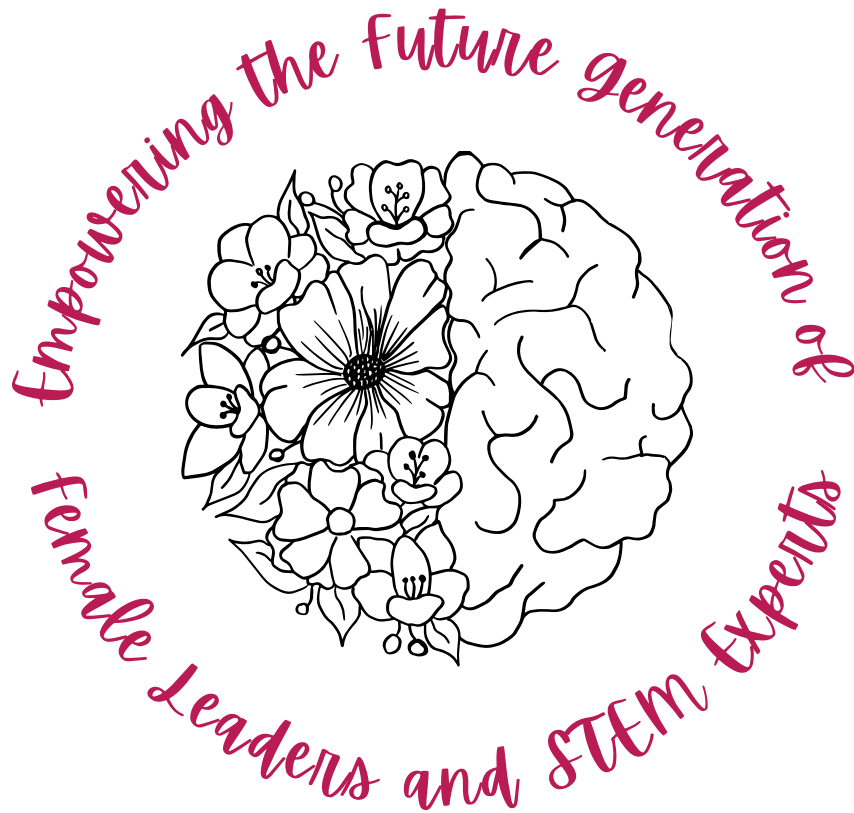


# WOMEN & STEAM SYMPOSIUM



SPONSORED BY:



YOUR INDEPENDENT TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR

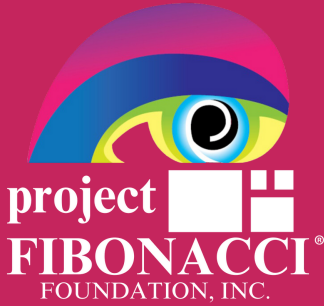


# SCHEDULE



8:00-8:45	School Registration & Breakfast
8:40-9:00	Introductions & Overview by Project Fibonacci® Executive Co-Chair, Tamalin Martin
9:00-9:30	Icebreaker led by Janet Foote, Rising Stars
9:45-10:45	Panel Discussion Moderated by Kate Thornton Meet the Panelists Pages 5-9
11:00-12:00	Scholarship Presentation & Photos Lunch & Learn
12:00-1:00	Creating Connections Fair & Scavenger Hunt
1:00-1:30	Group Picture Winners Announced
1:30	Departure





## 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



@ProjectFibonacci  
ProjectFibonacci.org

Welcome to the 2nd Annual Women & STEAM Symposium hosted by the Project Fibonacci<sup>®</sup> Foundation, Inc. and sponsored by NYSTEC!

We are thrilled to have you join us for a day filled with inspiration, empowerment, and learning. As we partner with amazing women, business leaders, entrepreneurs, and STEM enthusiasts, our goal is to ignite your passion for breaking the gender gap in academia and the professional world.

Together, we aim to showcase the endless possibilities available to you in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. You, as the future generation, hold the power to shape the world and make a significant impact. Our symposium is here to equip you with the necessary tools, knowledge, and support to help you thrive and make a positive difference.

