

Bridging the Gap Between Inspiration & Opportunity

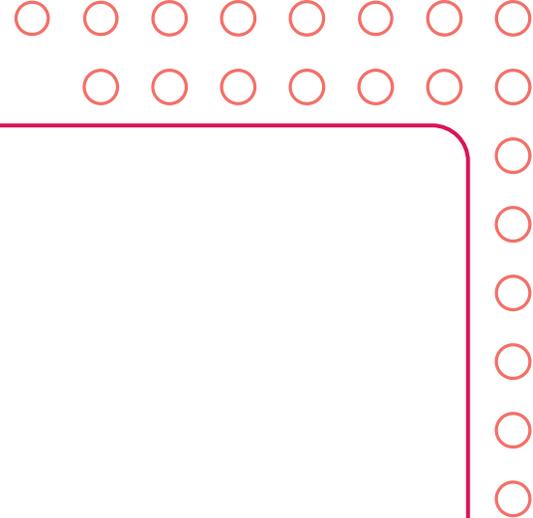
THE PROJECT FIBONACCI FOUNDATION, INC. PROUDLY PRESENTS

STEAM WOMEN RISING

FOURTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

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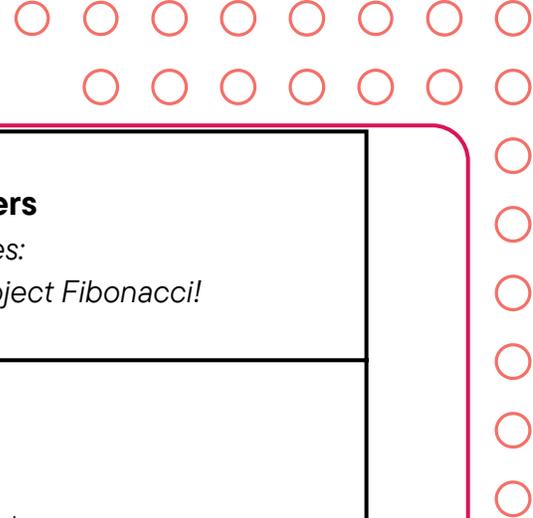




03	Schedule at a Glance
05	Welcome
06	Participating Schools
07	Meet the SWR Team
09	A Special Poem
10	Networking Tips & Tricks
11-23	HERizon Hubs (New for 2026)
25	Scholarships & Opportunities
26	Table Sponsors
28	Meet the Keynote Speaker
29-31	2026 STEAM Leadership Conference



SCHEDULE



<p>8:00-9:00</p>	<p>Registration, Breakfast & Icebreakers <i>Make sure to visit our special guest tables: On Point for College, Jervis Library & Project Fibonacci!</i></p>
<p>9:10-9:30</p>	<p>Welcome & Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Della Pray, Event MC • Michelle Minicozzi, SWR Coordinator • Special Remarks: <i>Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon</i>
<p>HERizon Hub Breakout Experience Each student will participate in three rotating HERizon Hub sessions, designed to provide exposure to multiple career pathways and industries.</p>	
<p>9:30-10:10</p>	<p>Breakout Session 1</p>
<p>10:20-11:00</p>	<p>Breakout Session 2</p>
<p>11:10-11:50</p>	<p>Breakout Session 3</p>
<p>12:00-12:45</p>	<p>Lunch & Learn</p>
<p>12:45-1:30</p>	<p>Keynote Address Introduction by Jasminka Husic, NYSTEC Keynote: Gianna Michalak, MS, CNS <i>Sponsored by the Women's Fund</i></p>
<p>1:30-2:00</p>	<p>Closing Remarks & Departure</p>



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

NYSTEC STEAM Programs

- + The **IgniteU STEAM** program delivers hands-on, project-based learning experiences that introduce high school students to career pathways in STEAM. Through interactive workshops and classroom activities, students build practical skills while exploring a variety of fields.
- + The **IgniteU Fellowship** connects students with small businesses, nonprofits, and other organizations, where they work independently under the guidance of an industry mentor. Fellows apply critical thinking, research, and analytical skills to solve business challenges while gaining professional experience in the workplace.

About IgniteU

IgniteU, powered by NYSTEC, is dedicated to the sustainable development of New York State by building specialized programming to support its economic and educational initiatives.



