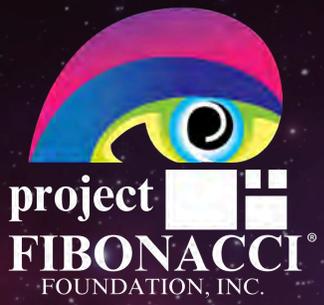


2025 FINAL PROGRAM



THE SCIENCE OF THE UNKNOWN: LIVING IN A MATERIAL WORLD

7th Annual Project Fibonacci® STEAM Leadership Conference

Griffiss Business & Technology Park
Rome, NY

July 27-August 2, 2025



info@projectfibonacci.org 

ProjectFibonacci.org 

PO Box 424, Rome, NY 13442-0424 

IN LOVING
Memory
OF OUR FRIEND



RICK E. LEWIS

With heavy hearts, the Project Fibonacci® Foundation remembers our dear friend and community partner, Rick E Lewis, who recently passed away.

Rick was a constant source of support, creativity, and kindness. Whether he was hosting a trivia contest, helping our students interview ESTEAMed speakers, or teaching them how to create impactful videos, Rick was always ready, willing, and eager to lend a hand. His passion for inspiring young minds and sharing his talents left a lasting impression on everyone he worked with.

An incredible musician, talented video creator, and above all, a wonderful human being, Rick brought energy, heart, and humor to every moment. His contributions to the Project Fibonacci® Foundation, Rome Capitol Theatre, and the Rome community will never be forgotten.

Our community has lost a truly amazing person. We extend our deepest sympathies to Rick's family, friends, and all whose lives he touched.

Rest in peace, Rick. You will be missed more than words can say.

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ABOUT US

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

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

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

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

OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

Enriched STEAM Communities Driving a Modern Renaissance



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSONS

Hello, aspiring leaders and innovators!

We are excited to welcome you to this year's Project Fibonacci STEAM Youth Leadership Conference, especially as we embark on our captivating journey into The Science of the Unknown. You'll use the critical thinking skills learned during the conference to evaluate truth from fiction, known from unknown as you explore!

This conference is more than just a series of talks and workshops; it is a unique and powerful opportunity to learn. The "unknown" isn't a void to fear, but a frontier brimming with possibilities. It's in those uncharted territories of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics that the most profound breakthroughs await. You'll use your critical thinking skills to explore categories as diverse as history and science fiction, always focusing on what is known, unknown, and unknowable.

Over the coming days, you will gain insights into the past, present, and the future of the world in which we live. You'll explore how humanity has always pushed the boundaries of knowledge, from deciphering ancient mysteries to grappling with today's complex global challenges, and envisioning the innovations that will shape tomorrow.

This is your moment to work toward reaching your potential. Engage deeply with the ideas presented, challenge assumptions, collaborate with your peers, and allow your curiosity to lead you down unexpected paths. The questions you ask, the connections you make, and the solutions you begin to envision here could very well be the sparks that ignite the next great advancements for our society.

You are the future leaders who will navigate and illuminate these unknowns. Embrace the spirit of inquiry, the thrill of discovery, and the responsibility that comes with knowledge. We are incredibly excited to see the amazing ideas and leadership that will emerge from this conference.

Welcome, and let the exploration begin!

Tamalin Martin

Bob Bojanek



Tamalin Martin, Co-Chair



Bob Bojanek, Co-Chair



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STEAM Outreach
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JESSICA GRIFFIN*

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AMY JAWORSKI*

2025 Conference Manager
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RAMONA SMITH*

Community Outreach
Rome Council Woman



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STEAM Outreach
Oriskany Jr./Sr. HS



DEB VAN SLYKE*

Curriculum & STEAM Outreach
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PAM MANDRYCK*

Grants Writer
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HEATHER WIELAND

Curriculum & STEAM Outreach
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KEVIN MARKEN

Community Outreach
On Point for College



DR. MITCHELL WILBERT

Community Outreach

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

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VIRGINIA CULVER

Junior Facilitator
Former STEAM Scholar



EVAN DROZD

Acceliphi, CEO



ALBERTO GARCIA

Utica University



DIANE LUNDRIGAN

Retired School Teacher, Camden



JACKIE MANN

Educator, Adirondack High School
Former STEAM Scholar



KEVIN MORRISROE

Retired Math & Ethics Teacher,
Notre Dame High School



JULIA PILNY

Retired Computer Scientist,
Artist



GUY MARTIN

Retired Drug & Alcohol Counselor /
Administrator for Corrections



MARY JO POST

Upstate University Cardiology
Nuclear Testing Department



PHILLIP REUTTER

Utica University



DEB VAN SLYKE

Retired Director of Curriculum
& Instruction



BARB WELCH-DROZD

Owner of AndroMetaX



CAROL WOJDYLA

Retired Nuclear Physicist

MEET THE JUDGES



NERLANDE ANSELME

Superintendent,
Rome City School District



BOB BOJANEK

Co-Chairperson: PFF
The Shoreline Group



DIANNE BORGHOFF

Senior Consultant,
NYSTEC



DR. ANDY DROZD

president & Chief Scientist
ANDRO Computational Solutions, LLC



JASMINKA HUSIC

Chief Financial Officer,
NYSTEC



DR. EMILY KNIGHT

Special Guest Judge: University of
Rochester Medical Center



GUY MARTIN

Retired Drug & Alcohol Counselor /
Administrator for Corrections



KEVIN MORRISROE

Retired Math & Ethics Teacher,
Notre Dame High School



BARB WELCH-DROZD

Owner of AndroMetaX



DR. MITCHELL WILBERT

Project Fibonacci Foundation, Inc.,
Board Member



CAROL WOJDYLA

Retired Nuclear Physicist

2025 CONFERENCE THEME

THE SCIENCE OF THE UNKNOWN: LIVING IN A MATERIAL WORLD

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!

Welcome to a week of learning, collaboration, and inspiration – *your journey into the future of STEAM leadership begins here.*





GRIFFIN

CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

THE GRIFFIN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION'S MISSION IS TO CELEBRATE THE LEGACY OF THE GRIFFIN FAMILY BY ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN ROME AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES.



<https://www.griffincf.org>

SCHOLAR GUIDE TO THE CRITICAL THINKING CHALLENGE

“

We are offering you a week of mystery...of research...of teamwork and adventure...but more than that...an opportunity to make a difference and save the world from misinformation...at least twice before Friday. Are you in??

-Bob and Tamalin

”

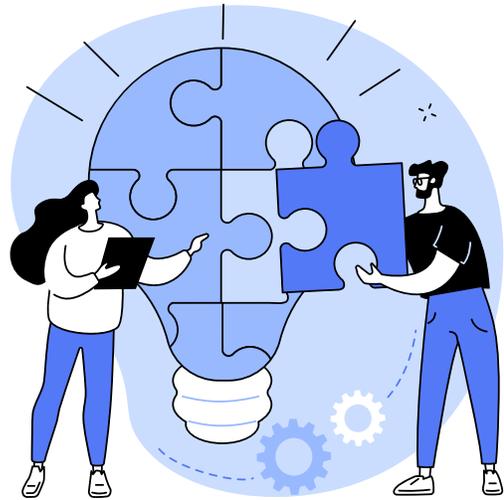


Welcome, eSTEAMed scholars, to the PF Conference 2025! We are thrilled to have you join us for what promises to be an intellectually stimulating and engaging event. This guide provides essential information and instructions for your participation in the Critical Thinking Jeopardy-style project.

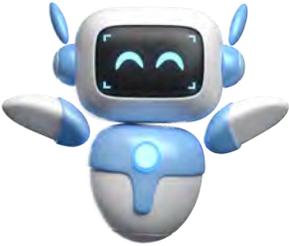
CRITICAL THINKING CHALLENGE

This year, we delve into the vast and intriguing realm of the “Unknown.” You’ll be asked to identify misinformation, differentiate between the known and unknown, and recognize the unknowable when it is presented to you as fact. From the mysteries of quantum physics to the depths of the human mind, from unexplored cosmic phenomena to unanswered assertions in biology, we invite you to use the scientific method to explore an array of categories including categories which you may not have otherwise applied critical thinking to such as history and music.

Your task is to apply rigorous scientific inquiry, critical thinking, and collaborative teamwork to shed light on topics that push the boundaries of knowledge.



