

# 2025 ADVANCE PROGRAM

**7th Annual  
Project Fibonacci® STEAM  
Leadership Conference**

**JULY 27-AUGUST 2**

**Griffiss Business & Technology Park  
Rome, NY**



[info@projectfibonacci.org](mailto:info@projectfibonacci.org)



[ProjectFibonacci.org](https://ProjectFibonacci.org)



PO Box 424, Rome, NY 13442-0424



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# MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER



Dear Scholars, Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual STEAM Leadership Conference, proudly hosted by the Project Fibonacci® Foundation. As founder and foundation chairman, it is my honor to welcome you to this extraordinary gathering of bright minds and future thought leaders.

This year, our conference, themed "The Science of the Unknown: Living in a Material World," will explore the fascinating boundary between fact and speculation, diving into the mysteries of modern, space-age technologies and materials to help ground our reality. Are these technologies, materials and concepts real or just in the realm of fantasy and conjecture?

Together, we will seek to unravel these questions, pushing the limits of our understanding and imagination by leveraging our critical thinking skills and collaborative, inquiry-based learning methods tapping into the domains of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.

Throughout the conference, you will engage with experts and peers in a collaborative environment designed to spark curiosity and bridge imagination towards innovation. Our focus will be on cutting-edge materials and technologies that challenge our perceptions and expand our horizons. By examining these advancements, our aim will be to illuminate the path from science fiction to science fact.

Our goal is to equip you, our newest cohort, along with educators and business leaders, with the skills and insights needed to become the next generation of scientists, artists, thinkers, and entrepreneurs. The world is full of unknowns, but with your dedication and passion, you have the potential to shape the future. We are committed to providing you with the tools and opportunities to thrive in a world where the only constant is change.

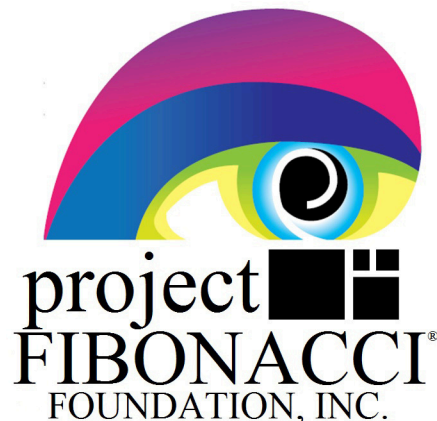
As you embark on this journey, remember that exploration and curiosity are at the heart of progress. Embrace the unknown, challenge assumptions, and let your creativity guide you. We are thrilled to have you with us and look forward to the incredible contributions you will make.

Thank you for joining us at the Project Fibonacci® Foundation's STEAM Leadership Conference. Let us venture into the unknown together and illuminate the possibilities that lie ahead.

Full STEAM Ahead!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew L Drozd".

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





# ABOUT PROJECT FIBONACCI®

The Project Fibonacci® Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to delivering 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 nontraditional STEM curiosity, including artistic creativity to spur technological innovation, catalyze workforce preparedness, and contribute to economic development on a broad scale.

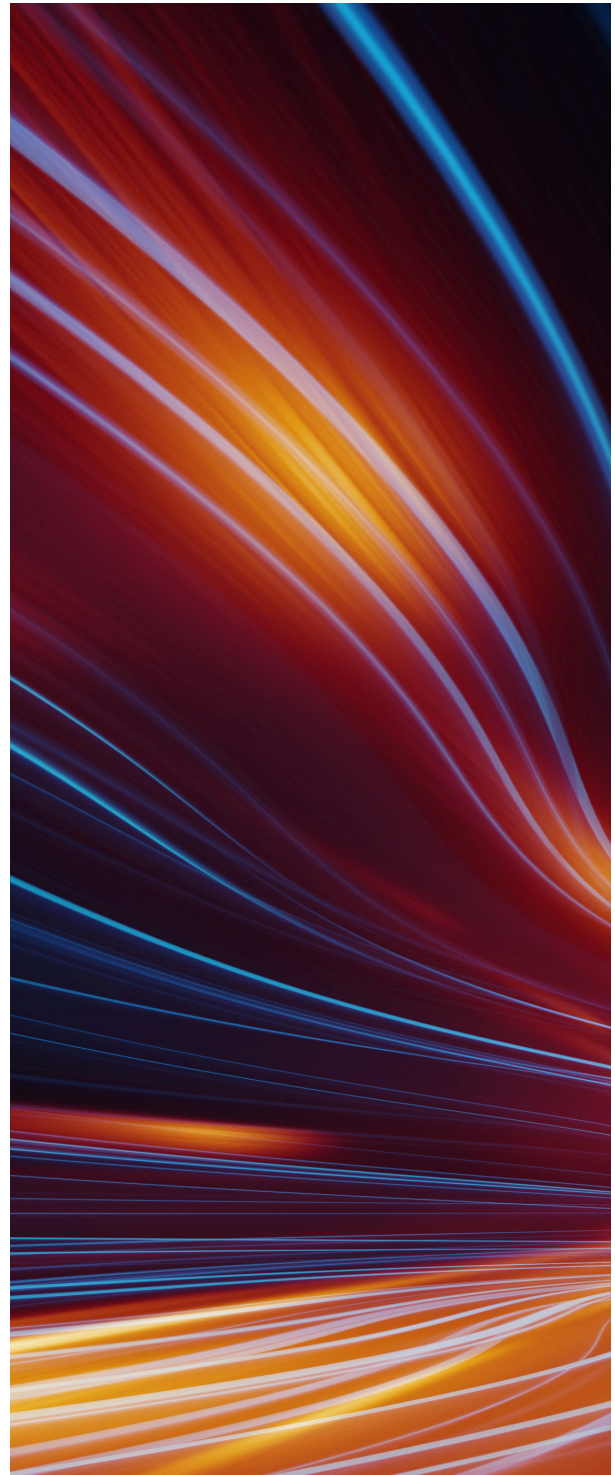
We use the ARTS to grow tomorrow's STEM workforce, to cultivate a mindset of limitless possibilities, and guide the development of an inclusive cohort of diverse critical thinkers to tackle complex STEM problems, address future socio-technological challenges, and act as an AGENT to promote the creation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