Get ready to be inspired, motivated, and empowered to reach new heights and explore the vast opportunities that lie ahead. We can't wait to see the incredible contributions you will make in the world. Welcome to a day of growth, learning, and endless possibilities!

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

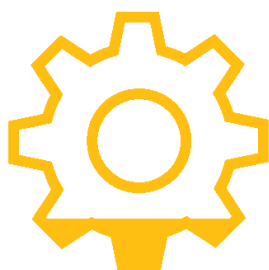




## Women in STEM

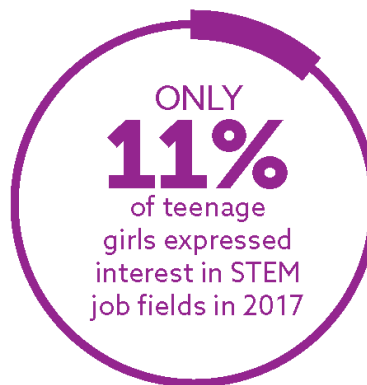
There are more jobs in STEM available than the number of people qualified to fill them. Women are needed to help fill these jobs and to provide different perspectives and skill sets.

### EDUCATION



**15%**

of engineering faculty in universities and four-year colleges are women



### EMPLOYMENT



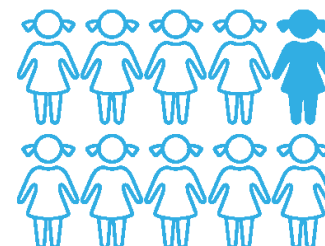
**1 IN 4**

computer and mathematical workers are women



Less than **30%**

of the world's researchers are women

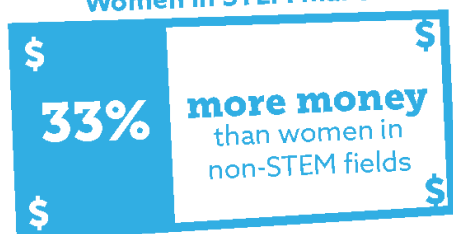


**1 IN 10**

scientists or engineers is a minority woman

### SALARY

Women in STEM make



Women-led tech companies are



**35%** more profitable



# THANK YOU TO OUR TABLE SPONSORS



**edible**  
arrangements

**ORGILL**



**D'Arcangelo & Co., LLP**  
Certified Public Accountants & Consultants



SMARTCARRIER



**BIRCH WEALTH**  
management





**KATE THORNTON**



## **PANEL MODERATOR:**

### **KATE THORNTON**

**Meteorologist, News Channel 9**

Kate is an award-winning meteorologist who has been forecasting the weather in upstate New York for more than a decade. She's forecasted everything from tropical storms with flooding rains, tornadoes, blizzards, sunny stretches, and of course lake effect snow. A life-long Upstate New Yorker, Kate calls the small village of Saugerties in the Mid-Hudson Valley her hometown. That's where her love for weather sparked at just 10 years old. She pursued her love of weather at the University at Albany, graduating in 2009 with a bachelor's in Meteorology and minors in Geography and Business, and obtaining a GIS certificate. She later continued her studies in the broadcast field and attended the New School of Radio and Television where she completed the broadcast journalism program with top honors.



**JASMINKA HUSIC**



### **JASMINKA HUSIC**

**CFO, Director of Finance and Business Intelligence, NYSTEC**

Jasminka Husic is an accomplished finance executive willing to take on almost any challenge with a "failure is not an option" attitude. She is a CPA, and is currently the CFO, Director of Finance and Business Intelligence for New York State Technology Enterprise Corporation (NYSTEC), a 380-employees technology consulting company headquartered in Rome, NY with offices in Albany and New York City. Committed to supporting and providing professional opportunities for women, she helped spearhead NYSTEC's diversity, equity and inclusion roadmap. Jasminka completed two bachelor's degrees – one in Business Administration and the other in E-Commerce at Northwestern Oklahoma State University and she is a SUNY Poly grad with a master's degree in Accountancy. Jasminka is a vice chair of the SUNY Poly Foundation Board; she serves on the business advisory committee for the Utica CSD CTE program and is a member of the Genesis Group Data Analytics Task Force. Jasminka recently joined SUNY Poly's STEAM Circle, a mentorship program for first-year female students enrolled in STEAM programs.