THE JEOPARDY-STYLE PROJECT: DAILY CHALLENGES



1. Team Formation

- You will be assigned to teams of 4 or 5 scholars each.
- You will have time on Sunday/Monday to determine a team name.
- Collaboration, diverse perspectives, and leveraging individual strengths are key to your team's success.

2. Daily Structure

- Each day, your team will select an assertion, conduct research, and then prepare a presentation based on your findings.
- Presentations will take place daily, allowing for continuous engagement and learning throughout week.



3. The Jeopardy Board & Assertion Selection

- A Jeopardy board will be presented each morning, featuring categories requiring critical thinking assessment.
- Point Values: The point value for each assertion directly correlates with the perceived difficulty or complexity of the assertion presented.
 - Higher point values will correspond to more challenging assertions requiring deeper research, more nuanced arguments, or addressing more speculative topics.
 - Lower point values will represent more straightforward or foundational assertions within the theme.
- Selection Order:
 - Day 1: The order in which teams choose assertions from the Jeopardy board will be determined randomly (e.g., by drawing team numbers).
 - Subsequent Days: Teams will select assertions in order of their cumulative points earned up to that point. The team with the highest total points from previous days will choose first, followed by the next highest, and so on.



4. Research & Preparation

- Once your team selects a assertion, you will have dedicated time for research and preparation.
- Your goal is to investigate the assertion presented in the Jeopardy assertion, gathering scientific evidence, established theories, and critical perspectives to support or refute it.
- Focus on providing a well-reasoned argument, even if the "answer" to the unknown is still speculative.



THE JEOPARDY-STYLE PROJECT: DAILY CHALLENGES

5. Presentation Guidelines

- Duration: Each team will have 5-10 minutes to present their findings. Practice timing your presentation to ensure you stay within this window.
- Content: Your presentation should clearly:
 - State the Jeopardy assertion/assertion you chose.
 - Summarize your research process.
 - Present the scientific evidence and reasoning that supports or refutes the assertion.
 - Discuss any uncertainties, limitations, or alternative perspectives.
 - Conclude with your team's final position regarding the assertion.
- Format: You may use verbal arguments or augment your argument with visual aids determined by the team. If you rely on oral arguments, make sure you have detailed notes supporting your conclusion – do not attempt to “wing it”. Present your conclusion and supporting argument – do not attempt to present competing views.
- Audience: You will be presenting to two dedicated judges.

6. Judging & Scoring

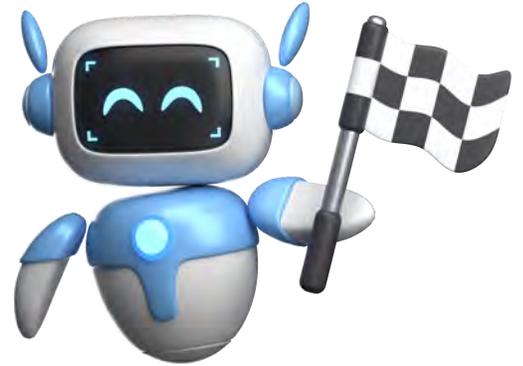
- Judges: Each presentation will be assessed by two experienced judges.
- Deliberation: Judges will have up to 5 minutes after each presentation to deliberate and assign scores.
- The Rubric: A detailed rubric will be provided to all scholars outlining the specific criteria for scoring. This will include aspects such as:
 - Clarity of argument
 - Scientific accuracy and depth of research
 - Evidence-based reasoning
 - Presentation clarity and engagement
 - Team collaboration (observed during presentation)
- Earning Points:
 - Points will be awarded based on the Jeopardy assertion's value and your performance against the rubric.
 - Partial Points: Crucially, teams can earn partial credit even if their ultimate conclusion regarding the assertion is incorrect, provided their argumentation, research, and scientific reasoning are sound and logically presented. This emphasizes the scientific process over a definitive "right" answer in the realm of the unknown. A team must achieve greater than 75% of the rubric credits to be awarded the points allotted to the assertion.
 - The harder the assertion chosen (higher point value), the more potential points your team can earn.



THE JEOPARDY-STYLE PROJECT: DAILY CHALLENGES

7. Final Jeopardy Round

- **Qualification:** At the end of the daily rounds, the teams with the most cumulative points earned throughout the conference will qualify for the prestigious Final Jeopardy Round. Three (3) teams will compete in final Jeopardy.
- **Grand Finale:** The Final Jeopardy presentations will take place on Saturday, open to your families and friends of Project Fibonacci. This is your opportunity to showcase your incredible work to a wider audience and celebrate your scientific exploration!



Tips for Success

- **Embrace Critical Thinking and the Scientific Method:** Don't be afraid to tackle challenging assertions.
- **Research Rigorously:** Even with limited time, prioritize credible sources and critically evaluate information.
- **Collaborate Effectively:** Communicate clearly, divide tasks, and support your teammates.
- **Practice Your Presentation:** Ensure it's clear, concise, and engaging.
- **Think Critically:** Focus on the strength of your argument and the evidence you present, not just on reaching a definitive conclusion.

We look forward to witnessing your incredible scientific explorations and discoveries at the PF Conference 2025!

Best Regards,
The Project Fibonacci® Curriculum Committee

AWARDS FOR THE TOP TWO TEAMS: GIFT CARDS FOR ALL TEAM MEMBERS

JUDGES CHOICE AWARD



PEOPLES CHOICE AWARD FOR CRITICAL THINKING



POSTER PRESENTATION: COMMUNICATING YOUR LEARNING

For Saturday's public viewing and voting, you'll create a poster presentation to share with the public, highlighting what you've learned this week.

Your team poster should include:

- Your Top 2 Assertion Statements: From your work this week, clearly present your two most impactful assertion statements.
- What You Learned: For each assertion statement, elaborate on the key knowledge, insights, or information you gained. What was significant about what you discovered?
- Critical Thinking Skills: Describe the specific critical thinking skills you used and developed throughout the week to arrive at your assertions and understanding. How did you analyze, evaluate, synthesize, or problem-solve?
- Clarity and Communication: Your primary goal is to effectively communicate and clarify what you learned over the week to a public audience. You are explaining complex ideas in an engaging and understandable way.

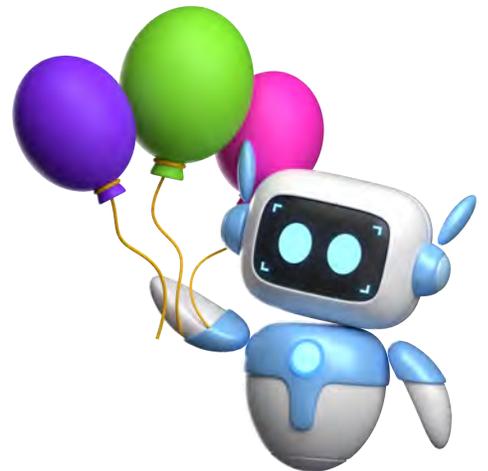
Follow the #evenbetter Poster Guidelines:

Be sure to adhere to all guidelines provided for creating an #evenbetter poster. This includes clear visuals, concise text, and an organized layout that effectively conveys your message.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR GOLD SPONSOR



The Shoreline Group



DAILY SCHEDULE BREAKDOWN

7:30-8:45

Breakfast & Be Ready for MVCC Walk/Bus at 8:45

9:00-10:00

Jeopardy Assertion Team Picks

10:00-12:30

Workshop Blocks 1 & 2, Special Presentations

12:30-1:30

Lunch

1:30-3:45

Workshop Blocks 3 & 4

4:00-5:30

Project Development

5:30-6:30

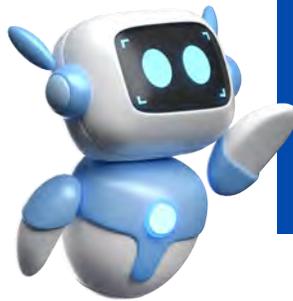
Dinner

6:30-7:30

Jeopardy Team Presentations

8:00-10:00

Social Options



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Amy Jaworski: 315-527-6030

Tamalin Martin: 315-886-1158

Barb Welch-Drozdz: 315-335-8989

OVERNIGHT PROJECT FIBONACCI® CERTIFIED CHAPERONES

Tamalin Martin

Ramona Smith

Barb Welch-Drozdz

MaryJo Post

Virginia Culver

Alberto Garcia

Philip Reutter

ON-SITE SECURITY

Rome Police Department

ON-SITE MEDICS

Local Certified Medic Core EMTs



WHAT'S ON THE MENU

Breakfast: Start your day with a continental breakfast in the hotel dining area each morning to energize yourself for the day ahead. **Please Remember: All STEAM Scholars should be prepared and gather in the tent every morning by 8:45**