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



### DR. ANDY DROZD

Chairman of the Board & Founder  
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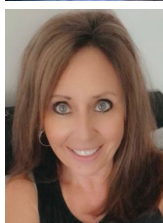
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Research Committee IME,  
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STEAM Outreach  
Superintendent, RCSD



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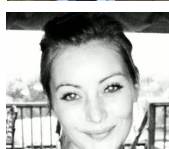
## **DR. ANDY DROZD\***

Founder/ Chairman of the Board  
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## **EVAN DROZD\***

Media Production  
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## **JESSICA GRIFFIN\***

Workshops Coordinator  
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## **DEB GROGRAN**

Community Outreach  
First Source Federal Credit Union



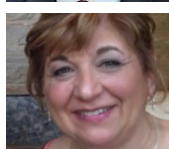
## **AMY JAWORSKI\***

2025 Conference Manager  
ANDRO



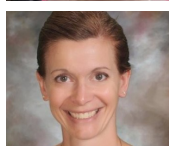
## **ANDREW KENNEDY**

STEAM Outreach  
Oriskany Jr./Sr. HS



## **PAM MANDRYCK\***

Grants Writer  
ANDRO



## **PENNY MANN**

Curriculum & STEAM Outreach  
Oriskany Jr./Sr. HS



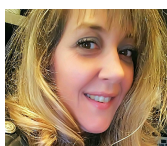
## **KEVIN MARKEN**

Community Outreach  
On Point for College



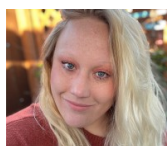
## **TAMALIN MARTIN\***

Executive Co-Chairperson  
Retired School Administrator



## **MICHELLE MINICOZZI\***

Volunteer Coordinator & Digital Marketing  
ANDRO



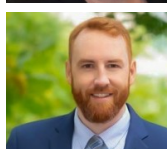
## **COURTNEY NEWVINE\***

Registration Chairperson  
ANDRO



## **JULIA PILNY**

STEAM Outreach  
Artist



## **JOHN READE**

STEAM Outreach  
SUNY Polytechnic Institute



## **BRUCE ROSENBAUM**

STEAM Outreach & Curriculum  
Modvic



## **RAMONA SMITH\***

Community Outreach  
Rome Council Woman



## **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



# OUR IMPACT

The Project Fibonacci® Foundation hosts a variety of impactful programs annually, all designed to inspire the next generation of scientists, artists, and business entrepreneurs and to reinvest in local economic revitalization. These programs collectively work towards supporting educational advancement, STEM workforce preparedness, and economic prosperity.

Our programs include:

- **STEAM Leadership Conference**
  - A dynamic week-long event for students in grades 9-12 to explore innovative ideas, engage with STEM experts, practice networking and effective communication, and participate in collaborative, hands-on, inquiry-based learning.
- **ILiFT Literacy Program**
  - Enhances literacy skills for all ages, encouraging a love for reading and lifelong learning using STEAM storytelling tools. For children aged 3-5, it offers families practical tips and free books to support early literacy and scholastic advancement.
- **STEAM Women Rising Symposium**
  - An energetic event that celebrates and empowers young women to pursue STEAM fields. Featuring inspirational discussions with entrepreneurs, educators, and community leaders to motivate and guide aspiring women professionals.
- **Tap Into STEAM**
  - A community event that unites efforts to raise funds for local nonprofits while promoting STEAM education and encouraging local business and community involvement.
- **Innovation Camps**
  - Interactive camps designed to foster creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills through hands-on activities.
- **ESTEAMed Speakers Series**
  - Keynote presentations showcasing globally recognized experts and celebrities, designed to motivate and empower community members and students alike.
- **Educator Professional Development (PD) Days**
  - Aims to improve teaching methods by showcasing the latest technologies and innovative learning strategies. Through engaging workshops and seminars, educators gain practical skills to enhance their instruction.

*Students have traveled from various locations, including Massachusetts, New York City, Maine, Florida, Washington, Georgia, Delaware, and even France, to participate in PFF events in Rome, NY!*



## ONEIDA COUNTY

- 2015-2025 Foundation Headquarters
- 2016-2025 STEAM Leadership Conference
- ESTEAMed Speakers Series & LifeSTREAM Series
- Innovation & Drone Camps
- Food Distribution - *Over 500 families monthly*
- ILiFT Collaboration with MVCAA
- STEAM Women Rising Symposium
- Annual Tap Into STEAM Fundraiser - *Benefits nonprofits serving Herkimer & Oneida Counties*

6



OSWEGO  
COUNTY

FCSD Two Week Summer  
Innovation Camp,  
STEAM Conference Scholars



ONONDAGA  
COUNTY

Diocesan Innovation Camps,  
STEAM Conference Scholars



HERKIMER  
COUNTY

BOCES Innovation Camps,  
STEAM Conference Scholars,  
Fundraising Collaborations



MADISON  
COUNTY

HCSO One Week  
Summer Camp,  
STEAM Conference Scholars



ALBANY  
COUNTY

2018 IEEE EPICS  
Winning Team,  
STEAM Conference Scholars

# \$135K+

2025 Conference re-investment  
back into our community by  
utilizing local services, hotels,  
presenters, venues & suppliers

# 570+

High school and college  
students have attended the  
Annual STEAM Leadership  
Conference since 2016

# 300+

Students in Grades Pre-K  
through College will participate  
in 2025 Project Fibonacci®  
Programs

# 75+

Local Volunteers &  
Presenters Support PFF  
Year-Round Programs



# NYSTEC

YOUR INDEPENDENT TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR

## Supporting the Development of Our Future Leaders

As the world becomes more complex, the need for experts in the fields of science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) increases dramatically.

**NYSTEC is committed to supporting STEAM education in the communities where we live and work.**




### **IgniteU: Powered by NYSTEC**

IgniteU provides specialized services, individualized consulting, and educational programs to students, entrepreneurs, and small business owners throughout New York State.

