


AUGUST 4-10





2024 ADVANCE PROGRAM

**6th Annual
Project Fibonacci® STEAM
Leadership Conference**



info@projectfibonacci.org 

ProjectFibonacci.org 

PO Box 424, Rome, NY 13442-0424 

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THE MISSION OF PROJECT FIBONACCI®

The Project Fibonacci® Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable 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.

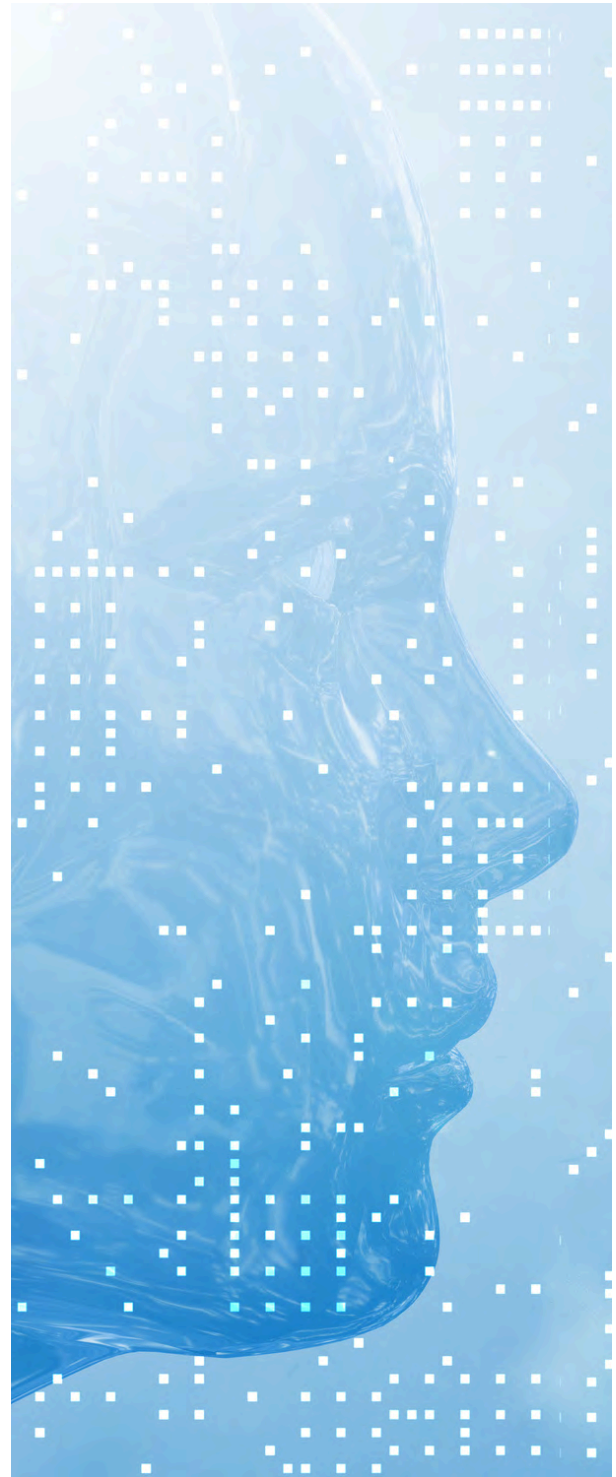
We use the ARTS to grow tomorrow's STEM workforce, to cultivate a mindset of limitless possibilities, and guide the development of an inclusive cohort of diverse critical thinkers to tackle complex STEM problems, address future socio-technological challenges, and act as an AGENT to promote the creation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



OUR IMPACT

The Project Fibonacci® Foundation'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, our annual College and Career fair highlights professional and academic opportunities, paving the way for students to achieve their goals and reach their full potential.



OSWEGO COUNTY

2018-2019 FCSD Two Week Summer Innovation Camp, STEAM Conference Scholars



ONONDAGA COUNTY

2017-2018 Diocesan Innovation Camps, STEAM Conference Scholars



HERKIMER COUNTY

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



MADISON COUNTY

2019 HCSD One Week Summer Camp, STEAM Conference Scholars



ALBANY COUNTY

2018 IEEE EPICS Winning Team, STEAM Conference Scholars



ONEIDA COUNTY

- 2015-2024 Foundation Headquarters
- 2016-2024 STEAM Leadership Conference
- ESTEAMed Speakers Series & LifeSTREAM Series
- Innovation & Drone Camps
- Food Distribution - Over 400 families monthly
- STEAM Women Rising Symposium
- Annual Tap Into STEAM Fundraiser - Benefits nonprofits in Herkimer & Oneida Counties

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

Dear 2024 STEAM Scholars, Conference Sponsors/Supporters, and Volunteers,



I begin by saying that this "Welcome Message" was generated by Chat GPT, and except for a few minor edits here and there, it is expressed in its original form:

Welcome to the 6th Annual STEAM Leadership Conference! I am honored to extend a heartfelt welcome to each and every one of you on behalf of the Project Fibonacci® Foundation. It is truly inspiring to see so many bright minds ready to embark on a journey of intellectual growth and leadership development. Our mission is to empower scholars to become the next generation of critical thinkers and leaders, and I am confident that this conference will be a transformative experience for everyone involved.

This year's conference theme, "Artificial Intelligence, the Smart Machine, and the Human Factor," could not be more timely or relevant. As technology continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace, it is imperative that we understand the profound impact it has on our lives, our work, and our society. Our emerging leaders in the STEAM fields will be at the forefront of these advancements, and it is crucial that all are equipped with the knowledge and skills to navigate and shape this ever-changing landscape. Throughout the conference, scholars will have the opportunity to engage with leading experts, participate in thought-provoking discussions, and explore the ethical, social, and technical dimensions of AI and smart machines – what we refer to as "Responsible AI."

As our scholars immerse themselves in this interdisciplinary learning environment, I encourage them to be curious, ask questions, and embrace the spirit of collaboration. This conference is not just about acquiring knowledge; it is about thriving as a community of learners and innovators and cultivating a holistic understanding of the intersection between AI technology and humanity. Together, we can drive positive change and create a future where technology serves as a force for good.

Thank you for joining us at the 6th Annual STEAM Leadership Conference. I am excited to see the incredible contributions that will be made and the lasting impact you will have on the world. Let us learn, thrive, and cultivate together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew L. Drozd". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Andy Drozd
Founder & Chairman
Project Fibonacci® Foundation, Inc.





THANK YOU TO OUR PLATINUM SPONSOR



UpMobility Foundation works to uplift people in the United States and abroad as we help them achieve their full potential. To this end, we recognize the importance of connecting people through creating opportunities for collaboration. We are dedicated to the notion of individual growth, strong families and connected communities.