WELCOME



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 4th Annual STEAM Women Rising Symposium! Today is about more than just exploring careers—it's about expanding what you believe is possible for yourself.

You are joining over 150 students from 12 schools across our region, all here for the same reason: to learn, connect, and grow.

Throughout the day, you'll hear from inspiring women across industries, participate in hands-on experiences, and build meaningful connections with professionals and peers. But more importantly, you'll begin to see yourself differently—as a future leader, innovator, and problem solver.

At the Project Fibonacci Foundation, our mission has always been clear: to better prepare the workforce of tomorrow—you—with the skills you may not learn in a traditional classroom.

We want you to be:

- Creative
- Confident
- Independent
- Leaders of the future

This experience is designed to challenge you, support you, and help you step outside your comfort zone.

Take it all in. Ask questions. Make connections. Be bold. Your future starts here.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSOR:



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR TECHNOLOGY PARTNER:



MEET THE OTHER SCHOOLS

One of the most exciting aspects of today is the opportunity to connect and learn with fellow students from various school districts in our region! We encourage you to mingle and engage with others who share your passions. Together, you are the next generation of influential female leaders, entrepreneurs, scholars, and innovative thinkers.

welcome

**ADIRONDACK HIGH SCHOOL
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CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL
MOUNT MARKHAM HIGH SCHOOL
ONEIDA HIGH SCHOOL
ORISKANY HIGH SCHOOL
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ROME FREE ACADEMY
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VERNON VERONA SHERRILL
WESTMORELAND CENTRAL SCHOOL**



MEET THE TEAM



EVENT MC

MASTER SERGEANT DELLA "SARGE" PRAY

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



SWR CHAIRPERSON

MICHELLE MINICOZZI

Lead STEAM Women Rising Organizer
Digital Marketing Specialist,
ANDRO Computational Solutions, LLC

#WOMENSUPPORTINGWOMEN

SUPPORTING PROJECT FIBONACCI TEAM:



**Jessica
Griffin**



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Digital Citizenship: (Ages 9-15) Focuses on device safety, online responsibility, and digital wellness to help kids navigate the internet confidently and securely.

Entrepreneurship: (Ages 12-18) Teaches the fundamentals of starting and running a business. Developed with QuickBooks, this course gives learners practical, realworld skills.

Banzai Teen: (Ages 13-18) Guides teens through the realities of earning income, living independently, and managing everyday costs such as rent, transportation, utilities, and more.

College and Careers: (Ages 15-18) Helps teens explore the financial side of higher education and compare different pathways toward a successful career.

Banzai Plus: (Ages 18+) Walks young adults through the homebuying journey, including budgeting across multiple paychecks, handling surprise expenses, saving for a down payment, and understanding credit scores.

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For the Community

www.firstsource.learnbanzai.com

- ▶ Access to tools, articles, and activities to build confidence.
- ▶ Printable and digital activities for hands-on learning.
- ▶ Self-paced courses that fit any schedule or life stage.
- ▶ A personalized learning journey focused on building lifelong money skills.

SILHOUETTE POEM

BELIEVE

When You Begin Your Journey to Success,
It's Okay for Your First Step to Be Unsteady,
Believe Accomplishment Is Just Ahead.
Don't Let Anyone Take Away Your Dream.
Look Forward With Confidence,
Stay Focused On Your Goal,
And You Will Reach Success.
You're Capable Take the First Small Step
You Have Ideas, Skills, and Thoughts That Matter!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R.D.' with a flourish.



-you-
MATTER



MESSAGE FROM THE AUTHOR

This poem is just for you. You may feel a boost of confidence today, but confidence grows over time so you have more work to do. What matters most is continuing to build your confidence one small step at a time.

Keep going back to the poem and the silhouette. Let them remind you of your value, your strengths, and the goals you are working toward.

If you ever feel unsure, talk with someone you trust, someone who listens. Every small step you take helps you see your value and move closer to your goals.



NETWORKING TIPS & TRICKS

QUESTIONS TO SPARK CONNECTION

- What inspired you to pursue your career?
- What does a typical day look like for you?
- What skills should I start building now?
- What challenges have you faced?
- What advice would you give someone starting out?
- How can students gain experience in this field?