**JENN  
BRILLANTE**



## JENN BRILLANTE

**President & Partner, C&D Advertising**

As the President and Partner of C & D Advertising, Jenn is responsible for the development of strategic planning and implementation of client marketing, advertising, and public relations campaigns and works closely with her team, clients and media partners to get her clients results. Jennifer is a recipient of several awards including Central New York's 40 under 40 Award, Genesis Group Striving for Success plus 4 National Telly Awards for excellence in video creativity. Jennifer graduated from the Small Business Administration's Emerging Leaders Program and has spoken at regional and national advertising and marketing conventions. Jenn is passionate about helping others through her involvement with the Rome Rescue Mission, the Neighborhood Center and Rome Catholic Schools.



**DR. MARIANNE  
BUTTENSCHON**

READ FULL BIO HERE:



## DR. MARIANNE BUTTENSCHON

**New York Assemblymember District 119**

Prior to joining the New York State Assembly's 119th District, Dr. Marianne Buttenschon was the Dean of Public Service and Emergency Preparedness at Mohawk Valley Community College. Her 2018 campaign for the Assembly was her first attempt at elected office. Marianne is married to Don Buttenschon, a retired public school psychologist. They have three grown children and six grandchildren. For over 30 years, Don and Marianne have operated the Buttenschon Christmas Tree Farm in the Town of Marcy, and Oneida County. Marianne is a career-long educator and a lifelong learner. She earned an AAS from Mohawk Valley Community College, a BA in Public Justice from SUNY (IT) Polytechnic Institute, an MA in Public Policy from Binghamton University, and a Doctorate of Education from Northeastern. Assemblywoman Buttenschon proudly serves as a member on the NYS Assembly agriculture, banks, economic development, education, and veterans affairs committees, in addition she is the chair of the committee higher education and subcommittee on export trade. Apart from her committee membership, she is also a dedicated member of the Legislative Women's caucus, the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force, Asian Pacific American Task Force and the Task Force on Women's Issues. Recently she attended a State Convention in Puerto Rico to see firsthand the need and value of Puerto Rico to New York State and the United States.





**ALICIA DICKS**



## ALICIA DICKS

**President & CEO, Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties**

As President and CEO, Alicia Fernandez Dicks leads the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, an organization creating transformative social impact through the stewardship of more than \$175 million in charitable community assets. Since joining the Community Foundation in 2015, she has advanced initiatives to address critical and complex social challenges, such as racial equity, social justice, childhood lead poisoning, and neighborhood revitalization. Previously, she was president of the Fort Schuyler Management Corporation, managing the construction, maintenance, and operations of the State University of New York Polytechnic Institute's Computer Chip Commercialization Center. She spent more than a decade as a regional executive director at National Grid, one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the U.S., managing regional business operations and directing market strategy. Her public policy career began at the Albany Local Development Corporation and in Albany city government, facilitating urban planning, development, and construction projects as a senior economic developer. She earned a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University at Albany and a bachelor's degree in international relations from the State University of New York at Cortland.



**KATE ROLF**

## KATE ROLF

**MBA, CHCE, FACHE**

**President, Chief Executive Officer, Nascentia Health**

With over 20 years of experience in the healthcare industry, Kate Rolf is a visionary and strategic leader who guides Nascentia Health, a post-acute and long-term care health system, in delivering exceptional care for the aging population across 48 counties in Upstate New York. She has an MBA, an MS in Health Services Administration, a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator credential, and an Advanced Graduate Certificate in Gerontology Service Delivery.