MONDAY, 7/28

- LUNCH - SANDWICHES, SOUPS & SALADS
- DINNER - MEDITERRANEAN MONDAY

TUESDAY, 7/29

- LUNCH - PIZZA PARTY
- DINNER - TACO TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY, 7/30

- LUNCH - BUILD YOUR OWN PASTA*
- DINNER - ASIAN FUSION

THURSDAY, 7/31

- LUNCH - ALL AMERICAN BBQ
- DINNER - ITALIAN AMERICAN COMFORT

FRIDAY, 8/1

- LUNCH - FIESTA FRIDAY
- DINNER - SOUTHERN BBQ



VIEW THE FULL DAILY MENUS



*Wednesday Lunch: Scholars going to Spring Creek Lavendar Farm - Get in lunch line first!
Bus Departs at 12:45

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Caterers

We extend our deepest gratitude to our caterers, Feast & Festivities by O'Connors, for crafting an incredible menu for the week. Each meal will feature:

- ****Fresh salads****
- ****Dietary-friendly options****, including:
 - Vegetarian
 - Vegan
 - Kosher
 - Halal
 - Gluten-free

Snack stations will be available at all locations—please remember to take only what you need.

Additionally, there will be a special team snack run on Wednesday, July 30th. Be sure to inform Amy of your special requests before your off-site tours! Each team is allowed up to three special requests.

DAILY SOCIAL OPTIONS



SUNDAY, JULY 27

7:00 Fun Teambuilding
8:30 Open Swim



MONDAY, JULY 28

Get ready for an out-of-this-world night at King Pin Lanes! Join NASA Astronaut Dr. Jeanette Epps for Cosmic Bowling under black lights and neon skies. Each scholar will receive an arcade card for extra fun and games, plus access to our cosmic Space Candy bar—packed with sweet treats that are truly stellar. Don't miss this chance to bowl, play, and hang out with a real-life astronaut! Sponsored by AndroMetaX!



TUESDAY, JULY 29

8:00 S'mores & Outdoor Games*
8:00 -10:00 Ghost Tour at the Rome Art & Community Center



WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

8:00 Outdoor Movie Night, Popcorn, Cotton Candy & Snow Cones!
Sponsored by TACNY



THURSDAY, JULY 31

8:00 DJ Della Dance Party
Oreo Taste Test
**RAIN DATE FOR OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT



FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

8:30 Ice Cream Social



PLEASE NOTE: THE POOL/GYM ARE ONLY AVAILABLE IF THERE IS A CHAPERONE PRESENT

*Weather Permitting



MONDAY, JULY 28

SPECIAL WORKSHOP

18



RISK VS. REWARD -CRITICAL THINKING IN SURVIVAL

Melanie Sawyer: Entrepreneur, Survivalist Instructor, Forager & Participant on the History Channel's Alone Season 10



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 your whole team, 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.

Melanie, originally from the Cotswolds in England, moved to Brooklyn at 30 and later embraced off-grid living in the Adirondack State Park. She enjoys self-sufficiency with solar power, a drilled well, and a wood-burning stove. Fascinated by foraging and wilderness survival, she founded WILD FOODS in 2022 to educate others about edible plants and to promote growing heirloom seeds. Melanie showcased her survival skills on Alone Season 10, thriving in isolation with minimal supplies. As an entrepreneur, she teaches foraging and survival skills and offers herbal teas sourced from the Adirondacks.



» LEARN MORE



melanie_sawyer_wild_foods

@melonthemountain



ESTEAMED SPEAKERS SERIES



DR. STEVEN NOVELLA

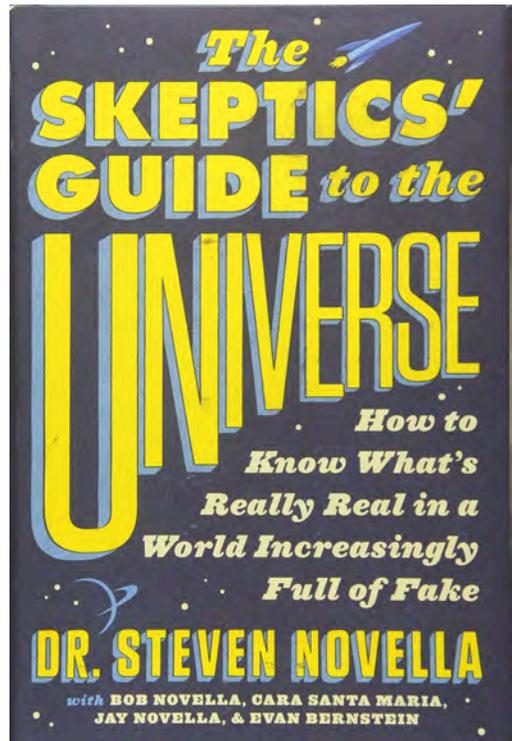
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theskepticsguide

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**



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

MONDAY, JULY 28

20

SPECIAL WORKSHOP BLOCK



LIVING IN A MATERIAL WORLD: A HANDS ON LOOK AT MATERIALS IN TECHNOLOGY, BUSINESS AND FASHION

3:30-5:00

ROOMS 119/120

Ever wonder how the materials around you have changed and why? This workshop offers a unique, hands-on experience with presentations from local businesses and experts. Explore interactive stations where you'll learn about different materials, witness firsthand how technology has revolutionized their properties and applications and understand how evolving needs have driven these transformations. Discover the stories behind the objects we use, from the raw resources to the cutting-edge innovations shaping their present and future. This is a unique opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the "stuff" that surrounds us. Connect directly with local experts and gain insights into the past, present, and future of the material world we inhabit.

Stations include:

- Revere Copper – Explore the legacy and modern applications of copper with one of America's most iconic metal manufacturers.
- Indium Corporation – Learn how indium and other specialty materials are used in high-tech electronics, including semiconductors and solar power.
- NASA Astronaut Materials – Discover the cutting-edge materials that protect and support astronauts in space, and the engineering challenges they solve.
- ModVic STEAM Punk Design with Bruce Rosenbaum – Dive into the world of creative reuse and mechanical storytelling through STEAM Punk design, blending history and innovation.
- Fashion Forward with Professor Lynn Kattato – Investigate how materials in the fashion industry are evolving, from sustainable textiles to wearable technology.
- Wolfsped- A leader in advanced materials, specializing in silicon carbide (SiC) and gallium nitride (GaN) semiconductors. These wide bandgap materials enable faster, more efficient power electronics—critical for electric vehicles, renewable energy, and 5G. Wolfsped operates the world's largest SiC fabrication facility and plays a key role in powering the clean energy transition.



ESTEAMED SPEAKERS SERIES



JEANETTE EPPS

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

Evening Keynote Speaker

 [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, 2025, 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.

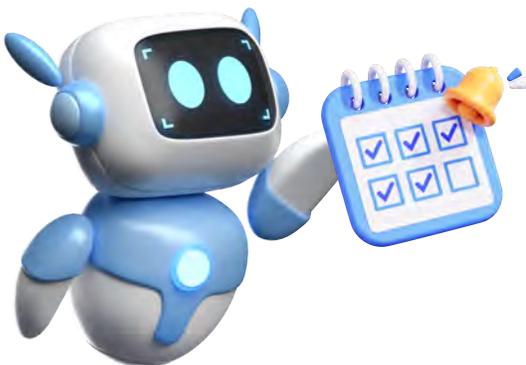
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



ROBERT ABLETT MEMORIAL FUND

Through the Community Foundation Equity Grant, generously funded by the UpMobility Foundation and the Robert Ablett Memorial Fund, scholars from Rome Free Academy and Thomas R. Proctor High School were awarded scholarships to attend the conference!

SAVE THE DATE: MOHAWK VALLEY GIVES 'GIVING DAY' IS SEPTEMBER 19TH!