The UpMobility Foundation is a testament to the values perpetuated by the late William “Bill” Babinec, who was the father of founder, Martin Babinec. The son of Slovak immigrants, Bill worked tirelessly to support his wife and seven children. Despite his modest resources, Bill gave generously to the less fortunate as well as to organizations that promote family values. A lifelong resident of Little Falls, New York, Bill was active in his church in addition to being a member of an organization dedicated to community development, a role that he took on well into his 80s.

In 1999, following many years as a successful Silicon Valley entrepreneur, Martin Babinec relocated his family to Little Falls. Inspired by his father’s example, Martin has become a catalyst for economic development in Upstate New York and elsewhere. Additionally, Martin has also supported causes that promote self-reliance, education, humanitarian aid and family values, among others. Martin was moved to establish the UpMobility Foundation as a way to cement his family’s commitment to the ideal that to whom much is given, much is expected.

Martin founded Silicon Valley based *TriNet* in 1988, serving as CEO for the company’s first 20 years, Chairman through 2010 and retiring from the Board of Directors in June 2022. TriNet’s cloud based HR services help 16,000 small to mid sized companies, has grown to annual sales of \$5+ billion, listing on NYSE under ticker *TNET*. He remains the company’s largest non-institutional shareholder. Martin also founded and helps lead *UpVentures Capital*, *Rock City Centre*, *RockCity Development* and non profits *Upstate Venture Connect*, *Entrepreneurs AcrossBorders*, *Unite NY* and *UpMobility Foundation*. He is the author of Amazon best seller *More Good Jobs: An Entrepreneur’s Action Plan to Create Change in Your Community*.

ATTENDING IS AS EASY AS 1,2,3

1

NOMINATION

Have a teacher, professor, family member, or mentor nominate you to attend. Accepting students ages 14-18. Past STEAM Scholars can skip this step and register directly!

2

ACCEPTANCE

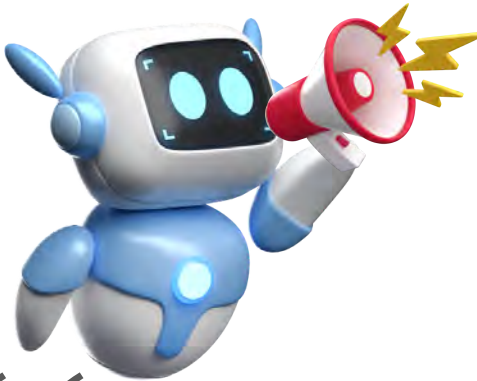
The Project Fibonacci® Foundation, Inc. Admissions Board will carefully review each nomination. Upon review, accepted students and their families will receive further information via email/mail.

3

REGISTER

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

Once you register, you will be eligible to receive tuition assistance! 100% of our 2023 STEAM Scholars had their tuitions covered in full, and we are hoping for the same in 2024!



REGISTER TODAY!



“

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.

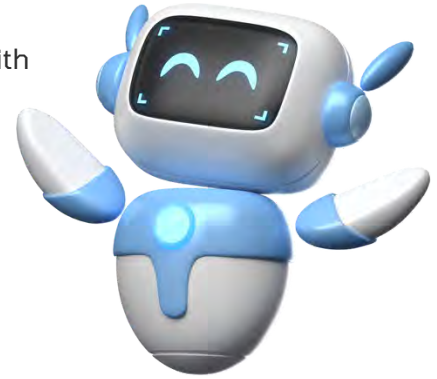
-ALEXANDRIA B., STEAM SCHOLAR 2016-2019

”

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



TUITION ASSISTANCE

We are dedicated to inclusivity and firmly believe that every student, regardless of their financial background, should have the chance to take part in this rewarding experience. If the cost is a concern, financial aid is accessible, thanks to the generous support of our partner schools, donors, and sponsors. Our aim is to ensure that anyone eager to learn can do so without financial limitations. Don't allow anything to hinder you from seizing this amazing opportunity to connect with like-minded peers and STEAM subject matter experts. Join us on a journey of learning, exploration, and motivation!



100% OF OUR 2023 STEAM SCHOLARS HAD THEIR TUITIONS SPONSORED!

WHAT TO DO NEXT

✓ REGISTERED

MANDATORY FORMS

FORMS TO BE COMPLETED PRIOR

- Code of Conduct - to be signed by STEAM Scholar and parent/guardian
- Medical Release Form - to be completed by parent/guardian
- Photo Release Form - signed by STEAM Scholar and parent/guardian
- Parent/Legal Guardian Code of Conduct - to be signed by parent/guardian

WORKSHOP SELECTION

As we gear up for the upcoming conference, we encourage you to carefully review the diverse array of workshop offerings available. Each session is designed to enhance your experience and knowledge, tailored to a wide range of interests and professional needs. As the event approaches, we will provide you with a selection form where you can prioritize your preferred workshops for each block—choosing your first, second, and third choices. Please be aware that some workshops are mandatory and will require your attendance.

TEAM SPIRIT

We'll make team assignments prior to the conference to ensure a balanced mix of skills and backgrounds, stimulating meaningful exchanges and innovative collaborations. You'll receive details about your specific team assignment soon, so be on the lookout for an update in your inbox. *Returning STEAM Scholars - You'll be on the same teams as last year!

To amplify the fun and team spirit, we encourage you to pack team-appropriate attire. Feel free to wear anything from colorful t-shirts and hats to scarves that represent your team. These visual cues will not only boost team morale but also make it easier to connect with your teammates. We're excited to see the creative ways you'll represent your teams.

Prepare to immerse yourself in a vibrant atmosphere, share your ideas, and engage in some friendly rivalry.

Check out our complete What to Pack list on page 28.

SCHOLARSHIPS

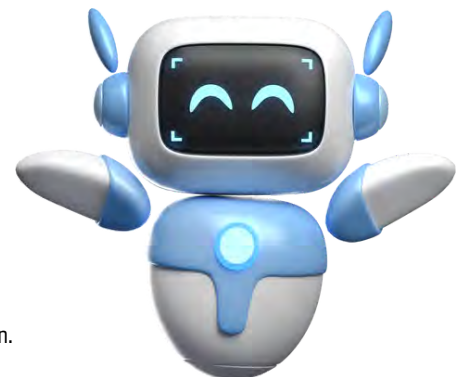
If you indicated you are in need of partial/full tuition assistance on your registration, our team will contact you with further details.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Check out our FAQs on page 30.

Still have questions?

Contact Amy Jaworski at ajaworski@projectfibonacci.org



2024 CONFERENCE THEME



Artificial Intelligence, the Smart Machine & 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.

Most importantly though, 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.



THANK YOU TO OUR GOLD SPONSOR



NYSTEC has served as a trusted technology advisor to local governments since 1996. We help clients plan and manage the acquisition, implementation, and security of their IT systems. Our NYS OGS contract makes it easy to engage us quickly.

