTEAMed Speakers Series offer additional Professional Development opportunities for educators throughout the year.

Schools, colleges, and universities are encouraged to partially or fully cover their student nominee's tuition for the 2024 Project Fibonacci®STEAM Leadership Conference.

BOCES Co-Sers are available to all NYS schools, excluding the "Big Five" districts (NYC, Yonkers, Buffalo, Rochester & Syracuse). There are two Co-Sers which may cover student costs to attend the STEAM Leadership Conference, Innovation Camps, LifeSTREAM events, etc.

- Arts in Education (Arts) Funds students participating in arts learning events (visual arts, music, dance, performances, etc.)
- Exploratory Enrichment (EE) Funds students participating in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics learning events.

If a district has not pre-funded these particular Co-Sers or has exhausted them, they may transfer money into them from another part of their BOCES budget. Typically, a BOCES facility will have an individual who manages districts' "Arts" and "EE" Co-Ser usage, often located within a curriculum or professional development office.

Because the STEAM Leadership Conference falls into a district's new fiscal year, BOCES typically allows half the tuition to be paid out of the current budget year's Co-Sers to cover "down payments" which are due before June 30th. Final payments are typically executed July 1st, when the new budget period is opened.

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### ATTENTION EDUCATORS

Schools can support their students to attend the Project Fibonacci® STEAM Leadership Conference by using the Exploratory Enrichment Coser (through your local BOCES). If you have any questions, please contact Tamalin Martin at tmartin@projectfibonacci.org





"As a future educator, Project Fibonacci is the very foundation that has to be laid for students going into high school or college—that STEAM is very necessary for life. It doesn't matter what major or career; students have to be able to incorporate all of these subjects together...Important to me were the other STEAM scholars, a group of some of the most amazing people I have ever met.'

> -Muhammed T., 2016-2018 STEAM Scholar

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#### JOIN THE STEAM INITIATIVE

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We invite educators to consider becoming a volunteer or team facilitators. Professional development credits may also be available. For more information, contact us at: info@projectfibonacci.org

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I'm a past STEAM Scholar who has aged out of the program, can I still attend? Yes! Aged-out STEAM Scholars can still join in on the fun as volunteers or team facilitators.

# If I live locally, am I allowed to commute to and from the conference rather than staying overnight?

The Project Fibonacci®Foundation highly encourages STEAM Scholars to stay on-site for the duration of the conference. This is to ensure the safety and security of our STEAM Scholars and to provide the best overall experience. If it is absolutely necessary to commute, please contact us for more information on the proper protocols.

#### What if I'm traveling by plane/train/bus?

Please send us your travel itinerary so we can arrange ground transportation.

#### What kind of security/supervision is provided?

We take the well-being of all participants very seriously. Evening security officers ensure the safety of our STEAM Scholars and the grounds. During the day, STEAM Facilitators and our vetted network of volunteers are on hand to ensure a safe and secure experience for STEAM Scholars. We also have medics on-site 24/7.

#### How can I choose the workshops I want to participate in?

New for 2024, we will provide workshop selections prior to opening day. Future correspondence regarding workshops will be sent to STEAM Scholars.

#### Can I choose my roommate for the conference?

Absolutely! If you have a friend or classmate who is also attending the conference, you can select the "Choose my own roommate" option during registration. If not, we do our best to match STEAM Scholars with a roommate. If you'd prefer to room alone, we will do our best to accommodate you on a case-by-case basis.

#### What if I have a pre-existing event that conflicts with the schedule?

No problem! We just ask that you provide written permission from your parent/guardian and an estimated time of your departure/return.

#### Are my parents allowed to attend any of the activities during the week?

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Parents are encouraged to join their STEAM Scholars during the check-in process on opening day and are invited to attend any of the ESTEAMed Speakers Series events. Families are also invited to join us on the final day for closing ceremonies!

#### JOIN THE STEAM INITITATIVE

#### **NOMINATE**

Nominate eligible students to attend the 6th Annual STEAM Leadership Conference.

Past scholars can nominate their classmates, peers, or friends to attend!

#### **DONATE**

Donating is the greatest way you can impact the Project Fibonacci®Foundation and ensure its continued success and growth. We are a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. All donations are fully tax-deductible.

#### **VOLUNTEER**

Become a volunteer! Each year, over 70 volunteers including NYS Certified teachers and professionals working in STEAM fields have supported Project Fibonacci® programs.

#### PRESENT A WORKSHOP

We are currently seeking workshop presenters for the 6th annual conference. Workshops can be focused on any aspect of AI or STEM + Arts. Contact us for more information.

#### **COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR**

Each year, we highlight our local professional and academic opportunities for our STEAM Scholars. Exhibit for FREE!

#### ADOPT A SCHOLAR

Help students attend the 2024 conference by supporting their all-inclusive tuition costs. Make a difference and support our youth!

#### FOLLOW US & SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Please follow us on social media and help spread the word!

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#### STEAM FAIR

Provides an opportunity to match scholar pitches to funded projects. We invite entrepreneurs, business leaders, and investors to participate with scholars to go from concept to reality.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: PROJECTFIBONACCI.ORG



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ProjectFibonacci.org

info@projectfibonacci.org