**MOHAWK VALLEY
GIVES**

POWERED BY THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
AND UPMOBILITY FOUNDATION



**EVEN \$5 MAKES A
HUGE DIFFERENCE!**

MONDAY, JULY 28

23

SPECIAL WORKSHOP BLOCK



DECOMPRESS STRESS

7:00-8:00

Recharge and reconnect during this special one-hour evening block featuring four dynamic wellness options designed to support your mind, body, and spirit. Whether you're seeking movement, mindfulness, motivation, or meaningful conversation, there's something here for everyone:



TAI CHI

David Lebednik, Owner of Lebednik's Karate, (DBA Bailey's Karate) & Laura Segur, Bailey's Karate

Designed to help you release stress and restore balance, this one-hour workshop will guide you through gentle movements, focused breathing, and mindful relaxation. Whether you're new to Tai Chi or simply seeking a peaceful moment in your day, this class offers a welcoming space to reconnect with your body and quiet your mind.

ROOM 209

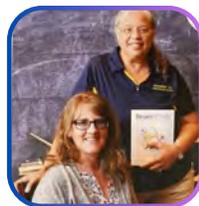


YOGA & MEDITATION FOR RELAXATION

Nicole Hayman-Sherman, Owner of Just Breathe Yoga Studio

Take a mindful pause and reconnect with yourself in this peaceful, restorative workshop led by Nicole Hayman-Sherman of Just Breathe Yoga Studio.

ROOM 120



THE STRUGGLE IS REAL

Tamalin Martin & Barb Welch-Drozd

"The Struggle Is Real" is a transformative workshop created especially for young professionals. Discover the distinctions between stress and anxiety. Explore tools and techniques to boost your awareness and effectively manage these emotions utilizing all 5 of your senses.

ROOM 205



OPTIMIZE YOUR WELLNESS

Dr. Kingsley Kabari, Owner of Kabari Wellness Institute

Join Dr. Kingsley Kabari from Kabari Wellness Center for an inspiring and interactive experience that blends practical health strategies with empowering insights. Discover how to align your body and lifestyle for peak performance and lasting well-being.

ROOM 207



Special Thank You!



WORKSHOPS



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

Professor Sean David, Mohawk Valley Community College

This interactive workshop explores mathematics and probability to improve how we evaluate evidence in everyday life. It addresses common experiences like false accusations or misinterpretations of health results. Participants will learn to use Bayes' Theorem to analyze uncertainty, understand false positives and negatives, challenge claims with quantitative reasoning, and enhance logical thinking. No advanced math knowledge is needed—just curiosity and a willingness to think clearly in complex situations.

Workshop Blocks 1 & 2 ROOM 206



BULK PROPERTIES – FROM STATIC SPARKS TO OOBLECK SPLASHES

Teresa Mann, Oriskany Central School District

Get ready for an engaging exploration of bulk properties of matter. Students will start with experiments on static electricity, then learn about a military innovation in body armor. Outdoor activities include water balloon physics and, conditions permitting, running across oobleck, a non-Newtonian fluid. The workshop concludes with an examination of MIT's explanation of oobleck, linking hands-on fun to advanced science. This experience combines science, storytelling, and sensory enjoyment to illustrate the materials that shape our world.

Workshop Blocks 1 & 2 ROOM 119



CERAMICS – WHERE ART MEETS SCIENCE

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!

Workshop Blocks 1 & 2 ROOM 120



MODERN DAY SPACE ELEVATOR

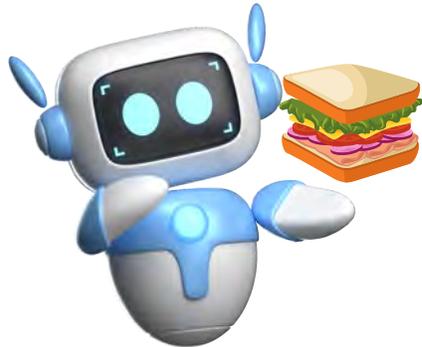
Paul Phister, Rome Academy of Sciences

Explore the ambitious concept of the Modern Day Space Elevator in this interactive workshop. Students will investigate:

- The history of space elevator ideas
- Technological and material challenges
- Real-world proposals using materials like carbon nanotubes and graphene
- The potential to revolutionize space travel, logistics, and sustainability

Participants will engage in discussions on making this concept a reality, highlighting advancements in physics, materials science, and aerospace engineering. Ideal for aspiring engineers, scientists, and dreamers eager to explore cutting-edge possibilities.

Workshop Blocks 1 & 2 ROOM 207



**LUNCH AT 11:30
OUTSIDE DINING HALL**

WORKSHOPS



WHEN NEURODIVERSITY AND NEUROMYTHOLOGY COLLIDE

Dr. Emily Knight, University of Rochester Medical Center

Autism is a key expression of neurodiversity, but widespread myths and misinformation continue to blur the line between science and pseudoscience. In this thought-provoking session, Dr. Emily Knight from the University of Rochester Medical Center will guide participants through the complexities of understanding autism in a world saturated with media myths, viral claims, and misleading “treatments.”

Through a mix of experiential learning and critical thinking, students will explore:

- How pseudoscientific ideas about autism gain traction
- The real science behind autism and its neurological foundations
- Why accurate representation matters—and how media often gets it wrong
- Debunking persistent myths, from telepathy to vaccine conspiracies



This workshop empowers students to think critically about medical evidence, appreciate the lived experiences of autistic individuals, and become more discerning consumers—and communicators—of science.

Workshop Block 3 ROOM 206



SCIENCE VS. SCIENCE FICTION

**Bruce Rosenbaum, Artist & Owner of ModVic
Dr. Andy Drozd, Owner of ANDRO and Founder of the Project Fibonacci Foundation, Inc.**

This interactive presentation will include visuals, group discussions, and creative activity to inspire and educate STEAM scholars on how imaginative science fiction ideas evolve into real-world scientific advancements through creative problem solving, innovation, and technological progress. Sources will include science fiction literature and cinema including perspectives by historical figures and celebrated authors from Leonardo da Vinci, Arthur C. Clarke, Gene Roddenbery to George Lucas and beyond. Themes/activities will include a Sci-Fi Speed Round icebreaker game, Visionary Sci-Fi Becomes Reality session, What’s Behind the Innovation analysis, Design the Future Creative Challenge, Q&A Reflection, and Recap and Takeaways. Real examples with physical props will be shared to gain an intimate understanding of how science fiction has influenced current technology and how the fusion of technology, history, literature, cinema, and sci-fi culture have led to the technologies of today from smart phones to artificial intelligence and much, much more!

Workshop Block 3 FESTINE AUD



DISCOVER THE SKILLS FOR SUCESS

Ramona Smith, Rome City Council Member

Join Ramona Smith for an engaging and empowering workshop designed to help students unlock their full potential through the development of social and emotional intelligence.

In this session, students will explore the key building blocks of personal and professional success, including:

- Self-confidence
- Effective communication
- Leadership skills

Through interactive activities and guided discussion, students will gain a deeper understanding of how emotional awareness and interpersonal skills can shape their future—academically, socially, and in the workplace.

Whether you're preparing for college, a career, or simply want to grow as a leader, this workshop offers practical tools and insights to help you thrive.

Workshop Block 3 ROOM 205

In-Home Skilled
Nursing and Therapy
Home Health Aides
Managed Long-Term Care
Medicare Advantage Plans*

*not available
in all counties

the care
you need
in the
home
you love



Nascentia 
Health

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SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS



All Scholars
Festive Aud
9:00-10:00

Ethics, Epistemology, and Misinformation – How Do We Know What’s True?

Kevin Morrisroe, Ret. Math & Ethics Teacher: Notre Dame High School

This thought-provoking lecture invites students to explore one of the most fundamental—and urgent—questions of our time: How do we decide what’s true?

Drawing inspiration from Donald Rumsfeld’s famous quote about “knowns” and “unknowns,” this session dives into the heart of epistemology (the study of knowledge), ethics, and the complex landscape of misinformation in the modern world.

Students will examine:

- How we form and evaluate truth claims
- The ethical responsibilities tied to knowledge and belief
- The impact of misinformation, uncertainty, and cognitive bias
- What it means to navigate a world filled with known unknowns and unknown unknowns

With real-world examples and engaging discussion, this lecture challenges scholars to think critically about how we come to trust information, question assumptions, and act responsibly in an age of information overload.



All Scholars
thINCubator
4:00-4:40

Entrepreneurship & the Unknown: Owning Your Story, Shaping What’s Next

Ryan Miller: Director of MVCC’s thINCubator

Entrepreneurship is deeply connected to the science of the unknown. Whether you’re building your own business or working within someone else’s, the mindset and skills of an entrepreneur—adaptability, creative problem-solving, and the ability to stay confident amid uncertainty—are powerful tools in any path you take.