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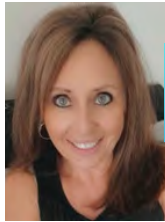
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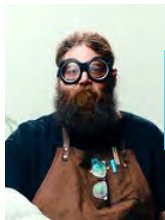
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THANK YOU TO OUR PLATINUM SPONSOR



The Griffin Charitable Foundation's mission is to celebrate the legacy of the Griffin family by enhancing the quality of life in Rome and the surrounding communities. We will accomplish this objective by using our resources to contribute to, and thereby strengthen, specific local organizations whose primary purpose is improving the daily lives of our citizens.

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Camden CSD



"You are a reader, therefore, a thinker, an observer, a living soul who wants more out of this human experience."

-Salil Jha

STEERING COMMITTEE



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Educator



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Artist



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Upstate University Cardiology
Nuclear Testing Department



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STEAM Outreach & Curriculum
Modvic



RAMONA SMITH*
Community Outreach
Rome Council Woman



TIM THOMAS
STEAM Outreach
Mohawk Valley Community College



DEB VAN SLYKE*
Curriculum & STEAM Outreach
Retired Director of Curriculum & Instruction



BARBARA WELCH*
Community Outreach
AndroMetaX



HEATHER WIELAND
Curriculum & STEAM Outreach
Camden CSD



DR. MITCHELL WILBERT
Community Outreach

NOT PICTURED: Jean Burgdorf, Colleen Potter

***Members of the Project Fibonacci® Foundation, Inc. Core Team**

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DAILY SCHEDULE BREAKDOWN

8:00-9:30 AM

Breakfast & Wakeup Workshops

10:00-12:30

Workshops, Special Presentations, Lectures

12:30-1:30

Lunch

1:30-4:00

Workshops Continued

4:00-5:00

Project Development

5:00-6:00

Dinner

6:30-8:00

ESTEAMed Speakers Series (Monday, Tuesday, Special Events Friday)

6:00-10:00

Project Development & Social Options



TEAM PROJECT OVERVIEW

The 2024 STEAM Leadership Conference is designed to engage young scholars in a critical analysis of artificial intelligence (AI) applications across various sectors. Teams will explore, research, and ultimately debate the merits and drawbacks of a specific AI application of their choosing.

Throughout the conference, each team will split into two subgroups. One subgroup will argue that their chosen AI application is a beneficial use of technology, while the other will critique it as a potentially harmful use. Examples of AI applications that could be selected include but are not limited to, medical radiology, autonomous driving, facial recognition, and personalized education. To aid in their research, scholars will have access to tools such as ChatGPT, which will provide assistance in gathering relevant information and perspectives.

The conference will culminate in a series of presentations where each team will share their findings and conclusions on stage, using visual aids to reinforce their arguments. They will present both sides of the argument before delivering their final verdict on whether the use of AI in their chosen application is a "Good Use" or "Bad Use." This event not only encourages critical thinking and public speaking skills but also fosters teamwork and ethical reasoning in the context of cutting-edge technology.

CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS TO CONSIDER:



ANALYSIS

Breaking down complex information into smaller, manageable parts to understand how they fit together or relate to each other.



EVALUTION

Assessing the credibility and relevance of information sources, arguments, and evidence. This involves critical assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of various positions or arguments.



INFERENCE

Drawing logical conclusions from available evidence and reasoning. This includes predicting outcomes and identifying implications.



EXPLANATION

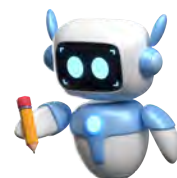
Articulating reasons for decisions or conclusions in a clear, transparent manner, and explaining the methodologies used to arrive at conclusions.



SELF-REGULATION & CONFIRMATION BIAS

Reflecting on one's own beliefs, values, and biases, and willingness to reconsider and adjust one's thinking in light of new evidence or perspectives.

Team facilitators, STEM experts, and volunteers will be on-site throughout the day to help teams develop their projects.



ESTEAMED SPEAKERS SERIES



DR. MICHAEL HAYDUK

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR, INFORMATION DIRECTORATE
AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY**

Keynote Speaker
Sunday, August 4

Dr. Michael J. Hayduk is the Deputy Director, Information Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory, Rome, New York. The directorate's mission is to lead the development and integration of Air Force warfighting information technologies for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, and Cyber. Dr. Hayduk plays a key role in overseeing an annual budget of over \$1.5 billion, leading the activities of over 1,200 scientists, engineers, administrative and support personnel. He is also a senior advisor for AFRL's Quantum Information Science research portfolio spanning six technical directorates. Dr. Hayduk was instrumental in the formulation and stand-up of the Innovare Advancement Center which is the open innovation technology hub located just outside of the security perimeter of the Information Directorate. Dr. Hayduk continues to lead the development of AFRL strategic partnerships at Innovare.

Dr. Hayduk was the Chief of the Computing and Communications Division, Air Force Research Laboratory, Information Directorate, Rome, New York from 2011 to 2019. The division's mission is to lead the discovery, development and integration of affordable computing, networking and communications technologies for our air, space and cyberspace forces. Dr. Hayduk was responsible for defining, planning, budgeting, advocating, managing and directing the execution of the research program and leads all aspects of personnel management within the division.

Dr. Hayduk joined the Air Force through the Palace Knight educational program in 1991 and was assigned to Rome Laboratory. Upon completion of his graduate studies, he served as a research engineer where he developed ultrafast solid state pulsed lasers for optical communication systems. As a team leader Dr. Hayduk led the development of microwave photonic components and subsystems for use in radio frequency sensors. Dr. Hayduk became the acting Chief for the Electro-Optic Components Branch in 2005 in the AFRL Sensors Directorate which developed components and subsystems for advanced radio frequency and electro-optic AF sensor systems. In 2007 he became the Chief of the Emerging Computing Technology Branch in the AFRL Information Directorate which performs fundamental and exploratory research and development in nanocomputing, quantum computing, computational intelligence and optical computing for advanced computing architectures. Dr. Hayduk has published more than 50 journal and conference papers and holds one US patent.

Dr. Hayduk received a B.S. from Clarkson University, an M.S. from the University of Virginia and his Ph.D. from Cornell University all in electrical engineering.

ESTEAMED SPEAKERS SERIES



DR. BILL DAGGETT

FOUNDER OF THE SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES NETWORK & THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION

Afternoon Keynote Speaker & Special Workshop Presenter
Monday, August 5

Bill Daggett is the founder of both the Successful Practices Network and the International Center for Leadership in Education. He recently co-chaired the AASA LEARNING 2025: National Commission for Student-Centered, Equity-Focused, Future-Driven Education and is now leading the National Demonstration Network for AASA.