### **Other ways NYSTEC support STEAM education:**

- The **IgniteU STEAM program** is committed to expanding access to education focusing on creating successful programs, career exposure, and role models in STEAM fields.
- **IgniteU NY** supports the **51st Annual MVEEC Project: SITES Shadow Day Program**. This program offers students the opportunity to explore careers in applied science, research, and math while gaining valuable insight into their strengths, interests, and future career paths.
- The **IgniteU Fellowship** connects students with real-life industry stakeholders in the STEAM fields to foster relationships, partnerships, and other real-world engagements.

**Independent.  
Nonprofit.  
Unbiased.**

 **1-888-9-NYSTEC**  
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# THE SCIENCE OF THE UNKNOWN: LIVING IN A MATERIAL WORLD

**JULY 27 - AUGUST 2, 2025**

The 2025 conference promises an exciting exploration of the fascinating crossroads between science fact and fiction. Proven critical-thinking strategies used in Scandinavian schools provide a basis for critiquing strategies used to discern reality from speculation via scientific evidence across a range of topics, scenarios, and use cases. Special emphasis will be on modern and space-age materials, many of which are being researched and manufactured by Mohawk Valley industries. Tailored for students aged 15 to 19, the week-long conference offers them an opportunity to critically delve into a variety of intriguing STEAM-related subjects, some of which have captured human curiosity and imagination for ages and that span topics in aerospace engineering and space travel to the fashion industry and beyond, including the realms of metamaterials and semiconductor chips. The conference will introduce our student cohort to companies at the forefront of innovative materials science and production that shape future technology such as the quantum realm. Students will participate in workshops with industry experts to gain hands-on experience with transformative materials in aerospace, electronics, and fields that push the boundaries of what we understand today. Group sessions will explore the influences that have led to technologies and devices we use today through the lens of science fiction literature and cinema. Inquiry-based approaches will be applied to various use cases covering topics on extraterrestrial life, unidentified aerial phenomenon, and other controversial topics. The conference promises to offer an engaging and transformative experience for participants that will expand opportunities and avenues for intelligent, thoughtful inquiry providing for a unique and memorable STEAM experience! Don't miss out on this opportunity!

## FROM IMAGINATION TO INNOVATION



**Hands-On Learning  
with STEM Experts**



**Academic &  
Professional  
Advantage**



**Celebrity Keynote  
Speakers**



**Collaboration with  
Students from Across  
NYS & Beyond**



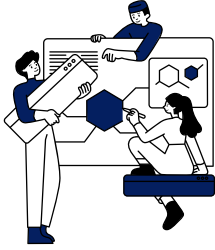
**Enhanced Critical  
Thinking Skills**

### Eligibility for STEAM Scholars:

- Students aged 15 to 19
- Enthusiastic about STEM, STEAM, and/or professional growth
- Must be recommended by a teacher, mentor, or guidance counselor\*

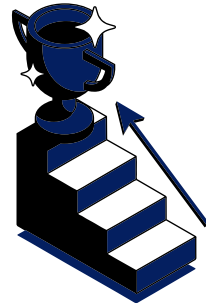
\*RETURNING STEAM SCHOLARS DO NOT NEED A REFERENCE

# PROJECT OVERVIEW



The project throughout the week will be an engaging and collaborative event designed to foster teamwork, critical thinking, and innovative problem-solving skills. STEAM Scholars will be organized into smaller sub-teams, (Red 1, Red 2, Red 3, etc.) to ensure a focused and dynamic experience. Each day, teams will engage in Jeopardy-style activities, selecting clues worth varying points. These clues are crafted to challenge your intellect and creativity, prompting in-depth discussions and research.

Throughout the day, teams will have scheduled time to convene, delve into their selected clues, and prepare a Jeopardy Presentation Pitch. The pitch will aim to prove or disprove the given clue through well-researched findings and innovative presentations, which they will present to a panel of judges. The week will culminate in a thrilling point tally, where the top-scoring teams earn the opportunity to showcase their Final Jeopardy findings to the public. These teams can strategically wager their points in hopes of becoming the ultimate Jeopardy champions.



In addition to the core activities, participants will benefit from daily challenges, team-building exercises, and enriching workshops, all designed to enhance their skills and camaraderie. Exciting prizes await those who demonstrate exceptional ingenuity and teamwork. Join us for a week of learning, competition, and fun, where every clue is a gateway to discovery and success.

## CURRICULUM COMMITTEE



**BOB BOJANEK**  
Entrepreneur,  
PFF Co-Chairperson



**DR. STEVEN NOVELLA**  
Associate Professor of Neurology, Science  
Communicator & Best Selling Author



**DR. ANDY DROZD**  
President,  
ANDRO Computational Solutions, LLC



**DEB VAN SLYKE**  
Retired Director of Curriculum &  
Instruction, Clinton CSD



**TAMALIN MARTIN**  
Retired School Administrator,  
PFF Co-Chairperson







# HOW TO ATTEND

Your participation in the conference will equip you with essential skills for your next chapter, whether that be in academia or your career. Together, we will delve into critical thinking, leadership, entrepreneurship, communication, and much more. You'll have the chance to collaborate with students from across New York State and beyond, engaging in hands-on learning while receiving guidance from experts in the field. The guidebook will serve as your resource for attending, including information on how to support your tuition for this transformative conference. It contains vital details about the 2025 STEAM Leadership Conference, such as payment plans, scholarship opportunities, and other support options. Our aim is to ensure that every student, regardless of their financial situation, has the chance to attend and gain from this valuable experience.

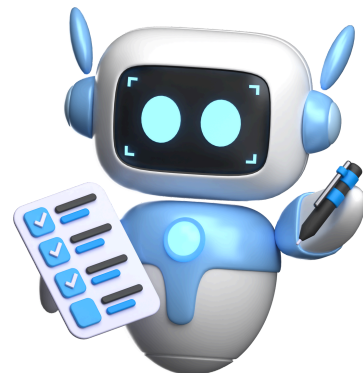
- ☐ **Self-Nomination:** Complete the Scholar Self-Nomination Form: All interested scholars must fill out this form to express their interest in attending the conference.
- ☐ **Reference Nomination Form:** *New Scholars Only* If you are a new scholar, ensure that a Reference Nomination Form is completed and submitted on your behalf.
- ☐ **Schedule a Virtual Interview:** New Scholars Only: After both forms are received, the registration chairperson will reach out to schedule a virtual interview. The interview will include the potential STEAM Scholar and their parent/guardian and will be conducted with our Admissions Board.
- ☐ **Admissions Decision:** Await Acceptance Notice: The Admissions Board will review your interview and notify you of your acceptance into the program.
- ☐ **Registration:** Register as soon as possible to secure your spot. Pay Deposit: A non-refundable deposit of \$250 is required upon registration. This can be paid via credit card or check.
- ☐ **Financial Planning:** After registration and deposit payment, our financial support team will contact your parent/guardian to discuss payment plan options and answer any questions regarding tuition assistance.
- ☐ **Fundraising and Scholarships:** Scholars are encouraged to fundraise to show initiative in supporting their tuition. Submit Scholarship Funding Applications: Apply for any available scholarships to assist with tuition costs.
- ☐ **Conference Preparation:** Our team will provide updates on the conference schedule, special announcements, and workshop preselection.