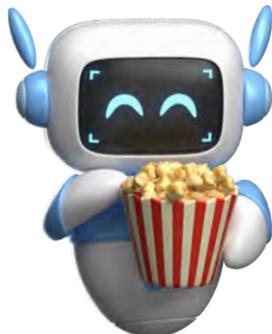
Pitching isn’t just for startups. Throughout life, you’ll pitch ideas, solutions, and even yourself. When you start thinking like an entrepreneur, you learn to embrace uncertainty and turn challenges into opportunities. That’s what this is really about: using these materials to shape your future, no matter where it takes you.

TACNY’s Outdoor Movie Magic: Popcorn, Snow Cones & More!

Fun starts at 8:00!

Popcorn Bar, Snowcones, Cotton Candy

Special Thanks to TACNY!



WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

OFF-SITE TOURS

EXPLORING STEAM IN CNY



MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Utica, NY

Take a behind-the-scenes look at cutting-edge science in action with an exclusive tour of the Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI)—a not-for-profit biomedical research center dedicated to improving health and quality of life worldwide.

Founded in 1958 by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of New York, MMRI has become an internationally recognized leader in biomedical research, with a focus on areas such as cardiovascular science, genetics, molecular biology, and immunology.

During this tour, STEAM Scholars will:

- Explore the state-of-the-art labs and facilities
- Learn about MMRI's groundbreaking research initiatives
- Discover the real-world impact of biomedical science
- Hear from scientists about career paths and opportunities in research and medicine

This immersive experience will offer students a rare glimpse into the collaborative, cross-disciplinary world of biomedical innovation—and how curiosity, science, and service come together to shape a healthier future.



MUNSON – MYTHS AND MYSTERIES AT THE MUSEUM

Utica, NY

Step into a world of legends, symbolism, and artistic wonder on this immersive off-site experience at Munson.

Myths and Mysteries at the Museum invites students to explore how Greek and Roman mythology, along with origin stories from around the world, are brought to life through art. This guided tour connects classroom readings to powerful visual narratives found in paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, and contemporary works. Students will see firsthand how ancient myths continue to inspire artists across cultures and centuries.

A highlight of the visit includes *Celestial Bodies: Sculpture* by Karen LaMonte, an awe-inspiring exhibition showcasing the work of one of today's most celebrated sculptors. Known for her mastery of glass, porcelain, marble, and bronze, LaMonte crafts hauntingly beautiful, life-sized figures that challenge form and material. Her work not only embodies artistic excellence but also environmental responsibility—all of her sculptures are carbon negative, made possible through innovative practices in efficiency, emissions reduction, and carbon offsets.

This tour is a rare opportunity for students to engage with timeless stories and cutting-edge contemporary art in one unforgettable experience.



SPRING CREEK LAVENDER FARM

Utica, NY - **Wear Comfortable Clothes for Yoga & Bring Extra Clothes!**

Join us for a refreshing and joyful afternoon at Spring Creek Lavender, a locally owned and operated farm that blends nature, wellness, and fun in the most unforgettable way!

Unwind with a playful session of GOAT YOGA, where gentle yoga poses are enhanced by the company of curious, friendly goats. After stretching and laughing with your furry yoga companions, take time to explore the scenic lavender fields, pick your own fresh lavender, and learn about the inspiring story behind this unique Central New York gem.

Cap off your visit by browsing the on-site shop, filled with handcrafted lavender products, farm-made goods, and perfect take-home treasures.

Whether you're looking to de-stress, connect with nature, or just try something new, this experience offers the perfect blend of relaxation, charm, and discovery.



WORKSHOPS



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.

Workshop Blocks 1 & 2 FESTINE AUD



CODING WITH PYTHON

William "BJ" Blair, Senior Scientist: ANDRO Computational Solutions, LLC

Join a fun, interactive workshop to learn Python programming. Suitable for beginners or those looking to enhance their skills, participants will engage with the Hour of Code Python series, writing and running real code to gain practical experience with this versatile language.

Workshop Blocks 1 & 2 ROOM 207



SUMMER COOKIE COOL DOWN

Kim Ocuto, Rome Art and Community Center

Join a fun cookie decorating workshop this summer to learn how to transform sugar cookies into delightful treats like ice cream cones and popsicles using colorful royal icing. Suitable for all skill levels, this hands-on session covers decorating tips, icing textures, and flooding techniques, allowing you to create edible art while enjoying a refreshing activity.

Workshop Blocks 1 & 2 ROOM 119



SCIENCE AND SPECULATION: ROLE-BASED GAME DESIGN

Adrian Maggio: Cyborg Interactive, LLC

This 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."

Workshop Blocks 1 & 2 ROOM 205



LUNCH AT 12:15



WORKSHOPS



RESONANCE & RHYTHM: EXPLORING STEAM THROUGH BARBERSHOP MUSIC

Don Drake, Evan Drozd, Bob Feldman, Mike McLoughlin: New Horizon Chorus

Join our Barbershop Music & STEAM Workshop to explore the history of barbershop singing and the science of sound. Participants will learn about harmonics, dissonance, and consonance, enhancing their understanding of the unique barbershop sound. The workshop also emphasizes music's emotional and physical effects, with interactive discussions and activities that reveal how melodies and harmonies can influence mood and well-being.

Workshop Blocks 3 & 4 FESTINE AUD



PAINTING WILD: ART INSPIRED BY THE SCIENCE OF THE UNKNOWN

Erin Horender: Owner of Painting Wild

A step-by-step painting class that explores the mysterious side of science through themed artwork inspired by the Science of the Unknown. No prior painting experience required! Erin will guide you in bringing your creative vision to life on canvas, making this workshop perfect for aspiring artists and those seeking a fun way to connect art and science. Expect creativity, curiosity, and a touch of mystery.

Workshop Blocks 3 & 4 ROOM 207



UNLOCK YOUR SUPERPOWERS...WITH AI!

Chris Cooley, Owner of Cooley Comics LLC

Join us for an awesome, hands-on comic workshop where you become the creator. Design your own comic character and story based on your real-life dreams, strengths, and goals. Along the way, we'll explore how AI isn't something to fear—it's a powerful tool that can help you unlock careers you never thought were possible. From artists to entrepreneurs, AI is making creative and high-paying jobs more accessible than ever. This isn't a boring lecture—it's a fun, interactive experience where you'll learn how to use AI as your sidekick to build your future. Walk out with your own custom comic and a whole new perspective on what's possible.

Workshop Blocks 3 & 4 ROOM 205



ALL IN ADVENTURES ESCAPE ROOMS

Kayla Davis: All In Adventures

Step into an immersive world of mystery, problem-solving, and high-stakes adventure with All in Adventures Escape Rooms! Each game is packed with intriguing puzzles and clues, all woven into a captivating storyline that challenges your logic, teamwork, and creativity.

Choose your challenge:

- **Zombie Apocalypse** – Trapped in a secret lab as a zombie horde closes in, your team must race against the clock to develop a vaccine and escape before it's too late. Can you survive the outbreak?
- **Sherlock's Library** – The legendary detective Sherlock Holmes has vanished, and strange clues are all that remain. Can you unravel the mystery and uncover the truth before time runs out?

Workshop Blocks 3 & 4 ROOM 119/120

POWERED BY THANKS:

RECOGNIZING THE PEOPLE WHO HELP LAUNCH YOUR JOURNEY

As a 2025 STEAM Scholar at the 7th Annual Project Fibonacci® STEAM Leadership Conference, you're taking part in something truly special – an immersive experience designed to shape you into a future leader in STEAM. But none of this happens without the support of the generous sponsors who cover the cost of your tuition to attend.

This week, you will take time to write a personal thank you card to the sponsor who believed in your potential. A thoughtful note not only expresses gratitude – it can leave a lasting impression and help build relationships that extend beyond this conference.

Why Thank You Notes Matter

- They show appreciation to someone who invested in your success.
- They make you stand out as a thoughtful, driven individual.
- They build your professional image early in your career journey.
- They encourage continued support so future students can have this opportunity too.

What to Include in Your Thank You Card

Follow this simple structure to help you get started:

1. Greeting & Thanks

Dear [Sponsor's Name or "Conference Sponsor"],

Thank you so much for sponsoring my tuition to attend the 7th Annual Project Fibonacci® STEAM Leadership Conference.