Dr. Daggett is recognized worldwide for his proven ability to move preK-12 education systems towards more rigorous and relevant skills and knowledge for all students. For 30 years, he has crisscrossed our nation, as well as the industrialized world, to lead school reform efforts to effectively prepare students for their future.

While an avid supporter of public education, he also challenges all of us to be more focused on our children's future than on maintaining the schools of our youth. His insights and leadership have caused nearly every major education association in the country, hundreds of school districts, numerous political and business leaders, publishers, and others to seek out his advice and guidance.

Dr. Daggett began his career as a teacher, local administrator, and then director with the New York State Education Department. He spends much of his time providing leadership and guidance to the National Dropout Prevention Center and the Career and Technical Education Technical Assistance Center, which are part of the Successful Practices Network.

He is the creator of the Rigor/Relevance Framework and the Future-Focused Success Framework which has recently become the cornerstone of much of the nation's school reform efforts. He is also the author of 26 books about learning and education, textbooks, research reports, and journal articles. Dr. Daggett has been recognized as a distinguished alumnus by both Temple University and the State University at Albany.

Dr. Daggett has a special commitment to individuals with disabilities. He and his wife, Bonnie, volunteer their time and lend their support to Wildwood Programs in upstate New York. Wildwood serves the needs of people of all ages who, like their daughter Audrey, have neurological impairments/learning disabilities or autism, by enabling them to become the best that they can be.



ESTEAMED SPEAKERS SERIES



KAY FIRTH-BUTTERFIELD

**CEO, GOOD TECH ADVISORY, TIME 100 IMPACT AWARDEE 2024,
FORMER HEAD OF AI AT THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM AND
WORLD'S FIRST CHIEF AI ETHICS OFFICER**

Evening Keynote Speaker & Special Workshop Presenter
Monday, August 5

Kay Firth-Butterfield is the CEO of Good Tech Advisory. TIME 100 Impact Awardee 2024. She was the Inaugural and former Head of Artificial Intelligence and a member of the Executive Committee at the World Economic Forum and, in 2014, became the World's first Chief AI Ethics Officer. She is one of the foremost experts in the world on the governance of AI. Kay is a Barrister, former Judge and Professor, technologist, and entrepreneur who has an abiding interest in how humanity can equitably benefit from new technologies, especially AI. She became the world's first Chief AI Ethics officer in 2014. Kay is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Texas and the author of books on Human Rights, AI, and Modern Slavery. Kay was vice-chair of the ground-breaking IEEE Global Initiative for Ethical Considerations in Artificial Intelligence and Autonomous Systems and was part of the group that met at Asilomar to create the Asilomar AI Ethical Principles. She sits on the Polaris Council for the Government Accountability Office (USA), the Advisory Board for UNESCO International Research Centre on AI, the Advisory Board for international company ADI, the AI and Philanthropy Steering Committee of the partnership on AI and the Board of Earth Species Project. She is on the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on AI and their AI Governance Alliance. Kay has advanced degrees in Law and International Relations and regularly speaks to international audiences addressing many aspects of the beneficial and challenging technical, economic, legal, geo-political, and social changes arising from the use of AI. Kay is an Associate Barrister (Doughty Street Chambers), Master of the Inner Temple, London, and served on the Lord Chief Justice's Advisory Panel on AI and Law. She has been consistently recognized as a leading woman in AI since 2018 and was featured in the New York Times as one of 10 Women Changing the Landscape of Leadership.



**LEARN MORE ABOUT
KAY FIRTH-
BUTTERFIELD**

ESTEAMED SPEAKERS SERIES

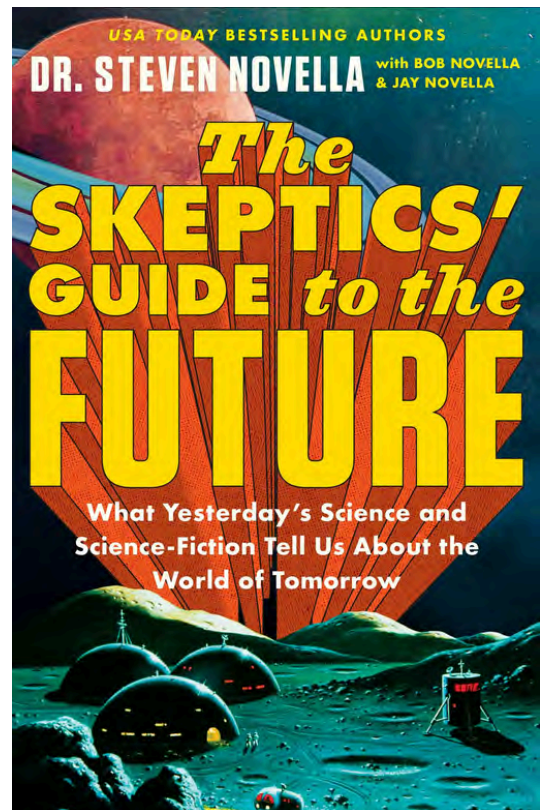


DR. STEVEN NOVELLA

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF NEUROLOGY, SCIENCE COMMUNICATOR & BESTSELLING AUTHOR

Keynote Speaker
Tuesday, August 6

Dr. Steven Novella is an academic clinical neurologist at Yale University School of Medicine and is host and producer of "The Skeptics' Guide to the Universe" (SGU). He also co-hosts "Alpha Quadrant 6," a science-fiction review show. He is the author of the bestselling book *The Skeptics Guide to the Universe: How to Know What's Really Real in a World Increasingly Full of Fake*. Dr. Novella has made multiple appearances on NPR's *All Things Considered* and is a frequent guest on radio talk shows and science podcasts. His television credits include *The Dr. Oz Show*, *Penn & Teller Bullsh*t*, *20/20*, *Inside Edition*, *The History Channel*, *The Unexplained on A&E*, *Ricki Lake*, and *Exploring the Unknown*. When not podcasting, he also authors the popular and award-winning *NeuroLogica* blog and is senior editor of *Science-Based Medicine*, an influential medical blog dedicated to issues of science and medicine. Dr. Novella is the founder and president of the *New England Skeptical Society*, a fellow of the *Committee for Skeptical Inquiry (CSI)*, and founding chairman of the *Institute for Science in Medicine*.



**CHECK OUT
THE SKEPTICS GUIDE TO THE
UNIVERSE PODCAST**



*"In this age of real and fake information, your ability to reason, to think in scientifically skeptical fashion, is the most important skill you can have. Read *The Skeptics' Guide Universe*; get better at reasoning. And if this claim about the importance of reason is wrong, *The Skeptics' Guide* will help you figure that out, too."*

- Bill Nye

ESTEAMED SPEAKERS SERIES

FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIAL STEAM PRESENTATIONS

WALKER SMITH & JORDAN WIRFS-BROCK

PERFORMING DATA: BRINGING DATA TO LIFE THROUGH PARTICIPATION, EMBODIMENT AND IMMERSION

In a world increasingly focused on data, how can we understand and relate to abstract datasets, and the stories they tell?