**Reach Out with Questions:**  
**If you have any questions or need assistance, do not hesitate to contact us!**

 315-527-6030

 PO Box 424  
 Rome, NY 13442-0424

 [info@projectfibonacci.org](mailto:info@projectfibonacci.org)



# CONFERENCE TUITION

We are committed to providing an enriching and exceptional experience for all participants. To continue offering the best possible conference, we must make a necessary adjustment to our tuition fees.

Starting in 2025, the tuition new scholars will be updated from \$1,500 to \$1,895. This decision was not made lightly and reflects the rising costs associated with maintaining the high quality of our program. Returning Scholars tuition rate for 2025 is \$1,695.

Please note that this is our first tuition increase since our inception in 2016, and even with this adjustment, our tuition remains a deeply discounted rate compared to similar programs.

We are dedicated to inclusivity and ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder any student's participation. Therefore, we continue to actively seek scholarship funding to assist families in need.

Our goal is to provide every student, regardless of financial background, with the opportunity to benefit from this unique and transformative experience. Thank you for your understanding and continued support. We look forward to welcoming you to another inspiring and educational conference.

## TUITION COVERAGE DETAILS:

Your all-inclusive tuition of \$1,895 for the 2025 STEAM Leadership Conference covers a comprehensive week-long experience designed to enrich and inspire. Tuition includes:

- Lodging/Accommodations
- All Meals & Snacks
- Conference Swag
- Exclusive Speaker Access
- Opportunity to Work with Local STEAM Experts
- Interactive Workshops on Creative Skills
- Social Activities
- Outdoor Adventures & Icebreakers
- Entertainment
- Medical & Security Services
- Networking Events - Fuel Your Future Fair
- Keynote Sessions
- Group Fitness Activities
- Guided Tours
- Certificate of Attendance
- Closing Ceremony and Awards Presentation
- Mentorship Opportunities
- Peer-to-Peer Learning Sessions
- Daily Team Challenges with Prizes

# STRENGTHEN YOUR SKILLS

By the end of the conference, you will be amazed at how much you can grow and evolve your skills including:

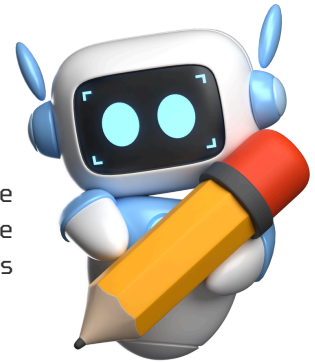
<b>Leadership &amp; Motivation</b>	<b>Teamwork &amp; Collaboration</b>	<b>Critical Thinking &amp; Problem-Solving</b>	<b>Technical Proficiency &amp; Career Exploration</b>
<b>Confidence &amp; Project Management</b>	<b>Strong Communication &amp; Public Speaking</b>	<b>Creativity &amp; Interdisciplinary Work</b>	<b>Adaptability &amp; Visionary Thinking</b>

# TUITION ASSISTANCE

**We are committed to ensuring that financial constraints do not prevent students from attending the conference. Students requiring financial assistance are encouraged to apply for scholarships.**

## SUBMISSION OPTIONS FOR TUITION SUPPORT

To be eligible for tuition support at the 2025 STEAM Leadership Conference, you are invited to choose one of the following submission options. Each submission type allows you to demonstrate your unique strengths and commitment to STEAM fields while showcasing your potential impact on the conference community.



### Personal Statement Essay

Write an essay detailing why you should be chosen to receive funds to attend the 2025 STEAM Leadership Conference. Highlight your passions, your achievements, community involvement, and how attending the conference will contribute to your personal and career goals.

### Vision for the Future Essay

In a rapidly changing world, the workforce is significantly transforming due to technological advancements and global market shifts. It is vital to identify and develop the skills necessary for a robust and adaptable workforce. Write an essay exploring essential skills for a stronger future workforce, addressing at least two of the following elements:

- **Emerging Technology and AI:** Discuss how technologies like AI, automation, and data analytics are reshaping jobs. Identify in-demand technical skills and their significance.
- **Relevance of Your Preferred Subjects:** Highlight your favorite subjects and their relation to future workforce needs. Explain how knowledge in these areas prepares individuals for new challenges.
- **Importance of Soft Skills:** Analyze soft skills such as communication, leadership, and critical thinking. Discuss their integration into education and professional development for workforce readiness.
- **Societal and Educational Shifts:** Reflect on how society and education can adapt to prepare individuals for future careers, emphasizing interdisciplinary learning and lifelong education.

Essay Guidelines: 250-500 words. Include full name and school district in header. PDF preferred. Send to: [info@projectfibonacci.org](mailto:info@projectfibonacci.org)

### Previous Conference Experience Video

If you have attended a previous conference, create a short video sharing your experiences. Discuss what you learned, how it impacted you, and why you want to attend again.

Video Guidelines: 2-3 minute video. Send to: [info@projectfibonacci.org](mailto:info@projectfibonacci.org)

### STEAM Scholar Spotlight - Returning Scholars

We invite you to share your past conference experiences with our team, showcase accomplishments you've achieved and your aspirations for the future! Michelle Minicozzi will conduct a short interview with you, which will be featured on our social media, website, and in future promotions.

