

THE PROJECT FIBONACCI FOUNDATION, INC. PROUDLY PRESENTS

STEAM

Women Rising

THIRD ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

SUMMARY

SPONSORED BY:



11 SCHOOL
DISTRICTS

150+
STUDENTS &
EDUCATORS

30 EXHIBITORS

TOP DREAM CAREERS:

HEALTHCARE
36%

STEAM
24%

EDUCATION
17%

LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
14%

BUSINESS
9%

HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE
SYMPOSIUM?

4.8/5

HOW INSPIRED DID YOU FEEL
AFTER ATTENDING?

4.7/5

HOW LIKELY WOULD YOU
RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND?

4.8/5

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
ATTENDING THE 7TH ANNUAL
PROJECT FIBONACCI® STEAM
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE?

87% YES!

The third annual STEAM Women Rising Symposium was held on Monday, March 3, 2025, at Beeches Manor, and it was a truly remarkable event! Eleven school districts came together for this inspiring occasion, which showcased local female entrepreneurs, educators, business leaders, and more. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with students, educators, and attendees eagerly looking forward to the fourth annual event scheduled for March 2026.

The day began with a dynamic icebreaker titled “The Struggle is Real,” where participants delved into the differences between stress and anxiety, as well as effective strategies for managing these emotions.

Students and educators were enthralled by our exceptional panel of influential women, who shared their inspiring journeys and offered invaluable advice.

At the Creating Connections Fair, students interacted with local businesses, educational institutions, and organizations, uncovering a plethora of professional and academic opportunities available in our community.

To wrap up the day, entrepreneur and survivalist Melanie Sawyer delivered a compelling keynote presentation, sharing her experiences and motivating audience members to discuss their passions, challenges, and ways to forge a brighter future.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors, supporters, and participants for their contributions to the success of this event.

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR
PRESENTING SPONSOR:**

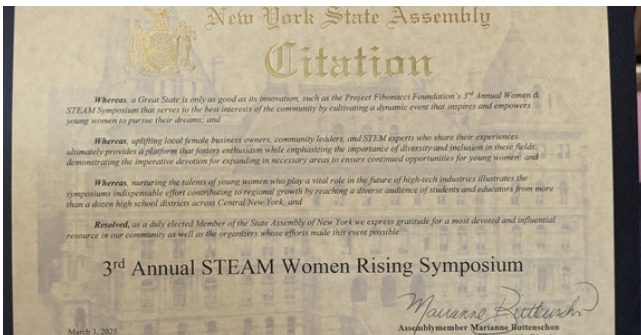


“I loved this event and would love to inspire people like they inspired many of my peers and I that day.”

-2025 SWR Student

NYS ASSEMBLY CITATION

We were honored to receive a New York State Assembly Citation, recognizing this initiative and the impact it has on empowering young women to pursue careers in STEAM. Assemblywoman Buttenschon took time to engage with our attending students, showing her dedication to recognizing and supporting organizations and events that are shaping the future of our youth. Her commitment to education and leadership opportunities helps ensure a brighter tomorrow for the next generation!



“For me, seeing my students become empowered was invaluable.”

-2025 SWR Educator

ADOPT-A-SCHOLAR SPONSORS

We extend our sincere gratitude to our Adopt-A-Scholar sponsors for their generous support. Assured Information Security, Varflex, and First Source Federal Credit Union have sponsored the tuition for three STEAM Women Rising students to participate in the upcoming 7th Annual STEAM Leadership Conference taking place July 27-August 2, 2025.



NYSTEC
YOUR INDEPENDENT TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR

THANK YOU TO OUR TABLE SPONSORS

Please join us in thanking our incredible table sponsors. Their dedication and support made it possible for all schools to attend at no cost!



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR TECHNOLOGY PARTNER



NYSTEC
YOUR INDEPENDENT TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR

MEET THE PANEL



EVENT MC
Hilda M. Jordan

CEO/Founder of HMJ Consulting, NAACP Award Winner, International Motivational Speaker, Harvard Graduate & Utica Native



PANEL MODERATOR
MSgt. Della Pray

Aerospace Science Instructor (ASI), Rome Free Academy AFJROTC & Project Manager at Kabari Wellness Institute



PANELIST & SPONSOR
Kristen H. Martin

President & CEO - Utica Mutual Insurance Company



PANELIST & SPONSOR
Iris Buczkowski

Founder & CEO - Birch Wealth Management



PANELIST
Nerlande Anselme

Superintendent - Rome City School District



PANELIST
Annemarie Walker-Czyz

President & CEO - Rome Health



PANELIST
Anna Tobin D'Ambrosi

President & CEO Munson



PANELIST
Jackie Mann

High School Mathematics Teacher - Adirondack High School

“This event really allowed students an opportunity to be exposed to a variety of fields in STEAM and to be empowered and inspired by the women panelists. The panelists were a true testament to the possibility of women having careers in STEAM and also in leadership positions.”

-2025 SWR Educator



CREATING CONNECTIONS FAIR

We had thirty exhibitors take part in the Creating Connections Fair, where students had the chance to interact with local industry leaders, explore various career opportunities, and learn about academic and community initiatives. The Creating Connections Fair provides students with the opportunity to discover new paths and hone their networking skills essential for their future.



"I think the most valuable takeaway I got from attending the symposium was learning that I can do whatever I dream of and I should never let my past impact my dreams."
-2025 SWR Student



"I loved going to the different tables and meeting many new people. It really opened my eyes to all the future careers I could pick."
-2025 SWR Student



"I believe that the most valuable takeaway that I got was that it is okay to not know what I'm doing with the rest of my life. It is important to ground myself and make goals."
-2025 SWR Student



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MELANIE SAWYER

Our keynote speaker, Melanie Sawyer, concluded the day by sharing inspiring stories and encouraging students to embrace confidence. She is the owner of Wild Foods & Wilderness, a Survivalist Instructor, a Forager, and a participant on Season 10 of the History Channel's *Alone*.



"I found the speakers to be incredibly empowering and positive, sharing great insights based on their own experiences. The call-and-response and interactivity of the keynote session reminded me of the consciousness-raising sessions of the second wave women's movement. As a first-year teacher, I definitely needed this boost!"

-2025 SWR Educator





JOIN US AT THE FOURTH ANNUAL

STEAM

Women Rising

SYMPOSIUM MARCH 2026



7TH ANNUAL
STEAM LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE
JULY 27 - AUGUST 2, 2025



THE SCIENCE OF THE UNKNOWN

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