2. Share What You're Learning

Mention something meaningful you've done or discovered during the week.

Example: This week, I've had the chance to learn about [insert specific topic, speaker, or activity], which is helping me understand how STEAM connects to real-world problems.

3. Describe the Impact

Explain what the experience means to you personally or how it's changing your outlook.

Example: Being here is helping me grow as a leader and as a person. It's inspiring me to think bigger about my future and what I can contribute to the world.

4. Share Your Future Plans

Tell your sponsor how you plan to use what you're learning.

Example: I plan to take what I'm learning back to my school and community by [insert example – starting a club, mentoring others, exploring new fields, applying to college programs, etc.].

5. Close with Gratitude

Example: Thank you again for your generosity. Your support is helping shape my future, and I'm truly grateful.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

Tips for a Great Thank You Card

- Write clearly and neatly if it's handwritten.
- Keep it concise – a few short paragraphs is perfect.
- Proofread – take pride in what you write.
- Speak from the heart – your voice matters!

Let's Pay It Forward

By writing your thank you card, you're doing more than saying thanks – you're helping ensure that this experience continues for future scholars like you. Gratitude builds bridges, opens doors, and reminds us that none of us succeed alone.

Let's celebrate the end of this incredible week by reflecting, connecting, and showing our appreciation in the most powerful way – with our words.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

FUEL YOUR FUTURE FAIR

Special Breakout Sessions

FINANCIAL LITERACY FIRST SOURCE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

First Source Federal Credit Union is a member-owned financial institution guided by a strong commitment to education and doing the right thing for its employees, members, and community.

Join Debbie Grogan, Community Development Specialist, for a special Financial Literacy Breakout Session designed to help you take control of your financial future.

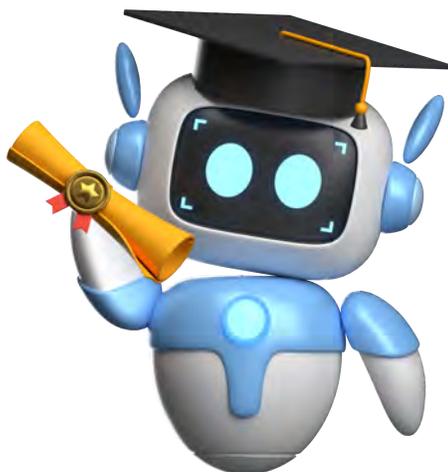
In this session, you'll learn:

- How to build and manage a budget
- Tips for saving money and setting financial goals
- How credit works and how to use it wisely
- Smart spending habits and avoiding common financial pitfalls
- Tools and strategies to plan for long-term financial success

This session is perfect for anyone looking to better understand their finances and make confident, informed decisions for the future.



Transforming lives, transforming communities.



PREPARING FOR COLLEGE ON POINT FOR COLLEGE

Join us for an informative breakout session with On Point for College, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping students navigate the path to higher education.

In this session, you'll learn:

- How to research and apply to colleges that fit your goals
- Step-by-step guidance on completing college applications
- What financial aid options are available and how to apply for them
- How On Point for College can support you with one-on-one assistance
- Tips for overcoming common challenges in the college admissions process

Whether you're a first-time applicant or just need help figuring out your next steps, this session will equip you with the knowledge and support to move forward with confidence.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

FUEL YOUR FUTURE FAIR

Special Breakout Sessions

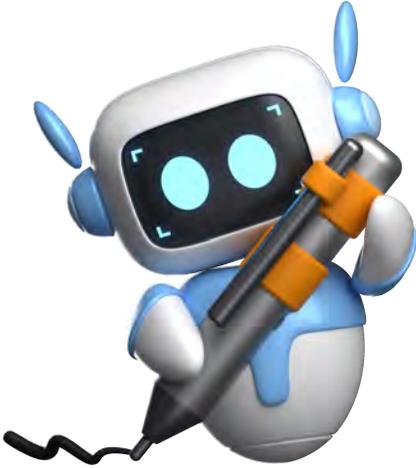
WRITE IT RIGHT: BUILDING A WINNING RESUME

Join Pam Mandryck, Technical Writer at ANDRO, for a hands-on breakout session focused on crafting an effective, standout resume.

In this session, you'll discover:

- Key components every strong resume should include
- How to tailor your resume to specific jobs or industries
- Tips for showcasing your skills, experience, and accomplishments
- Common resume mistakes to avoid
- How formatting and language can make a big impact

Whether you're building your first resume or looking to refresh an existing one, Pam's expert advice will give you the tools to present yourself professionally and confidently to employers.



NAIL THE INTERVIEW: CONFIDENCE, COMMUNICATION & CONNECTION

Join Ramona Smith, a seasoned Human Resources professional with years of experience and thousands of interviews under her belt, for a breakout session that will help you master the art of the job interview.

In this session, you'll learn:

- How to prepare for different types of interviews
- What employers are really looking for in your responses
- Strategies to answer common and challenging interview assertions
- How to present yourself with confidence and professionalism
- Tips for making a lasting impression, both in person and virtually

Whether you're preparing for your first interview or looking to sharpen your skills, Ramona's insider advice will help you feel confident, prepared, and ready to succeed.



FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

FUEL YOUR FUTURE FAIR

Don't forget to complete your Fuel Your Future Fair passport by engaging with exhibitors from local companies and academic institutions for a chance to win a prize!

ANDRO COMPUTATIONAL SOLUTIONS, LLC

ANDRO Computational Solutions, LLC, a privately-owned company established in 1994, is dedicated to research, development, and the application of advanced computer software for a variety of applications. ANDRO's diverse portfolio includes: research and development in artificial intelligence and machine learning, waveform development, dynamic spectrum management, spectrum exploitation, cyber-secure wireless communications, cognitive radios and software defined networking, multi-sensor and multi-target tracking, advanced radar data fusion, and sensor resource management.



ANDROMETAX

Drone Education Services including coding, rover assembly, drone repair education, manual flight instruction, FAA regulations and piloting information. Drone camps. Also works with schools to order summer school program supplies as a support service.



ASSURED INFORMATION SECURITY (AIS)

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. They provide government and commercial customers with industry-leading cyber and information security capabilities specializing in research, development, consulting, testing, forensics, remediation, and training.



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.



GRIFFISS INSITUTE

The Griffiss Institute aims to develop the next generation of STEM talent and defense technologies that will strengthen U.S. national security and create economic opportunity for our region, state and nation.



INDIUM CORPORATION

Indium Corporation is a premier materials refiner, smelter, manufacturer, and supplier to the global electronics market. Founded in Utica in 1934, we have established global technical support and production across the globe.



FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

FUEL YOUR FUTURE FAIR

JERVIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Jervis Public Library, located in Rome, NY, is a historic and vibrant community hub that offers a wide range of resources and services to its patrons. The library provides access to a diverse collection of books, digital media, and educational programs for people of all ages. With its welcoming atmosphere and knowledgeable staff, Jervis Public Library is a beloved institution that fosters a love of learning and literacy in the local community.



LE MOYNE COLLEGE

Le Moyne College is a small, Division I, Jesuit, Private, Liberal Arts College in Central NY in the city of Syracuse. We are a residential campus with roughly 2,600 undergraduate and roughly 600 graduate students. We are also the youngest Jesuit college or university in the U.S.



MOHAWK VALLEY MATERIALS

Founded in 2007, Mohawk Valley Materials, Inc. (MVM) is a certified Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB), specializing in heavy civil construction services. We work nationwide with our owned and operated fleet of 250+ pieces of heavy equipment to deliver land management and sustainment services to defense, federal, state, and local government, and commercial clients.



MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mohawk Valley Community College provides accessible, high-quality educational opportunities to meet the diverse needs of our students. With campuses in Rome and Utica, NY, we are the community's college, committed to student success through partnerships, transfer and career pathways, and personal enrichment.



NY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

The New York Army National Guard (NYARNG) is a part-time reserve force of the U.S. Army, serving both state and federal missions. Soldiers typically train one weekend a month and two weeks each summer, balancing military service with civilian life.



NYSTEC

NYSTEC is a nonprofit technology consulting firm that has advised public and private organizations since 1996. Our expert, vendor-neutral team delivers tailored IT strategies, solutions, and security support. We collaborate closely with the Air Force Research Lab and maintain a specialized New York State contract, making it easy for government agencies to work with us quickly and effectively. At NYSTEC, we focus on delivering trusted, cost-effective technology solutions that drive real results.



FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

FUEL YOUR FUTURE FAIR

ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Onondaga Community College (OCC) is a SUNY school in Syracuse, NY, offering a range of STEM-focused associate degrees in fields like engineering, computer science, and lab sciences. With hands-on learning, modern labs, and strong transfer pathways, OCC prepares students for both technical careers and continued education in STEM.



ROME CONNECTED COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Connected Community Schools is a collaborative initiative designed to ensure that students and families have access to essential resources and support services—helping them thrive in school, at home, and within the community.



ST. JOHN FISHER UNIVERSITY

St. John Fisher University is a private college located in Rochester NY. They offer bachelors and masters degree programs in the field of Nursing, Business, Arts & Science, Education and Pharmacy.



SUNY FULTON-MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SUNY Fulton-Montgomery Community College is located at the crossroads of the Mohawk Valley and Capital regions in Johnstown, NY. SUNY FMCC provides students with a quality education in an environment that nurtures success preparing them for great careers, without the great debt!



SUNY OSWEGO

At SUNY Oswego, your future starts with unparalleled opportunities—on our stunning lakeside campus, in Syracuse, or online. An Oswego education goes beyond the classroom—offering hands-on experiences, expert mentorship, and a community that fuels your success.



SUNY POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

SUNY Polytechnic Institute is a globally recognized leader in higher education and technology innovation, research and development. SUNY Poly's four colleges offer exciting, relevant courses and majors that enable students to achieve success in growing 21st century career fields.



UTICA UNIVERSITY

Located in the heart of Central New York, Utica University is a comprehensive, independent, private institution founded in 1946 as Utica College. They offer many of the advantages of a large university, such as undergraduate and graduate degree options, excellent academic programs, and outstanding faculty, but with an intimacy and a high degree of personal attention more closely associated with smaller private institutions.



FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

FUEL YOUR FUTURE FAIR

U.S. AIR FORCE/U.S. SPACE FORCE

The United States Air Force is the air service branch of the United States Department of Defense. The U.S. Space Force primary mission is to organize, train, and equip space forces to conduct global space operations that enhance the way joint and coalition forces fight, and to provide decision-makers with military options to achieve national objectives.



WOLFSPEED

At Wolfspeed, we are the creators of the next-generation semiconductor technology that powers the world's most disruptive innovations. In other words, it's our job to make humankind's greatest ambitions – real. For us, making it real means making it the Wolfspeed way. We deliver unparalleled reliability on a massive scale from the first U.S.-based silicon carbide corridor with end-to-end substrate and power device fabrication to fulfill the world's growing demand.



NETWORKING TIPS & TRICKS



BE PREPARED

Before attending a College & Career fair or networking event, do some research on the exhibitors present. 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!



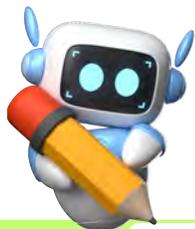
BE CONFIDENT

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 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.



QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- What internship opportunities does your company offer?
- How does your college support students in their company development?
- What sets your company apart from competitors in terms of workplace culture?
- How can students get involved in research projects or extracurricular activities?
- Can you tell me more about the specific programs your college offers in my field of interest?



Don't forget to complete your Fuel Your Future Fair passport by engaging with exhibitors from local companies and academic institutions for a chance to win a prize!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIAL EVENT

38



 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 and Engineering Wonders.

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



**ROME CAPITOL
THEATRE:
CONCESSIONS
AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE!**



ANDRO

Leading Edge Communications

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

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

CORE TECHNOLOGIES

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

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

FRED FRANTZ
ffrantz@androcs.com

DAILY SURVEYS

Complete the daily survey - one gift card winner each day!
Be sure to check your email after the conference for a follow-up survey!

**SUNDAY,
JULY 27**



**MONDAY,
JULY 28**



**TUESDAY,
JULY 29**



**WEDNESDAY,
JULY 30**



**THURSDAY,
AUGUST 1**



**FRIDAY,
AUGUST 2**



MORE PRIZES TO WIN!

For two scholars who complete the Fuel Your Future Fair passport (Friday, 8/1)

Winners Announced on Saturday, August 2

Team Votes: One scholar selected from each color team for the following categories.

Voting takes place Friday 8/1

- Kindest Human
- Synergy Superstar (Best Team Player)
- Most Effective Communicator
- Top Tier Problem Solver (Best Critical Thinker)

Judge's Choice - Team Final Project

People's Choice for Critical Thinking- Team Final Project



Two Daily Survey Winners- Must complete all daily survey to be eligible!

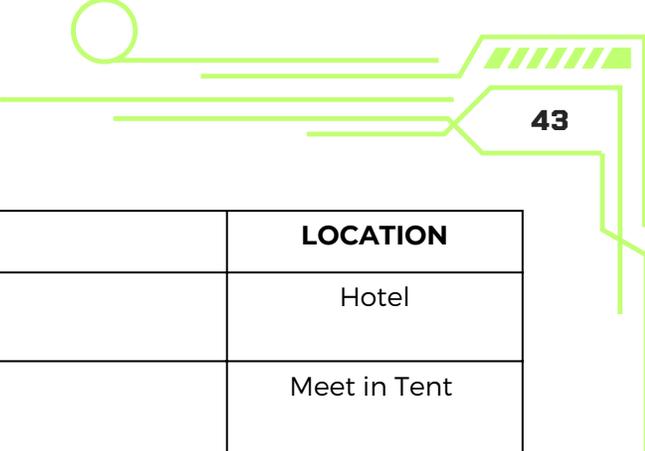
DAILY SCHEDULE - SUNDAY 7/27

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
12:30-2:30	STEAM Scholar Check-in Medical Release Station (if necessary) Code of Conduct Review <i>After All Stations are Complete, Parents are Free to Depart</i> Icebreakers by ICAN	Hampton Inn
4:00-5:00	Hotel Room Check-ins <i>By Floor</i>	
5:00-6:00	Dinner	Tent
6:00-7:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Welcome Reception Sponsored by NYSTEC</p> <p>Welcoming Remarks: Dr. Andy Drozd, <i>Project Fibonacci Foundation & Chairman of the Board</i></p> <p>Welcome from Marianne Buttenschon <i>District 19 Assemblywoman</i></p> <p>Conference Overview: Tamalin Martin, <i>Executive Co-Chairperson</i></p> <p>Curriculum Overview: Bob Bojanek, <i>Executive Co-Chairperson</i></p> <p>Janusian Thinking: Teamwork & Critical Thinking: Bruce Rosenbaum <i>Artist & Owner of ModVic</i></p>	
7:00-8:30	Team Building Icebreakers	Hotel/Tent
8:00-10:00	Open Swim, Gym	
10:00	Curfew: All Scholars Must be in Their Own Rooms. Overnight staff will conduct checks	

DAILY SCHEDULE - MONDAY 7/28

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:30-8:45	Breakfast & Get Ready	Hotel
8:45-9:00	Shuttle Transportation to MVCC or Walk	Meet in Tent
9:00-11:30	Risk Vs. Reward Special Workshop with Melanie Sawyer	Meet in Festine Aud
11:30-12:30	Lunch	Atrium
12:30-3:30	Interactive STEAM Scholar Learning Session with Dr. Steven Novella	Dining Hall
3:30-5:00	Materials in Motion: Innovation Across Industries	119/120
5:00-6:00	ESTEAMed Speakers Series: Dr. Jeanette Epps <i>Followed by Meet & Greet</i>	Festine Aud
6:00-7:00	Dinner	Atrium
7:00-8:00	Decompress Stress: Tai Chi Optimize Your Wellness The Struggle is Real Yoga	119 207 205 120
8:00-8:15	Shuttle Transportation to Hotel or Walk	Meet in Atrium
8:15-10:00	Cosmic Bowling with Astronaut Dr. Jeanette Epps! & Space Candy Bar!  Drones with a Twist - A STEAM Program	Hotel / Tent
10:00	Curfew - All scholars must be in their rooms	