Contact Michelle Minicozzi to Coordinate: [mminicozzi@projectfibonacci.org](mailto:mminicozzi@projectfibonacci.org)



# WHAT TO DO NEXT

## ✓ REGISTERED

### DEPOSIT

For the 2025 STEAM Leadership Conference, we've implemented a new policy mandating a non-refundable\* deposit of \$250 to reserve your place and qualify for scholarship funding. This measure is essential for both attendees and the Project Fibonacci® Foundation, Inc., as it affirms your intention to participate and helps us manage resources effectively while reducing potential costs linked to last-minute cancellations.

### WHY THE DEPOSIT IS ESSENTIAL

- **Ensures Commitment:** The deposit is a demonstration of your commitment to participate in the conference, which is essential given the limited number of spots available..
- **Avoids Future Fees:** By securing your spot early, you help us avoid additional costs that can arise from last-minute adjustments. This also allows us to focus on enhancing the experience for all attendees.
- **Limited Availability:** The conference has a limited number of spots, making it imperative to register as soon as possible to guarantee your attendance.

We strongly encourage all prospective attendees to complete their registration promptly to take advantage of this opportunity and to ensure they have a place at this transformative event. The deposit amount will be subtracted from your total tuition balance, which means you will only need to pay the remaining balance after your deposit is made. Registration also ensures you are eligible for tuition assistance by submitting a scholarship application.

### 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 the conference approaches, we encourage you to review the various workshops available, designed to enhance your knowledge and cater to diverse interests. A selection form will be provided for you to prioritize your top three choices for each block, noting that some workshops are mandatory for attendance. We'll create a customized schedule for you based on your preferences.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

If you indicated that you require partial or full tuition assistance during your registration, please submit a scholarship application to qualify for funding support.

# DAILY SCHEDULE BREAKDOWN

8:00-9:00 AM

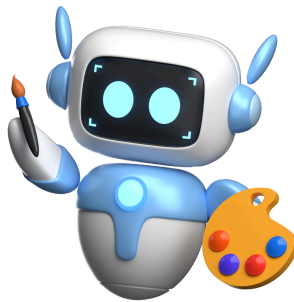
Breakfast

9:00-10:00

Team Tag Ups: Jeopardy Selection

10:00-12:30

Workshops



12:30-1:30

Lunch

1:30-3:30

Workshops/Off-Site Tours

3:30-6:00

Team Tag Ups/Project Development

6:00-7:00

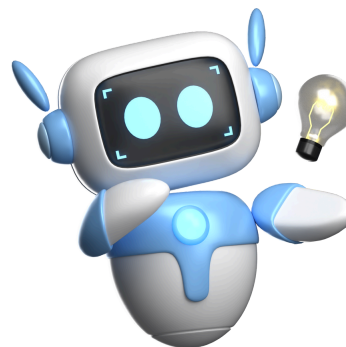
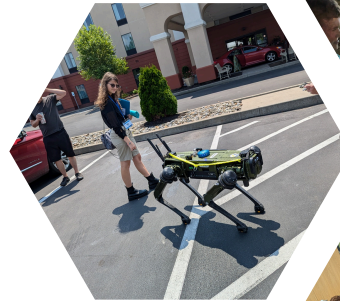
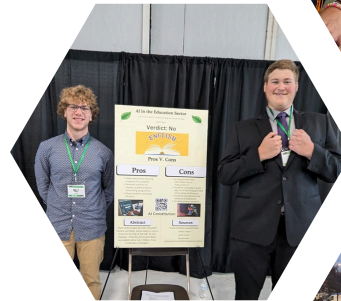
Dinner

7:00-8:00

Daily Project Pitches (T-F)

8:00-10:00

Social Options





# Educating for the Unknown:

Building Thinking Skills That Adapt & Thrive

## SPECIAL FACILITATOR: DR. STEVEN NOVELLA

Neurologist, Science Communicator, Author & Host of 'The Skeptics Guide to the Universe' Podcast

In a world overflowing with information yet lacking in understanding, critical thinking has become more vital than ever. "Educating for the Unknown" encourages educators and professionals to delve into how uncertainty, ambiguity, and complexity can serve as powerful drivers for deeper learning and improved decision-making.

Centered around the theme "Science of the Unknown," this interactive workshop provides participants with essential tools to navigate uncertainty, tackle new challenges, question assumptions, assess evidence, and formulate more effective inquiries.

Whether in the classroom or the boardroom, you will discover how to foster a mindset that views uncertainty not as a threat, but as an opportunity for innovation, exploration, and personal growth.



### PRACTICAL TOOLKIT

Gain strategies and activities to cultivate critical thinking skills in your environment.



### PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Enhance your ability to design learning experiences that prepare individuals for future challenges.



### NETWORKBUILDING

Connect with like-minded educators and professionals dedicated to adaptive thinking.

### SPONSORED BY:



**Monday, July 28, 2025**

**8:30-3:30**

**Rome MVCC**

1101 Floyd Ave Rome, NY 13440

## TWO PART WORKSHOP

### Morning Session:

8:30-11:30

Interactive methods to challenge assumptions, evaluate evidence, and foster innovative inquiry.

### Lunch On Your Own:

12:00 - 1:00

### Afternoon Session:

1:00-3:30

Observe Dr. Novella's teaching methods while engaging with scholars during skill-building exercises.

### CTLE Credits:

Pending approval, earn up to 6 credits to contribute to your professional development

### Book Purchase:

"The Skeptics' Guide to the Future" by Dr. Steven Novella will be available for purchase.

## Who Should Attend?

Ideal for educators (K-12 and higher education), curriculum designers, corporate trainers, managers, leaders, and anyone eager to help individuals thrive in a complex world with adaptability and strength.

Step into the future by nurturing the thinkers our society requires. Unite with us to revolutionize education and professional development through creative thinking and actionable solutions!

## \$25 Registration Fee

Want to attend for free? Sign up to volunteer at the 2025 Project Fibonacci STEAM Leadership Conference

**ProjectFibonacci.org**



## REGISTER NOW

### FOR MORE INFORMATION



**Deb Van Slyke**

[dvanslyke@projectfibonacci.org](mailto:dvanslyke@projectfibonacci.org)



**Tamalin Martin**

[tmartin@projectfibonacci.org](mailto:tmartin@projectfibonacci.org)

### GENERAL REGISTRATION



Educators aiming to earn CTLE Credits are required to complete both the general registration and CTLE registrations.