In this performance about performances, Walker Smith and Jordan Wirfs-Brock will guide you through what they term Data Performances, a newly evolving genre that extends data storytelling into immersive, participatory experiences. We live in a world of data, constantly bombarded by data streams that we not only want to understand, but also relate to on a deep, human level. How can we transform data into inspiring stories and share those with audiences in immersive, participatory ways?

Data Performances leverage nontraditional, multisensory representations such as sonification, visceralization, and physicalization, allowing audiences to experience data through sound, physical interaction, and other sensory modalities. Drawing from a broad range of disciplines and performance/communication styles—including music, theater, podcasts, teaching, guided meditations, TED Talks, performance art, and science communication — Data Performances create participatory experiences emphasizing the social, interpersonal, and experiential aspects of data communication.

The emergence of AI tools gives us an opportunity to reflect on – and embrace – our own humanity, our relationship to computers and large datasets, and how we can use our human capacities to understand data. This year’s show is guided by the following questions:

- How can we use performance to understand the underlying data behind AI models?
- How will AI tools change the way we relate to performance – how we do it, how we practice, even how we might co-perform with technology?
- How is the algorithmic curation/generation of content affecting the way we consume and relate to information, as well as misinformation?

After discovering general principles of Data Performances and experiencing examples of works by the show’s authors and others in related fields, STEAM Scholars will walk away with specific techniques that they can use to create their own data performances. Beyond inspiring future “data performers,” this experience aims more broadly to inspire the next generation of data storytellers, equipping them with the tools to communicate complex information in captivating and memorable ways and foster a shared, social connection to information.

Data does not speak for itself – and it certainly doesn’t perform itself. How could you take data from an issue that you are interested in and create an immersive, participatory data performance to communicate your ideas?



WALKER SMITH

RECENT INDIANA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE, ‘MUSICAL CHEMIST’, SCIENCE PERFORMER

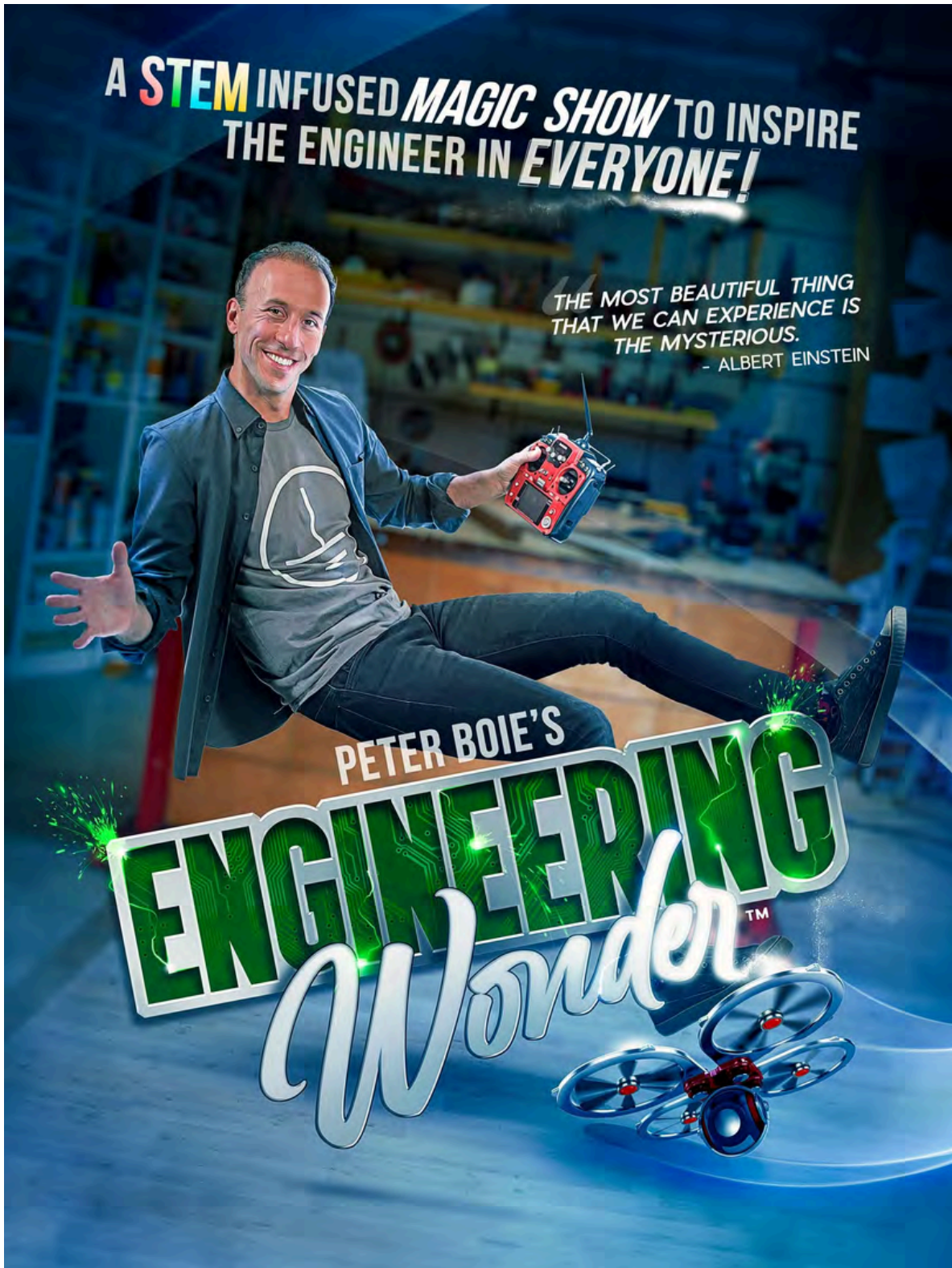


JORDAN WIRFS-BROCK

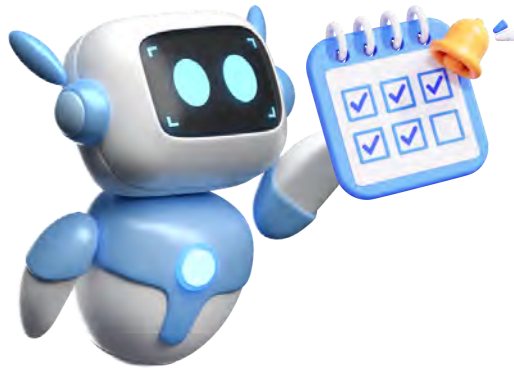
HUMAN-COMPUTER INTERACTION RESEARCHER, COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATOR, DATA DESIGNER