Kate Rolf has successfully led the organization's turnaround and transformation, creating an interdependent health system that consolidated and restructured nine entities under a parent organization, and building a Medicare Advantage Plan for dually eligible individuals. As a result, she has increased the operating budget from \$12.4M to \$500M, expanded the service line, and enhanced the quality and efficiency of care. She is also a recognized expert and board member in aging care and services, and a catalyst for inspiring others, visualizing unique solutions, and instilling a culture of change. Her passion is to meet the needs of the community and make lasting improvements in the healthcare system.







**MSGT (RET)  
DELLA PRAY**

## MASTER SERGEANT DELLA “SARGE” PRAY

**Aerospace Science Instructor (ASI), Rome Free Academy AFJROTC**

MSgt (Ret) Della Pray is Aerospace Science Instructor (ASI) at Rome Free Academy AFJROTC. She is responsible to meet the mission of AFJROTC which is to “develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community.” She instructs students in the areas of leadership education, aerospace science, military drill, and wellness. Her goal is to provide students with the skills necessary for success after high school, regardless of the career path chosen.

The MSgt entered the Air Force in March 1984. She completed Aerospace Command and Control Systems Operator training at Keesler AFB, MS in July 1984. She was assigned to the 728th ACS Eglin AFB, FL. AFI OPCON Keflavik NAS Iceland, 24th AD Griffiss AFB, NY, 932nd AC&W Rockville AS, Iceland, NEADS Griffiss AFB, NY. In September 1995 she transferred from Active Duty Air Force to Active Guard Reserve with the NY Air National Guard. She cross-trained into the Communications-Computer Systems Operator career field and became the unit’s COMSEC Manager and NCOIC of Network Communication Section. MSgt Pray was on duty on 11 September 2001 at the Northeast Air Defense Sector, the first military unit to respond to the hijacked aircrafts. She retired in 2004 and became RFA AFJROTC ASI.



**HEATHER HAGE**

## HEATHER HAGE

**President & CEO, Griffiss Institute**

Heather Hage is President & CEO of the Griffiss Institute (GI), a leading national nonprofit talent and technology development organization, in service to American defense industrial base. Heather led the strategy and support operations for the standup of the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate’s innovative “beyond the fence” R&D and incubator facilities at Innovare Advancement Center in Rome, NY. Since its launch in 2021, Innovare has welcomed over 13,000 unique guests, supported over 150 faculty-in-residence, 600 collegiate interns and fellows, and 27 new startups to collaborate with AFRL scientists and engineers. A deep believer in the power of public education and research to transform lives, Heather served the State University of New York for 17 years before assuming leadership of the GI in 2021. At SUNY Research Foundation, Heather oversaw innovation and partnerships for the SUNY System’s 64-campus enterprise, with management responsibility to empower SUNY faculty, staff, and students to engage industry in the SUNY mission to learn, to search, and to serve.

READ FULL BIO HERE:



**GRIFFISS  
INSTITUTE**





**AARTHI  
SEKARAN**



## **AARTHI SEKARAN, PhD**

**Assistant Professor of Mechanical  
Engineering SUNY Polytechnic Institute**

Aarthi Sekaran is currently an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at SUNY Polytechnic Institute. She graduated with a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering and a concentration in thermal and fluid sciences from Texas A&M University. Her areas of research interest include modeling fluid flows that occur in the context of natural, biological, and industrial flows. She is also an active member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and serves on technical committees where she helps with organizing international conferences and professional networking events. She has an interest in engineering education and advises student clubs and engineering competitions.



**MARY JO POST**



## **MARY JO POST RT, CNMT**

**Technical Director  
Upstate University Cardiology Nuclear Testing Department**

Mary Jo Post is the Technical Director at the Upstate University Cardiology Nuclear Testing Department. Mary Jo's education is in Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, with an AAS in Radiology and a AS in Mathematics from North Country Community College, as well as continuing education credits from NY University and ASNC. She has worked in Nuclear Medicine since 1979 with a concentration in Nuclear Cardiology since 1995. Mary Jo currently manages the nuclear testing department for 10 cardiologists in 2 physicians offices.