### BECOME A VOLUNTEER



The \$25 fee encompasses both the morning and afternoon sessions.

Attendance at the morning session is necessary to participate in the afternoon session.



### CTLE CREDIT MORNING SESSION 3 CTLE CREDITS



### CTLE CREDIT AFTERNOON SESSION 3 CTLE CREDITS



# ESTEAMED SPEAKERS SERIES



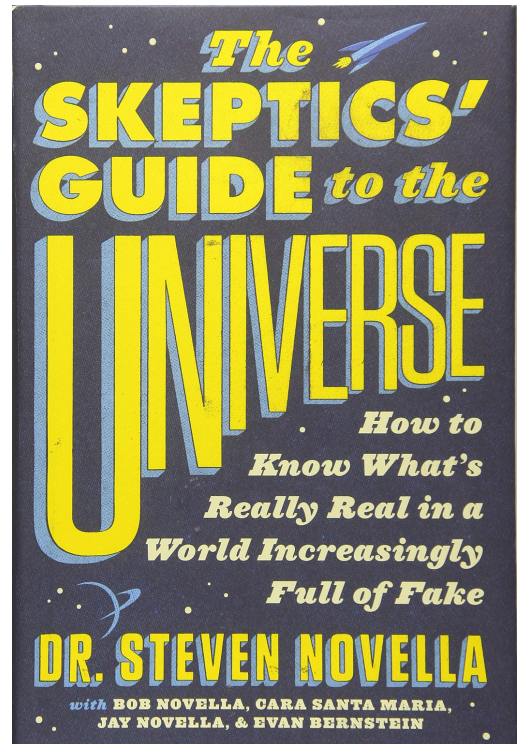
## DR. STEVEN NOVELLA

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF NEUROLOGY, SCIENCE COMMUNICATOR & BESTSELLING AUTHOR**

Professional Development Day Special Instructor  
Interactive STEAM Scholar Learning Session  
Monday, July 28

 **theskepticsguide**

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



## MELANIE SAWYER

**ENTREPRENEUR, SURVIVALIST INSTRUCTOR, FORAGER &  
PARTICIPANT ON THE HISTORY CHANNEL'S ALONE SEASON 10**

Special Workshop Presenter  
Risk vs. Reward - Survival Challenge

 **melanie\_sawyer\_wild\_foods**

Melanie was born in the picturesque Cotswolds of England and eventually settled in Brooklyn, New York, at the age of 30. After living there for 24 years, she chose to leave the city and embrace the beauty, freedom, and wilderness of the vast 6 million-acre Adirondack State Park in Northern New York. Now residing off the grid, she boasts her own 600-foot drilled well, solar power with lithium batteries for electricity, and a propane-powered backup generator for colder days. A cozy wood-burning stove provides her with warmth, allowing her to enjoy all the comforts of a typical home while remaining independent from the grid.

For as long as Melanie can remember, she has been deeply fascinated by foraging, history, and wilderness survival. In 2022, she founded WILD FOODS, driven by her desire to help others recognize and learn about the edible plants, rhizomes, berries, nuts, lichens, mushrooms, and cambium that sustained our ancestors for centuries. This year, she's taking her mission further by sourcing small batches of heirloom seeds and bulbs, enabling people to cultivate their own edible gardens.

In the show *Alone* Season 10, Melanie demonstrated her survival skills by living in total isolation for 43 days at Saskatchewan's Reindeer Lake with only 10 essential items – and she managed to thrive using just 9!

From her transition from a model in England to off-grid living in the Adirondacks, Melanie has transformed her life. She is passionate about sharing her knowledge in foraging, wilderness survival, and off-grid living, teaching at historic locations and Wilderness Survival Schools both in the US and internationally. As an entrepreneur, she established her company, Wild Foods & Wilderness, where she offers herbal and medicinal teas that she forages from the mountains of the Adirondacks.



**LEARN MORE**



# SPECIAL WORKSHOP

## RISK VERSUS REWARD: CRITICAL THINKING IN SURVIVAL

All STEAM Scholars  
Monday, July 28

Join us for an exhilarating and all-encompassing workshop guided by survival expert Melanie Sawyer. This special all-hands-on-deck event is designed to push your limits, foster teamwork, and arm you with essential survival skills. Dive into the world of wilderness survival as Melanie shares her expertise on assessing risk and navigating rewards in challenging situations.

Teams will engage in a series of thrilling challenges, including building a reliable shelter, starting a fire, creating clean drinking water, and making a stretcher. You'll also learn to craft a small fishing net and master five crucial knots vital for survival. The objective is to collaboratively construct a shelter sufficient for all eight participants, successfully source tinder, and create a fire to boil and sanitize water.

This workshop promises not only to equip you with practical survival skills but also to strengthen your camaraderie and problem-solving abilities. Don't miss this opportunity to learn and grow with Melanie Sawyer!





# ESTEAMED SPEAKERS SERIES



## JEANETTE EPPS

**PH.D., SYRACUSE NATIVE, NASA ASTRONAUT, MISSION SPECIALIST & FLIGHT ENGINEER FOR NASA'S SPACEX CREW-8**

Evening Keynote Speaker  
Monday, July 28

 [jeanette.epps](https://www.instagram.com/jeanette.epps)

Jeanette J. Epps was selected by NASA in 2009 as an astronaut. She completed astronaut candidate training which included scientific and technical briefings, intensive instruction in International Space Station systems, spacewalk training, robotics, T-38 flight training and wilderness survival training. The New York native was a NASA Fellow during graduate school and authored several journal and conference articles describing her research. Dr. Epps worked for Ford Motor Company where she received both a provisional patent and a U.S. patent for her research. After leaving Ford, she joined the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for seven years working as a Technical Intelligence Officer before becoming an astronaut. She served in the ISS Operations Branch working issues in support of space station crews. Dr. Epps launched to the International Space Station March 3, 2024, as a mission specialist on NASA's SpaceX Crew-8 mission. She served as a flight engineer aboard the orbiting laboratory. NASA's SpaceX Crew-8 mission successfully splashed down at 3:29 a.m. EDT Friday, off Pensacola, Florida, concluding a nearly eight-month science mission and the agency's eighth commercial crew rotation mission to the International Space Station.