SHOW UP AS YOU

You don't need to have everything figured out. Be confident, stay positive, and remember your ideas and questions matter.

BREAK THE ICE

Have a simple introduction ready—your name, school, and interests. Think of a few questions ahead of time to help start conversations.

BE CURIOUS

You don't need the perfect thing to say. Listen, ask questions, and focus on real conversations.

CONNECT

Sit with someone new. Introduce yourself—even if it feels uncomfortable. Everyone in the room is here to connect and support each other.

*Empowered
Women
Empower
Women*

CREATING MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS

Connect with a mortgage for your first home, a loan for your new business, an IRA for the retirement of your dreams. Whatever you need to connect with - even if it's just a real person to answer your questions - we'll be here!



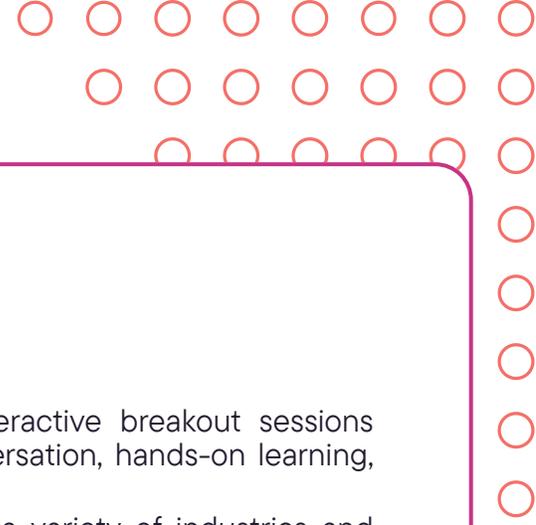
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HERizon Hubs

Explore. Experience. Connect.

At the heart of today's symposium are our HERizon Hubs—interactive breakout sessions designed to introduce you to real career pathways through conversation, hands-on learning, and direct connection with professionals.

You will rotate through three different hubs, gaining insight into a variety of industries and opportunities.

Health, Medicine & Helping Careers

- Explore careers dedicated to improving lives—from healthcare and wellness to community based support services.

Skilled Trades & Breaking the Glass Ceiling

- Discover high-demand, hands-on careers and meet women leading the way in traditionally male-dominated industries.

Art, Design & Creative Technology

- Where creativity meets innovation—learn how artistic skills translate into real-world careers in design, media, and technology.

Education, Mentorship & Community Impact

- Meet the leaders shaping future generations and strengthening communities through education and advocacy.

Leadership & Entrepreneurship

- Learn what it takes to build something from the ground up, lead teams, and turn ideas into impact.

Technology, Coding & Cyber Safety

- Dive into the fast-moving world of technology, coding, and digital security—and the careers shaping our future.

HOW ROTATION WORKS

Students are grouped by color and will rotate through three HERizon Hubs throughout the morning sessions.

Rotation Groups

- Pink, Orange, Purple, Blue, Yellow, Green

Each group follows a unique path to ensure all students experience a variety of industries and perspectives.

Example rotations include:

- Health → Trades → Technology
- Art → Education → Leadership
- Technology → Leadership → Health



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MEET THE HERIZON HUB LEADERS

Health, Medicine & Helping Careers



KASEY PENOYER, EDD, RDH

ASSISTANT DEAN/DIRECTOR OF DENTAL HYGIENE
MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (MVCC)

Kasey is a clinician, educator, and mother. She began her career as a registered dental hygienist before moving into academia. She has been a faculty member and program director and now serves as Assistant Dean of Health Sciences and Director of the upcoming Dental Hygiene program at MVCC.

What advice do you have for students? -

Identify your talent(s) and passion(s)- use them to build your future.



ALISIA POOLEY

MVCC CLINICAL COORDINATOR, NYAST PRESIDENT
MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (MVCC)

Alisia has served as the clinical coordinator for the surgical technology program for 10 years. She currently serves as the NY Association of Surgical Technology President. She has been a surgical technologist since 2007, working mostly at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse NY on the Orthopedic and Neuro team.

What inspired you to choose this career?

I helped take care of my grandfather while he was going through Chemo and radiation for colon cancer and decided to get into a healthcare field.