ESTEAMED SPEAKERS SERIES

FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIAL STEAM PRESENTATIONS



THANK YOU TO OUR DIAMOND SPONSOR



**SAVE THE DATE:
MOHAWK VALLEY GIVES
'GIVING DAY'
15 SEPTEMBER 20TH!**



SPECIAL WORKSHOP

STEAMPUNK TIME TRAVEL ADVENTURE MAKING A STEAM PUNK TIME-O-GRAPH



Join us for a one-of-a-kind workshop that combines history, art, engineering, and technology in an amazing Steampunk time travel experience where you'll actually converse with an historical or fictional figure through AI ChatGPT! Discover the fascinating connections between art, history, science and artificial intelligence as you explore the imaginative world of Steampunk art and design. You'll create your very own Steampunk-inspired time machine - the Time-O-Graph. Repurposed from an antique phonograph crank handle player, clock face and vintage parts - this unique functional art piece will not only be a fantastic time traveling conversation piece letting you converse with an historical figure, but also a practical phone or tablet holder for your home or office.

BRUCE ROSENBAUM

Special Workshop Presenter

Bruce Rosenbaum is an American artist and designer based out of Palmer, MA. He is known for his work in Steampunk design, both in his home, The Steampunk House, and for what has produced by his company, ModVic. Bruce has been called the 'Steampunk Guru' by the Wall Street Journal and the 'Steampunk Evangelist' by Wired Magazine.

Rosenbaum and his wife started ModVic (from Modern Victorian), a Victorian-home restoration company, in 2007. ModVic is a steampunk art and design company that repurposes antiques and salvaged objects by transforming them into useful residential and commercial items.

Projects include his personal computer workstation housed in a Victorian pump organ, a 6-foot mechanical whale for a hotel in Nantucket, Massachusetts, and a late 1800s bandsaw repurposed as a conference table and workstation.



Bruce Rosenbaum and his work have been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Boston Globe*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The New York Times*, *CNN*, *Huffington Post*, *NPR* and featured on *MTV*, *A&E*, *Discovery* and *HGTV*.

ADDITIONAL WORKSHOP EXAMPLES

NEW FOR 2024 - WORKSHOP SELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE CONFERENCE



WHAT IS IT IN THE BLACKBOX AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

Dr. Jithin Jagannath - ANDRO Computational Solutions, LLC

Join Dr. Jithin Jagannath, Director of the Marconi-Rosenblatt AI/ML Laboratory at ANDRO, and gain insight into artificial intelligence and machine learning principles, real-world applications, and ethical considerations. Understand AI algorithms, their impact, and how they function.



EXPLORING CHATGPT

Mohawk Valley Community College Instructor

Participants in the workshop will learn about ChatGPT's fundamentals, technology based on the GPT model, and practical examples of its applications in enhancing interactions and automating responses across industries. Live demonstrations will showcase ChatGPT's ability to generate human-like text responses.



MAKE YOUR OWN AI CONSTITUTION

Joseph Rosenbaum - Director of Digital Learning, Technology & Innovation, Yeshiva University

Prepare for a final project of putting AI on trial by exploring ethical, legal, and societal aspects of artificial intelligence. Gain insights on AI rights, responsibilities, and regulatory frameworks. Develop critical thinking skills for a trial simulation while shaping AI governance.



LLM AI/ML APPLIED TO CONTACT CENTERS

Jean Pierre Ferrada - Deloitte Consulting

In this session, we will dive into the practical applications of Large Language Models (LLM) and Machine Learning (ML) within the contact center environment. Discover how these technologies can enhance interactions, streamline operations, and provide actionable insights from vast amounts of data.



WHO WOULD EVER WANT A ROBOT DOG?

Dr. Dave DeProspero- Air Force Research Laboratory

Explore Fluffy, a robotic dog, and an AFRL HUMVEE. Learn about Fluffy's engineering, technology, and applications in military operations. Witness a live demonstration of Fluffy's capabilities and discover the broader implications of robotic technology.



NAVIGATING ETHICAL CHALLENGES

Kevin Morrisroe - Math & Ethics Educator (Ret.), Notre Dame High School

Participants will explore the ethical dimensions of AI, learning about responsible development and the Tenets of Humane Technology. This session is essential for those interested in the intersection of technology and ethics, offering insights to shape AI's future positively.



UNDERSTANDING THE (HUMAN) WRITING PROCESS

Tim Carter, Poet, Educator, Program Director - YMCA

Participants will be able to explain how general intelligence machines like ChatGPT work by using relatable metaphors. Describe the (human) writing process by creating a visual/linguistic diagram. Relate the human writing process generally, and specific historical writing movements like Surrealism, to how general intelligence machines work.

ADDITIONAL STEAM WORKSHOPS



CERAMICS & STEAM

Julia Pilny - Retired Engineer & Artist

Scholars will learn how the creation of ceramics embodies all aspects of STEAM and why ceramics is a popular alternative to materials such as plastic. Participants will also be able to create and apply glaze to items that they can take home!



UTICA ZOO MOBILE

Join us for an exciting adventure with the Utica Zoomobile Workshop! This unique experience brings the wonder of the animal kingdom right to our doorstep. Led by the Utica Zoo's knowledgeable staff, participants will have the chance to meet a variety of animals up close. Discover fascinating facts about their traits, behaviors, and habitats in an engaging, interactive environment.



OPEN AIR SUCCULENT TERRARIUM

Ashley Galligan - Geodesic Love

Join a hands-on succulent terrarium workshop to design your personalized miniature garden. Choose a succulent, glass dish, and decorations to create a magical ecosystem. Learn essential succulent care tips and receive an affirmation card for positivity. Perfect for adding greenery and creativity to your life.



SCIENCE OF THE PARANORMAL

Richard Nikodem, Peter Leonard, Travis Dean & Kevin Yourdon - Agent Paranormal

Agent Paranormal is a local paranormal team that has investigated haunted locations across the nation. The workshop will educate you on the protocols and equipment used to investigate the paranormal. The team will touch upon technology, gear, and share some of their best evidence.



PAINTING WILD

Erin Horender - Owner of Painting Wild

Dive into acrylic painting with a workshop for all levels. Learn color mixing, brush techniques, and composition with personalized guidance. Express creativity on canvas in a supportive environment.



RENEWABLE ENERGY AND YOU

Dr. Aarthi Sekaran - Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering

Discover the fascinating world of renewable energy as you immerse yourself in the process of creating innovative models that harness the power of wind and solar energy. This unique hands-on experience will not only deepen your understanding of sustainable technologies but also ignite your creativity and problem-solving skills. Get ready to unleash your imagination and bring your eco-friendly designs to life as you embark on this exciting and educational adventure.