### Experience

As a NASA Fellow during graduate school, Dr. Epps authored several highly referenced journal and conference articles describing her research. Her graduate research involved extensive testing of composite swept-tip beams, comparative analysis of analytical models and experimental data for shape memory alloys and the application of shape memory alloy actuators for tracking helicopter rotor blades. After completing graduate school, Dr. Epps spent more than two years working at Ford Motor Company as a Technical Specialist in the Scientific Research Laboratory. Before leaving Ford, she completed proof-of-concept work on using magnetostrictive actuators to reduce vibrations that enter a vehicle via the suspension control arms, which resulted in a provisional patent. Also while at Ford, Dr. Epps participated in research involving automobile collision location detection and countermeasure systems, which resulted in the granting of a U.S. Patent. In 2002, Dr. Epps joined the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) where she spent more than 7 years working as a Technical Intelligence Officer. She received multiple performance awards for her work at the CIA.

### Awards/Honors

NASA GSRP Fellowship 1996-1997, 1997-1998 and 1998-1999; Exceptional Performance Award 2003, 2004 and 2008; Inducted into the University of Maryland, Department of Aerospace Engineering, Academy of Distinguished Alumni 2012; JSC Director's Innovation Group Achievement Award to Improving Efficiency on the ISS Team 2013, Recipient of the Glenn L. Martin Medal from the A. James Clark School of Engineering, University of Maryland, 2014. In 2016, she was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from LeMoyne College.

# ESTEAMED SPEAKERS SERIES

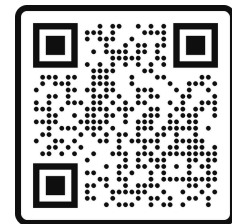
FRIDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT  **peterboie**



Peter first became fascinated with magic at the age of eleven when he stumbled across a magic book at his local library. He performed his first professional show was at the age of 16 and he has never looked back. Peter tours theaters, colleges, corporate events and schools across the country with his three very unique shows: Magician for Non-Believers, Engineering Wonder, and Summoning Spirits.

He has been featured on the hit tv show Penn & Teller Fool Us and is a best selling magic inventor. The Magician for Non-Believers show is about show is about two things, astonishing magic, and having a good time; and he doesn't skimp on either. Combining original mind blowing magic, and a heavy dose of humor is his secret to success and why it's made him one of the top booked acts around the country.

**LEARN MORE**



# 2025 WORKSHOP EXAMPLES



## THE SCIENCE OF THE PARANORMAL

**Agent Paranormal: Rich Nikodem, Peter Leonard, Travis Dam**

Agent Paranormal is a local team dedicated to exploring haunted sites throughout the country. This workshop will provide insights into the protocols and equipment utilized in paranormal investigations. The team will cover topics such as technology and gear while sharing some of their most compelling evidence.



## I'VE BEEN FRAMED!...AND I CAN PROVE IT

**Sean Davis: Mohawk Valley Community College**

Have you ever been accused of using AI to write a paper, tested positive for COVID without any symptoms, or questioned a claim made by another? In a world where rarely is anything 100% positive, it is very hard to talk in absolutes. Come explore Bayes Theorem and see how it can be used to potentially disprove the many claims that circulate in our daily lives.



## ETHICS, EPISTEMOLOGY, AND MISINFORMATION

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

How do we assess or evaluate truth claims? As Donald Rumsfeld famously articulated: "There are things we know we know. We also recognize the known unknowns; in other words, we understand that there are some things we do not know. However, there are also unknown unknowns—the things we don't even realize we don't know."



## MODERN DAY SPACE ELEVATOR

**Paul Phister: Rome Academy of Sciences**

Join Paul Phister to explore the concept of a modern-day space elevator, transitioning from science fiction to reality due to advancements in materials science and engineering. This workshop aims to inspire imagination and offer a new perspective on humanity's role in the cosmos.

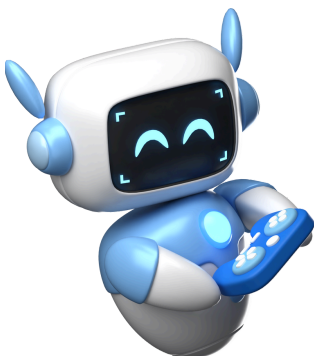


## SCIENCE AND SPECULATION: ROLE-BASED GAME DESIGN

**Adrian Maggio: Cyborg Interactive, LLC**

This limited spot workshop introduces scholars to collaborative game development while exploring scientific mysteries. Participants assume roles such as Project Manager, Game Designer, Programmer, Artist, and Science Researcher, using role-specific card decks to rapidly create a game concept. Science and Speculation will simulate a game development cycle, highlighting the integration of STEAM disciplines. Students will:

- Experience various roles in game development
- Practice cross-disciplinary collaboration
- Apply scientific concepts creatively
- Develop a complete game concept
- Learn the basics of game design projects



Scholars will receive game development booklets, Cyborg Interactive swag, and links to digital resources, including game assets, setup instructions, and an invitation to the "CNY Game Devs" Discord server, along with a discount for the upcoming "Game Dev Bootcamp."



# 2025 WORKSHOP EXAMPLES



## 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!



## 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.



## DISCOVER SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

**Ramona Smith: ANDRO Computational Solutions, LLC & Rome City Council Woman**

"Discover Skills for Success" highlights the importance of social and emotional intelligence in building self-confidence, communication, and leadership. Through interactive activities and discussions, participants will learn how these skills impact relationships, decision-making, and success. Whether you aim to excel in school, navigate social situations, or prepare for career challenges, this workshop provides the tools to enhance emotional awareness and interpersonal effectiveness.



## BARBERSHOP MUSIC & STEAM

**New Horizons Chorus**

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.



## CHEMICAL REACTIONS

**Penny Mann: Science Teacher, Oriskany Jr./Sr. HS**

Join us for an interactive workshop on chemical reactions, designed for curious minds and budding scientists. Participants will conduct exciting experiments and observe demonstrations to understand concepts like reaction rates, equilibrium, and energy changes. This workshop aims to inspire a lifelong appreciation for chemistry, and no prior experience is needed—just bring your enthusiasm!