JAIMIE STASIO

FIREFIGHTER
ROME FIRE DEPARTMENT

Jaimie made history in 2021 as the first female firefighter in Rome, NY. Driven by a powerful, life-changing experience as a first responder, she felt called to pursue a career dedicated to service. Today, she proudly serves her community in a role she describes as "the greatest job in the world." Outside of the firehouse, Jaimie enjoys working out, reading, and snowboarding.

What advice do you have for students? -

Your daily habits make all the difference.



AndroMeta X
DRONES With A Twist - A STEAM Program

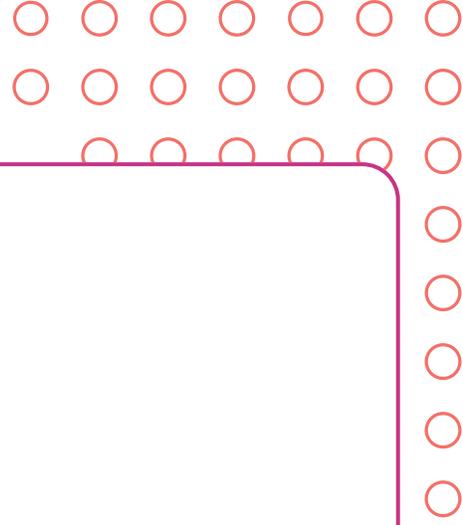
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Skilled Trades & Breaking the Glass Ceiling



LISA PASQUALETTI

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
CITY OF ROME NEW YORK

After retiring from the film industry, Lisa returned to her hometown of Rome, NY. In 2023, she became the City's first female Data Collector. Following the 2024 tornado, her work with Code Enforcement led to her becoming Code Officer for Ward 4 after completing extensive training and exams.

What are some of your hobbies? *Repurposing "trash" & doing anything art!*



DAWN ROLLER

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
INDIUM CORPORATION

Dawn Roller is the Associate Vice President of Human Resources at Indium Corporation, where she has worked since 1986 in a variety of leadership roles across the organization. She has played a key role in the company's global growth, workforce development initiatives, and early STEM outreach programs. Dawn serves on several regional boards, including the BOCES School-to-Business Alliance and the SUNY Poly Foundation, and has been recognized by the YWCA of the Mohawk Valley and the Women of Distinction Awards for her contributions to industry and community.

What advice do you have for students? -
Never stop trying. Fail as many times as you need. Dream big.



PATTY WATERMAN

PRESIDENT/OWNER
DELTA PLUMBING AND BUILDING SUPPLIES, INC.

Raised in a family rooted in the plumbing industry, Patty was influenced early on by her father, a plumber, and her mother, who owned a retail plumbing store. She spent years working in the family business, gaining hands-on experience and a strong appreciation for both the trade and customer service. When her parents retired and closed the business, Patty knew she wanted to continue doing the work she loved. When the opportunity arose to purchase her own business, she took the leap—continuing the work and values that shaped her from the start.

What advice do you have for students? -
You only live once. Find a job that you want to go to everyday, no matter what that job is.



ANDRO

Building the Future
Be Part of the Vision

PROUD SUPPORTER OF STEAM WOMEN RISING!

About Us

ANDRO Computational Solutions, LLC is a leader in advanced technologies...where wireless communications meets artificial intelligence.

Our cutting-edge solutions help keep people connected and safe – and we're always looking for the next generation of innovators.

Local. Innovative. Growing

We take pride in our commitment to workforce development, critical thinking, and the integration of STEM with the Arts.

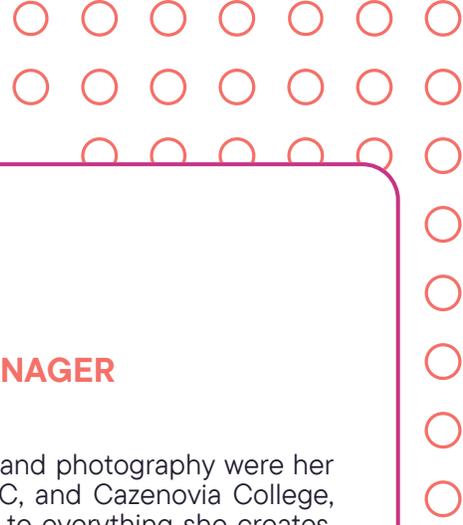
We offer hands-on opportunities for motivated high school students who want advanced careers in STEM.