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PANELISTS FOR  
SHARING THEIR STORIES & ADVICE!**



# LUNCH & LEARN



We have extended invitations to our table sponsors to join you during lunch. This will provide you with the chance to hear about their journeys as STEM professionals, entrepreneurs, and community influencers. Engage in conversations, seek advice, and draw inspiration while enjoying a scrumptious lunch from the Beeches Manor. Conversation cards are available to kick-start discussions. Utilize this opportunity to enhance your networking abilities and move closer to finishing the Women & STEAM Scavenger Hunt!



## SCAVENGER HUNT

Want to snag a cool prize? Just ace all the challenges on your Scavenger Hunt card! Dive into chats with students from far and wide, swap stories and dreams, and mingle with our awesome panelists, Lunch & Learn influencers, and Creating Connections pros to expand your network!

## PRIZES

**One student will win a FULL scholarship to attend the 2024 STEAM Leadership Conference -** That's an over \$1,500 value! To enter, visit the Project Fibonacci table at the Creating Connections Fair. The winner will be announced at a later date!

### **Symposium Scavenger Hunt Raffle Prize**

Complete all 7 tasks on your scavenger hunt card and submit your name for a chance to win a Women & STEAM gift basket!

### **Creating Connections Fair Passport Prize**

Visit at least 7 tables at the Creating Connections Fair, receive a stamp, and enter to win a Women & STEAM gift basket!

### **Educator Prize Package**

Winning teachers will take home a gift from the Project Fibonacci Foundation Inc. Curriculum Committee





**SUPPORTING SPONSOR:**



**IN-KIND DONORS:**



**Athena Club**

*Blue Q*





## READY, SET, NETWORK:

Visit our incredible supporting exhibitors during the Creating Connections Fair. Explore the many academic and professional opportunities that are in our area and be sure to complete your Creating Connections passport to be eligible to win a cool prize! For tips on how to network, visit page 15

### Assured Information Security, Inc.

From testing drones and searching for vulnerabilities in software to building the tools of the cyber warfighter, AIS leads groundbreaking efforts in all areas of cyber and information security.



### ANDRO Computational Solutions, LLC

Established in 1994, ANDRO Computational Solutions is a small, independently owned company serving defense and commercial applications in Software Radios, Spectrum Access, Cyber Security, Blockchain, and more.



### AndroMeta

A certified New York State Minority Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) that specializes in drone technology education for area schools.



### Birch Wealth Management

Birch Wealth Management is an independent, comprehensive wealth management firm that provides an array of services to its clients including investment strategies and risk allocation, retirement income planning, estate and contingency planning, and education planning.



### Connected Community Schools

Works to bring the community, local agencies, services, organizations, businesses, places of worship, individuals, teachers, administrators, union members, and investors to help students become successful, productive, and engaged healthy citizens.



### First Source Federal Credit Union

First Souce serves more than 50,000 members throughout CNY and helps you Live Smarter by making good financial decisions. Their mission is to improve the quality of life for their employees, members, and the communities they serve.





## Indium Corporation

Since the company's founding in 1934, Indium Corporation® has been driven by its curiosity to look at materials from a different perspective – transforming the ordinary into the unexpected.



## Jervis Public Library

The mission of Jervis Public Library is to provide services and materials to meet the needs of the general public in the community of Rome and, secondarily, the needs of people in the surrounding areas for information, education, and recreation.



## Mohawk Valley Community College

MVCC provides accessible, high-quality educational opportunities to meet the diverse needs of its students. They are committed to student success through partnerships, transfer and career pathways, and personal enrichment.



## Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute

Munson is a fine arts center dedicated to serving diverse audiences by advancing the appreciation, understanding, and enjoyment of the arts.



## New York State Enterprise Corporation

NYSTEC is a nonprofit technology consulting company, advising agencies, organizations, institutions, and businesses. Their highly skilled professionals work with clients on IT strategies, solutions, acquisitions, and security across industries.



## On Point for College

On Point for College helps traditional and non-traditional students overcome the barriers to higher education. They support their students from application through graduation and beyond, empowering them to fulfill their dreams and achieve their potential, benefiting both the individual and our community.