## DECOMPRESS STRESS

Our Decompress Stress workshop block will focus on stress management through Tai Chi, yoga, and more. This immersive experience aims to enhance physical well-being, mental clarity, and connection among students. All levels are welcome to come and leave feeling relaxed and empowered.

## 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, and even a potential off-site Paranormal Investigation, there's something for everyone to enjoy outside of the pool and gym. Stay tuned for more fun-filled activities to come!

## OFF-SITE TOURS



### 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.



### SPRING CREEK LAVENDER FARM

Remsen, NY

Join us for a delightful afternoon at Spring Creek Lavender, where you can unwind and experience the joy of GOAT YOGA! Explore the beautiful farm, pick your own lavender, and, of course, enjoy some yoga alongside our adorable furry companions. Discover the inspiring story behind this locally owned and operated farm, and don't forget to visit their shop, brimming with fantastic homemade products!



### MVCC's thINCubator

Utica, NY

Join Ryan Miller, Director of MVCC's thINCubator, as we discover how they empower both budding and established entrepreneurs to transform their ideas into thriving businesses. Explore the home of the renowned Refinery accelerator program, and learn about the invaluable resources offered by the Small Business Development Center. Meet their network of mentors and experts who are dedicated to supporting your journey to success. Whether you're just starting or looking to grow, thINCubator is your launchpad for innovation!

 MVCC  
thINCubator



**ADDITIONAL OFF-SITES  
ANNOUNCED SOON!**

# 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.

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## 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

 **DR. ANDREW DROZD**  
adrozd@androcs.com

**FRED FRANTZ**  
ffrantz@androcs.com

- 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

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# WHAT TO PACK

## CLOTHING:

- Jeans
- T-Shirts
- Shorts
- Shirts
- Athletic Clothes
- Business Professional Outfit
- School Pride Shirt/Hoodie: For Group Pics!

## 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

## TOILETRIES:

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

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



## 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

## IMPORTANT

- We are not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen items.
- Review the 2025 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, JULY 27**  
**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 2**  
**ROME, NY**

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

### 9:00-10:00

Scholar Meet & Greet

- Meet your students team to learn more about their week!

### 10:00-11:00

Final Project Presentation

### 11:00-12:00

Closing Ceremonies

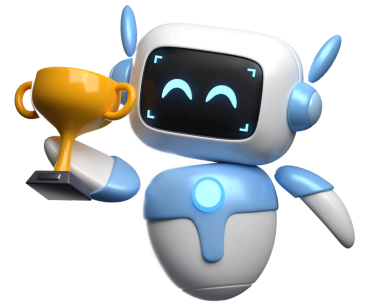
### 12:30-1:00

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?**

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! They are also invited to special events and keynote presentations.

# 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.

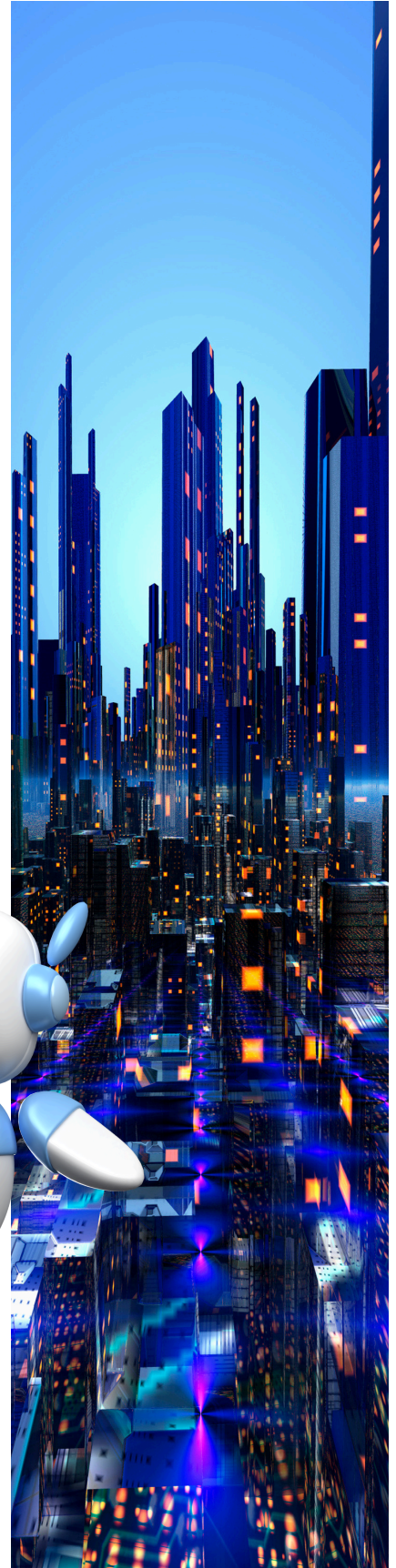
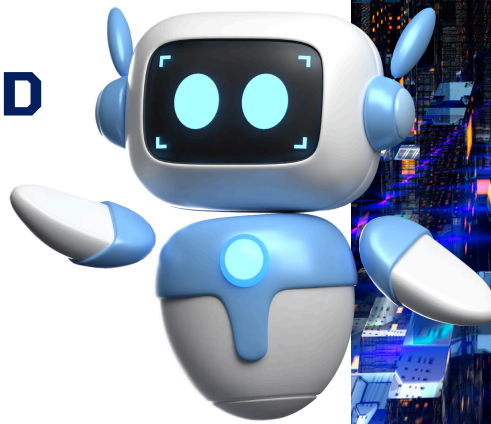


# STAY CONNECTED

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# JOIN OUR GROWING LIST OF SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

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



YOUR INDEPENDENT TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR



*The Shoreline Group*

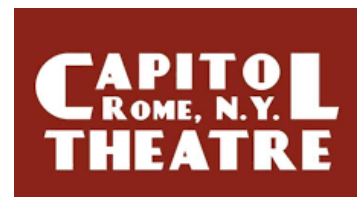
Nascentia Health



Bernhard Family Scholarship

## IN-KIND SUPPORTERS:

Melanie Sawyer







project    
**FIBONACCI**<sup>®</sup>  
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