MACRAME PLANT HANGER

Tatianna Moragne - Fiber Artist & Business Owner

In these macrame workshops, students will learn multiple macrame knots. Students will use these knots to create a beautiful macrame plant hanger using cotton rope. Later, they can place a potted plant into their plant hangers and admire their creation.

ADDITIONAL STEAM WORKSHOPS



COOKIE DECORATING 101

Maggie McGrath - The Sweet Life of a Baker

During this fun and engaging workshop, participants will have the opportunity to unleash their creativity and learn tips and tricks from the talented baker, Maggie McGrath. With her guidance, they will be able to experiment with different techniques, colors, and designs to create their very own unique cookie masterpieces. Get ready to indulge in the sweetest adventure and bring your cookie decorating skills to the next level!



THE STRUGGLE IS REAL

Rachelle Guitian - Smart Carriers & Tamalin Martin - The Project Fibonacci Foundation, Inc.

This workshop will guide you on a journey of self-discovery and growth, where discomfort and failure are redefined as essential components of success. In today's fast-paced world, the journey to success is often paved with discomfort, failure, and moments of self-doubt. These do not have to be roadblocks but can be stepping stones to achieving your fullest potential. Welcome to "the struggle is real," a transformative workshop designed specifically for young professionals like you.



SELF-DEFENSE

Sensei David Bruce, American Karate, Rome, NY

Join us for an empowering self-defense workshop led by Sensei David Bruce of American Karate! This dynamic session is designed for individuals of all skill levels who are eager to learn practical techniques for personal safety and confidence. Sensei David, a seasoned martial artist, will guide participants through fundamental self-defense moves, situational awareness strategies, and essential safety tips and the underlying math and force multiplier science.



BARBERSHOP MUSIC & STEAM

Mohawk Valley Chapter's Full Circle Quartet

Dive into the harmonious world of barbershop music with our engaging Barbershop Music & STEAM Workshop! This workshop provides scholars a unique opportunity to explore the rich history of barbershop singing while delving into the fascinating science of sound. Participants will learn about harmonics, dissonance, and consonance, gaining a deeper understanding of how these elements create the distinctive barbershop sound.

Beyond the technical aspects, this workshop also highlights the profound impact of music on our emotions and physical well-being. Through interactive discussions and activities, scholars will discover the powerful connection between music and our emotional responses, and how melodies and harmonies can influence our mood and health.

SPECIAL WORKSHOP

THE SCIENCE OF IMPROV

Devin Mahony & the Uptown Improv Company



Join us for an exhilarating workshop on the Science of Improv, presented in collaboration with the talented team from Uptown Theatre of Creative Arts (UTCA) Uptown Improv Company! This unique class is designed to enhance communication, creativity, and collaboration within your teams through fun and interactive exercises. Improvisation is great for developing these skills because it requires individuals to think quickly on their feet, listen actively, and how to support your teammates. Whether you're preparing for a final project presentation or simply looking to improve your public speaking and interpersonal skills, this workshop is tailored to help you succeed.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to the UTCA team for their in-kind support!
Learn more about UTCA at utca.org

WAKE-UP WORKSHOPS



GRIFFISS PARK RUN & WALK

Billy & Danny Bernabe

Experience the refreshing morning air as you lace up your shoes and hit the trails with the Bernabe brothers at the Griffiss Business & Technology Park. Whether you're up for a brisk run or a leisurely walk, start the day off right with some fun in the sun!*

*Weather permitting :)



MORNING YOGA

Nicole Hayman-Sherman - Just Breathe Yoga Studio

Students who are interested can participate in a morning yoga class led by Nicole Hayman-Sherman, instructor and owner of Just Breathe Yoga Studio. Nicole is a Registered Yoga Teacher (ERYT500) and a Grand Master of Yoga through the World Yoga Federation. She has been teaching in CNY for 12 years, having over 8000+ hours of teaching experience.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO JUST BREATHE YOGA STUDIO FOR THEIR IN-KIND
YOGA CLASS DONATIONS

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, POOL & GYM USE

The hotel pool and gym offer a great opportunity for STEAM Scholars to relax and stay active during designated social times of the conference. It's important to note that the safety of our students is paramount, which is why a Project Fibonacci® chaperone must always be present when using any gym equipment or swimming in the pool. This ensures that students can enjoy these amenities in a safe and supervised environment.

Each night of the conference, we'll have social activities available for STEAM Scholars to make the most out of their experience. From a drum circle hosted by Lead With Rhythm to an outdoor movie night from FunFlicks, there's something for everyone to enjoy outside of the pool and gym. Stay tuned for more fun-filled activities to come!



SPECIAL
THANK YOU TO TACNY
FOR SPONSORING OUR
OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT!



OFF-SITE TOURS

EXPLORING STEAM IN CNY



MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Utica, NY

Explore the Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI), a not-for-profit institute dedicated to improving the health and quality of life for all. STEAM Scholars will tour the lab and institute, learning about their ongoing research and opportunities. MMRI is an internationally recognized biomedical research institute founded by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of New York in 1958.



MUNSON WILLIAMS PROCTOR ARTS INSTITUTE

Utica, NY

STEAM Scholars will participate in a guided tour of the Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute (MWPAI) to gain detailed insights into the different artworks on display. Founded in 1919, Munson-Williams-Proctor-Arts-Institute, and updated in 2023, Munson continues to evolve while maintaining traditions of fine art and culture. The Museum of Art features a renowned permanent collection, fascinating exhibitions, and education for all ages in an International-style gallery building designed by architect Philip Johnson and also in Fountain Elms, a Victorian-era Italianate mansion with galleries and period rooms.



MVCC GAME ART LAB

Utica, NY

During their visit to Mohawk Valley Community College, the STEAM Scholars will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the fascinating world of Game Art. The first lab they will explore focuses on 3D modeling and digital sculpting, where they will learn how to bring their creative visions to life in a virtual space. From shaping characters and environments to intricately detailing textures, this lab will provide a hands-on experience in the art of digital creation.

In the second lab, the scholars will delve into the realm of game engine implementation and 3D printing. Here, they will discover how games come to life through the seamless integration of graphics, physics, and interactivity. By learning about the intricacies of game engines, they will gain insight into the technical aspects of game development and how to optimize performance for a seamless gaming experience.



**LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE MVCC LABS**



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR



ANDRO
Leading Edge Communications

ANDRO Computational Solutions, LLC, established in 1994, is dedicated to research, development, and application of advanced computing solutions and products for wireless communications, intelligent spectrum management, and C5ISR for defense and commercial customers.

ANDRO enables future growth markets in edge computing and communications today, to give early adopters a first mover market advantage and gain market dominance as others follow.