## Pratt Munson College of Art and Design

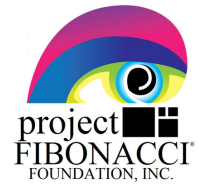
Pratt Munson in Utica attracts focused, serious, and dedicated students who aspire to be true artists. If you identify with these qualities, you may be the ideal student for Pratt Munson.





## The Project Fibonacci® Foundation, Inc.

The Project Fibonacci® Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to STEAM education as a catalyst for workforce preparedness and economic growth. Learn more about our year-round STEAM initiatives and the upcoming STEAM Leadership Conference!



## Smart Carrier

The mission of Smart Carrier is to be the premier provider of telecom compliance management solutions, delivering value and peace of mind to their clients. Smart Carrier was one of the first pioneering service providers to offer a complete STIR/SHAKEN solution and thus created their proprietary, cutting-edge platform.



SMARTCARRIER

## SUNY Polytechnic Institute

SUNY Polytechnic Institute is a globally recognized leader in higher education and technology innovation, research, and development. The SUNY Poly Foundation has launched a mentorship program to advise first-year female students in the university's STEM programs.



## Utica University

Utica University is a comprehensive, independent, private institution founded in 1946 as Utica College. They offer undergraduate and graduate degree options, academic programs, and an outstanding faculty.



## Wolfspeed

At Wolfspeed, their mission is to deliver reliable semiconductor solutions that transform the way the world uses power. Their goal is to create a sustainable future by developing innovative technologies and maximizing energy efficiency.



**VISIT AT LEAST 7 BOOTHS TO COMPLETE YOUR PASSPORT & ENTER TO WIN A PRIZE!**

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE MOMENT FOR LIFE 360 PHOTO BOOTH!





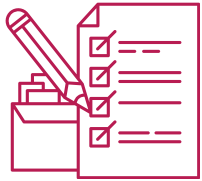
## Be Confident

Confidence is key when networking. Believe in yourself and your abilities. Approach others with a positive attitude and a strong handshake. First impressions matter, so dress in professional attire that reflects your personal style while also being appropriate for the event. This will help you make a positive impact on recruiters and admissions officers. Remember, you have valuable insights and perspectives to offer.



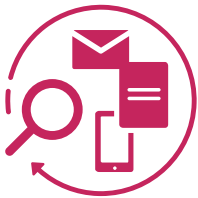
## Listen & Ask Questions

Networking is not just about talking about yourself; it's also about listening to others. Prepare a list of questions to ask exhibitors that will help you gain more insight into their programs, opportunities, and company culture. Ask about internships, career paths, campus life, and any other specific information you're interested in.



## Be Prepared

Before attending a College & Career fair or networking event, do some research on the attendees and the organization hosting the event. This will help you prioritize which booths to visit and prepare thoughtful questions. Prepare a brief introduction about yourself and your goals. Being prepared will help you make a great first impression.



## Follow Up

After the fair, follow up with the exhibitors you connected with by sending thank you emails or messages. This will demonstrate your continued interest and professionalism, potentially leading to further opportunities.

## Questions to Ask:

What internship opportunities does your company offer?

How does your college support students in their career development?

Can you tell me more about the specific programs your college offers in my field of interest?

What sets your company apart from competitors in terms of workplace culture and values?

How can students get involved in research projects or extracurricular activities related to their career goals through your program?

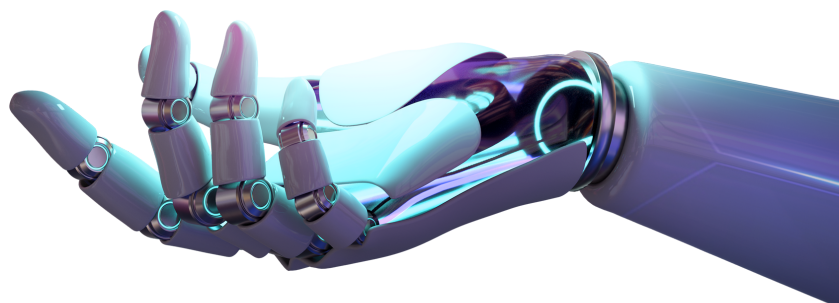






The 6th Annual Project Fibonacci® STEAM Leadership Conference is taking place August 4-10, 2024. We invite you to attend! All you need to do is complete the self-nomination form then have a parent, teacher, or mentor fill out the reference form.