DAILY SCHEDULE - TUESDAY 7/29



TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:30-8:45	Breakfast & Get Ready	Hotel
8:45-9:00	Shuttle Transportation to MVCC or Walk	Meet in Tent
9:00-10:00	Jeopardy assertion Selection	Festine Aud
10:00-11:00	Workshop Block 1	
11:15-12:15	Workshop Block 2	
12:30-1:30	Lunch	Atrium
1:30-3:00	Workshop Block 3	
3:00-5:30	Team Meetups	
5:30-6:30	Dinner	Atrium
6:30-7:30	Jeopardy Project Pitches	Dining Hall/Festine
7:30-7:45	Shuttle Transportation to Hotel or Walk	Meet in Atrium
8:00-8:15	Shuttle from Hotel to Rome Art and Community Center Ghost Tour 8:30-10:00	Meet in Tent
8:00-10:00	S'mores (Weather Permitting) Board Game Night	

DAILY SCHEDULE - WEDNESDAY 7/30

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:30-8:45	Breakfast - Wear Your PF Shirt Today!	Hotel
8:45-9:00	Shuttle Transportation to MVCC or Walk	Meet in Tent
9:00-9:45	Ethics, Epistemology, and Misinformation - How Do We Know What's True? <i>Special Presentation from Kevin Morrisroe</i>	Festine
10:00-10:45	Jeopardy assertion Selection	Dining Hall
10:45-12:00	Team Meetups	
12:00-1:00*	Lunch *Spring Creek Lavendar Farm Scholars - First in Line - Bus 1 Departs at 12:45	Atrium
1:00-1:15	Bus 2 Departure First Drop: Munson Second Drop: MMRI	Atrium
1:30-3:30	Off-Site Tours	
3:30-3:45	Bus Pickup Bus 1: Pickup 3:30 Bus 2: Munson Pickup 3:30 / MMRI Pickup 3:45	
4:00-4:40	Entrepreneurship & the Unknown <i>Special Presentation from Ryan Miller, thINCubator</i>	thINCubator
4:50-5:50	Jeopardy Project Pitches	
6:00-6:20	Bus Return to Hotel - Same Buses as Tours	
6:30-7:30	Dinner	Hotel / Tent
8:00-10:30	TACNY's Outdoor Movie Magic: Popcorn, Snowcones & More!	
10:00	Curfew - All scholars must be in their rooms - <i>Exception Made for Those Watching Movie!</i>	

*Weather Permitting - Rain Date Thursday, July 31

DAILY SCHEDULE - THURSDAY 7/31

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:30-8:45	Breakfast & Get Ready	Hotel
8:45-9:00	Shuttle Transportation to MVCC or Walk	Meet in Tent
9:00-10:00	Jeopardy Assertion Selection	Festive Aud
10:00-11:00	Workshop Block 1	
11:15-12:15	Workshop Block 2	
12:30-1:30	Lunch	Dining Hall
1:30-2:30	Workshop Block 3	
2:45-3:45	Workshop Block 4	
3:45-5:45	Team Meetups	
5:45-6:45	Dinner	Atrium
6:45-7:45	Jeopardy Project Pitches	
7:45-8:00	Shuttle Transportation to Hotel or Walk	Meet in Atrium
8:00-10:00	Social Options: DJ Della Dance Party	
10:00	Curfew - All scholars must be in their rooms	Hotel / Tent

DAILY SCHEDULE - FRIDAY 8/1

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:30-8:45	Breakfast & Get Ready	Hotel
8:45-9:00	Shuttle Transportation to MVCC or Walk	Meet in Tent
9:00-10:00	Jeopardy Assertion Selection	Festine
10:00-11:30	Fuel Your Future Fair - <i>Don't forget to fill out your passport!</i> Financial Literacy Special Session: 119 Academic & Career Support Social Sessions: 120	Hallways/Dining Hall
11:30-2:00	Team Meetups	
11:30-12:30	Lunch	Atrium
2:00-3:00	Jeopardy Project Pitches	Festine/Dining Hall
3:00-3:15	Shuttle Transportation to NTROPEE Hangar Shuttle 1: Red, Yellow Shuttle 2: Green, Blue	Meet in Atrium
3:15-3:45	Dress Rehearsal	NTROPEE Hangar
3:45-5:30	Final Jeopardy Picks, Poster Development & Thank You Cards	
5:30-6:15	Dinner	
6:15-6:30	Shuttle Transportation to NTROPEE Hangar Shuttle 1: Red, Yellow Shuttle 2: Green, Blue <i>Snacks & Drinks Available for Purchase Before the Show at Concession Stand!</i>	Rome Capitol Theatre
7:00-8:00	Special Presentation Featuring Magician Peter Boie	
8:00-8:15	Shuttle Transportation to Hotel Shuttle 1: Red, Yellow Shuttle 2: Green, Blue	
8:30-10:00	Social Options: Ice Cream Social & Open Swim	Hotel
10:00	Curfew - All scholars must be in their rooms	

DAILY SCHEDULE - SATURDAY 8/2

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:00-8:30	Breakfast - Bring Luggage to Conference Room <i>Dress to Impress!</i>	Hotel
8:30-8:45	Shuttle Transportation to NTROPEE Hangar Shuttle 1: Red, Yellow Shuttle 2: Green, Blue	Meet in Tent
9:00-10:00	Ask Me What I Learned Session <i>Your Parents & Families Will Arrive During This Time!</i>	Special Thank You:     
10:00-11:00	Top Teams Project Presentations	
11:00-12:00	Closing Ceremonies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrospective Video • Award Ceremony • Winning Teams Announcements 	
12:00-2:00	Pizza Lunch for Scholars & Families! <i>A shuttle will return you and your family to the hotel to pick up luggage and check out of the conference</i>	
3:00	All scholars must depart by 3:00	Hampton Inn

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR MAIN VENUES:



UPCOMING PROJECT FIBONACCI® EVENTS

4TH ANNUAL TAP INTO STEAM FUNDRAISER

September 15, 2025 (21+ Event)

Join us for an unforgettable evening at the 4th Annual Tap Into STEAM Fundraising event hosted by the Project Fibonacci® Foundation, Inc. This year, we're teaming up with other local nonprofits to bring a night of fun and entertainment to Copper City Brewing Company, kicking off the Mohawk Valley Gives campaign.

STEAM Scholar parents and community members are invited to come together for an evening filled with live music, delicious food, refreshing cold beer, and a variety of exciting activities. From basket raffles to live auctions, there's something for everyone to enjoy. This is a fantastic opportunity to support local causes while having a great time with friends and family.

GIVING DAY

September 19, 2025

Giving Day, celebrated through Mohawk Valley Gives, is a highly anticipated event dedicated to fostering community support and generosity. This special day, taking place on September 19th, provides a unique opportunity for individuals to make a significant impact by contributing to our year-round STEAM education initiatives. Every dollar donated helps to inspire and empower the next generation of innovators, thinkers, and leaders in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. Your contributions, no matter the size, can help sustain and expand these vital programs, ensuring that students have access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed. Please consider making a donation on Giving Day and be part of a collective effort to enhance educational experiences and drive positive change within the community.

4TH ANNUAL STEAM WOMEN RISING SYMPOSIUM

March 2026

The fourth annual symposium will feature a diverse lineup of inspiring speakers, hands-on workshops, and networking opportunities designed to empower and uplift the next generation of female innovators. Attendees will have the chance to explore the latest advancements in STEAM and to engage in meaningful discussions about the future of these fields. Whether you are a student eager to learn more about STEAM careers, a teacher looking for new resources to inspire your classroom, or a professional seeking to connect with like-minded individuals, the 2026 Symposium promises to be an unforgettable experience. Join us in celebrating the achievements of women in STEAM and be part of a community dedicated to fostering innovation and inclusivity.

8TH ANNUAL PROJECT FIBONACCI® STEAM LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE Summer 2026

Get ready for an unforgettable journey into the frontiers of science, imagination, and innovation at the 8th Annual Project Fibonacci® STEAM Leadership Conference, returning in the summer of 2026! This year's tentative theme, "**The Quantum Realm: Time Travel to Teleportation to Cyber & Entanglement**," invites scholars to explore the cutting edge of quantum science and its transformative impact across disciplines—from futuristic technologies and space-time theories to cybersecurity and quantum computing. Through hands-on workshops, dynamic keynotes, and immersive experiences, participants will delve into how quantum concepts are reshaping our understanding of reality—and what it means for the future of STEAM fields. Don't miss this powerful convergence of education, exploration, and leadership development.



**YOU'RE
INVITED!**

**JOIN US NEXT
SUMMER! MORE
DETAILS COMING
SOON!**

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