CORE TECHNOLOGIES

- Waveform Development
- Policy-Governed Dynamic Spectrum Access
- Intelligent Spectrum Management
- Next G & Multi-Access Edge Computing
- Cognitive Radios & Software Defined Networking using Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning
- Blockchain-supported HyperLedger Fabric for Decentralized Mesh Networks
- C5ISR (Including Data Fusion & Tracking)
- Sensor Resource Management
- Cosite/EME Toolkits & Independent Studies
- Cyber-Secure Wireless Communications
- Quantum Communications

DR. ANDREW DROZD
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FRED FRANTZ
ffrantz@androcs.com

ANDROCS.COM

WHAT TO PACK

CLOTHING:

- Jeans
- T-Shirts
- Shorts
- Shirts
- Athletic Clothes
- Formal Outfit for Closing Ceremonies

DON'T FORGET!

- Pajamas
- Undergarments
- Socks
- Comfortable Walking Shoes
- Bathing Suit
- Jacket/Sweater/Hoodie
- Cell Phone/Charger
- Medications - All medications (including over the counter medications) must be listed on your medical release form and will be administered by the on-site medics

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Bug spray
- Musical Instruments
- Art Supplies
- Snacks - *We provide meals & snacks daily but feel free to bring your own favorites!*
- Cash / Card- Keynote speaker books and merchandise will be available for purchase at a discounted rate for STEAM Scholars

FORMS TO BE COMPLETED PRIOR

- Code of Conduct - to signed by STEAM Scholar and parent/guardian
- Medical Release Form - to be completed by parent/guardian
- Photo Release Form - signed by STEAM Scholar and parent/guardian

TOILETRIES:

The hotel will provide shampoo, conditioner, and soap but feel free to bring your own!

- Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Soap
- Deodarant
- Brush/Comb
- Sunscreen



IMPORTANT

- We are not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen items.
- Review the 2024 Code of Conduct for a list of restricted and prohibited items.
- Submit your medical release form prior to the conference.
- In the case of disciplinary actions for STEAM Scholars that violate the Code of Conduct, parents will be contacted.

ATTENTION PARENTS

To ensure the safety and security of all participants, specific details regarding the times and locations of these events will be shared with parents and legal guardians as the dates approach. This action helps us maintain a secure environment for everyone involved.

Additionally, we kindly ask all parents and legal guardians to carefully read and acknowledge the Parents Code of Conduct. This document is crucial for ensuring a positive and productive atmosphere for all attendees. By understanding and agreeing to this code, you help us create a supportive and respectful community that benefits all our STEAM Scholars. Thank you for your cooperation and enthusiasm.

OPENING DAY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4
ROME, NY

Join your STEAM Scholar during the check-in process. Check-in will include a review of the medical release form, and an overview of the code of conduct. Our team will be available to answer any questions and provide local recommendations if you are not from the area!

CLOSING DAY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10
ROME, NY

Parents and families are encouraged to join us for the closing ceremonies.

9:00-10:00

Poster Presentations

- STEAM Scholars will present their final poster & tabletop projects.

10:00-11:30

Final Project Pitches

- Each team will have 15 minutes to pitch their final projects on stage.
- Vote for your favorite project - the winning team will receive some great prizes!



11:30-12:15

6th Annual Project Fibonacci® STEAM Leadership Conference Closing Ceremonies

- Retrospective videos with highlights from the week, the awards ceremony
- *Winners of the STEAM Project Fair will be announced.*

12:30-2:00

Lunch & Reflections

- Pizza Party & STEAM Scholars can introduce their families to their new Fibonacci Friends!

1:00-2:30

STEAM Scholar Departure - All students must be picked up by their parent or guardian by 2:30.

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: Workshop Pre-Selection: STEAM Scholars are advised to carefully read through workshop descriptions and choose their preferred options in advance. Keep in mind that certain workshops are mandatory for all scholars. By selecting workshops early, students can secure their spots and enable us to create a personalized schedule for each STEAM Scholar before the conference begins. Stay tuned for further updates.

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?

Parents are encouraged to join their STEAM Scholars during the check-in process on opening day and join us on the final day for Project Presentations and the Closing Ceremony!

GET INVOLVED

DONATE

Donating is the greatest way you can impact the Project Fibonacci® Foundation and ensure its continued success and growth. All donations are fully tax-deductible.

FUEL YOUR FUTURE FAIR

Companies, organizations, and academic institutions are encouraged to join us and exhibit for free!

VOLUNTEER

We rely on our extensive volunteer network to help provide a safe and creative learning environment for our STEAM Scholars.

STAY CONNECTED

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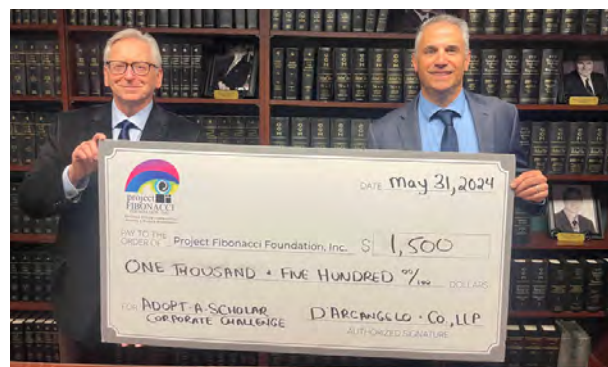
Our annual STEAM Leadership Conference's success hinges on the support from our network of sponsors and donors. Your tax-deductible contribution will enable students from New York State and beyond to participate in this impactful event. Kindly consider donating, sponsoring a student, or becoming a general sponsor. Every dollar contributes significantly to our conference and our ongoing STEAM initiative.

By joining us, you become a crucial part of a community dedicated to fostering innovation, creativity, and leadership among the next generation. We believe that through collective effort, we can inspire young minds to reach their full potential and drive meaningful change in their communities and beyond.

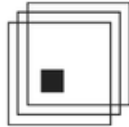
In addition to financial contributions, we welcome in-kind donations, such as materials for workshops, technological equipment, or even volunteer time. Each form of support helps us enrich the conference experience and provide valuable resources to our attendees.

To express our gratitude, all sponsors will be recognized on our website, social media platforms, and at the conference itself. This visibility not only acknowledges your generosity but also aligns your brand with a cause that champions leadership education and the future growth of STEAM fields.

Together, we can make a lasting impact. Thank you for considering supporting the STEAM Leadership Conference. Your generosity fuels the dreams and ambitions of tomorrow's leaders and reinvests in our community.



THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS



Mele Family Fund

Dr. Mitchell Wilbert, D.D.S.



Bernhard Family Scholarship

Charles A. Kaplan Foundation

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GRIFFISS INSTITUTE

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