## Artificial Intelligence, the Smart Machine and the Human Factor



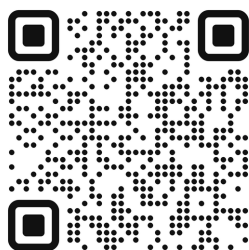
Our team is gearing up for the 6th Annual STEAM Leadership Conference, where we will explore the fascinating intersection of Artificial Intelligence, the Smart Machine, and the Human Factor. This conference is a unique opportunity for students from all over New York State and beyond to come together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

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

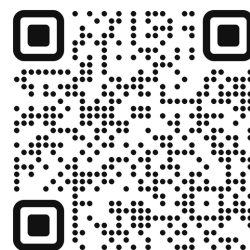
But perhaps most importantly, this conference is about bringing together a diverse group of students with a shared passion for STEAM and a commitment to making a positive impact on the world. Whether you are a seasoned coder or a curious beginner, whether you come from a big city or a small town, you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

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

### SELF-NOMINATION FORM



### REFERENCE FORM



VISIT [PROJECTFIBONACCI.ORG](https://PROJECTFIBONACCI.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION



# WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD? BECOME A STEAM SCHOLAR!

AUGUST 4-10 , 2024 - ROME, NY

## PROJECT FIBONACCI<sup>®</sup> STEAM LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

We're looking for motivated students that want to make a difference in the world by working closely with world-renowned STEAM professionals and students from across New York State!

### CONFERENCE THEME:

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, THE SMART  
MACHINE, AND THE HUMAN FACTOR**

**FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 9-12**



### *Hands-On Learning*

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

### *Academic Advantage*

STEAM Scholars gain the advantage of adding the completion of the STEAM Leadership Conference to their college resumes, giving them an edge that has proved successful for past scholars with respect to academic and job placements. Internship opportunities have also been presented by local companies.

### *Create & Collaborate*

Students- LIKE YOU!- from all over New York State and beyond will work together to come up with creative solutions. Meet new friends, enjoy social activities, and even meet cool celebrity keynote speakers!



"The keynote speakers blew our minds. Because of Project Fibonacci, I am not shy anymore and I am more open to communicating."

- Sally B., 2016-2018 STEAM Scholar

"I absolutely loved attending, making new friends and meeting new people. I loved the workshops and the team building. It helped me become a better leader. It was really unique."

- Tea P., 2017-2019 STEAM Scholar

"Project Fibonacci has helped largely in my college pursuits by exposing me to new career paths and helped me understand what I want to do with my life. I would recommend this program to more students, and I hope my school sponsors more kids in the future."

- Mary B., 2018-2019 STEAM Scholar

**NOMINATE YOURSELF HERE:**



[info@projectfibonacci.org](mailto:info@projectfibonacci.org)  
[ProjectFibonacci.org](http://ProjectFibonacci.org)



## Thank You

Join us in expressing our deepest gratitude to First Source Federal Credit Union for generously granting two full scholarships for students from Proctor High School to attend the 2024 Project Fibonacci®STEAM Leadership Conference.

Additionally, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to Assured Information Security for their contribution of a full scholarship for a student from Rome Free Academy to participate in this enriching experience.

Your support not only empowers these young individuals but also strengthens our community as a whole. Thank you for investing in the future leaders of tomorrow and demonstrating your commitment to nurturing the youth of our community.



**Be sure to enter for your chance to win a FULL SCHOLARSHIP to attend the 2024 STEAM Leadership Conference.**

**Learn more by visiting the Project Fibonacci booth!**



# THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!  
SCAN THE CODE AND FILL OUT THIS SURVEY



PROJECTFIBONACCI.ORG