Our Technologies Support Multiple Industries:

- ✓ Military Communications
- ✓ AI/Machine Learning
- ✓ Cyber/Electronic Warfare
- ✓ Sensor Fusion & Sensor Resource Management
- ✓ Civilian Emergency Management



MEET THE HERIZON HUB LEADERS



Art, Design & Creative Technology



MACKENZI VAN SLYKE DISHMAN

SENIOR VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
C & D ADVERTISING

From an early age, Mackenzi (Kenzi) knew that art and photography were her calling. A graduate of Rome Free Academy, MVCC, and Cazenovia College, she brings years of dedication and formal training to everything she creates. When she's not behind the camera or digital canvas, Kenzi can be found skiing, hiking, and spending time with her husband and dog — a life that perfectly reflects her adventurous spirit and big heart.

What advice do you have for students? -

Always ask questions, give it your all, and don't stop trying.



CAREN WOOLNER

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

MOHAWK VALLEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Caren Woolner is the Program Coordinator at the Mohawk Valley Center for the Arts, a role that grew out of years of volunteerism and a deep belief in the power of youth theater. What began as helping behind the scenes with children's productions evolved into building and expanding MVCA's performing arts and creative youth programming. Today, she coordinates classes, camps, exhibitions, and community events while forging partnerships that connect artists, families, and local organizations. Her work centers on making the arts accessible, welcoming, and woven into everyday life in the community.



ANDREA ROSE VEDDER

ART INSTRUCTOR **What advice do you have for students? -**
4 ELEMENTS STUDIO *Always create, even if you don't consider yourself an artist.*

A Dolgeville, NY-based artist exploring symbolism, subconscious narrative, and personal reflection. With over 15 years in oil painting, she is expanding into an acrylic series inspired by dreams and layered inner imagery. Her work reveals symbolic, intimate stories beneath the surface. She also studies ceramics at 4 Elements Studio and serves on the Arts & Exhibition Committee at the Mohawk Valley Center for the Arts, supporting inclusive creative spaces through her art, teaching, and regional exhibitions.



CORINNE JENSEN

TEACHER, PHOTOGRAPHER & AUTHOR

UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT & THE MOBILE LIBRARY

Corrine is Utica City School teacher and the founder of a literacy nonprofit called The Mobile Book Library. In her time off from work, she focuses on photography, capturing moments that highlight movement, emotion, and nature. As an author and world traveler, she enjoys telling stories of healing and connection, drawing inspiration from her journeys and the people she meets along the way.

What advice do you have for students? -

Embrace your weird.



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MEET THE HERIZON HUB LEADERS

Education, Mentorship & Community Impact



DR. PATRICIA WASHINGTON

DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
ON POINT FOR COLLEGE

Dr. Patricia Washington is the Director of Workforce Development at On Point for College and a passionate advocate for educational equity. With over a decade of experience, she has supported hundreds of scholars and built high-impact programs that connect students to college, careers, and hands-on STEAM opportunities through strong community partnerships.

Inspired by her own journey navigating limited access to opportunity, Dr. Washington is committed to opening doors for others. Her work is grounded in the belief that access changes everything—empowering students to learn boldly, earn confidently, and lead courageously.

What advice do you have for students? -

Do not shrink yourself to fit into spaces you were meant to transform. You belong in every room you walk into, whether it's a science lab, a boardroom, a tech startup, a construction site, or a classroom.



SARAH GOMEZ

PRINCIPAL
MADISON-ONEIDA BOCES

Sarah Gomez is the principal for early college high school programming at the Rome MVCC campus with a strong commitment to expanding opportunities for students in the STEM career fields. She creates new programs that are in high demand areas as a pipeline to employers throughout the Mohawk Valley along with creating internship components for hands-on experiences for students.

What advice do you have for students? - *Anything is possible!*



DANIELLE MARTIN

CO LEADER OF THE CONNECTED COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CONNECTED COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Danielle Martin, LMSW, is the Executive Director of Connect-ED NY, Inc., a subsidiary organization of the Central New York Health Home Network focused on providing school-based services and support to children and families. She has been the Co-Leader of the Connected Community Schools initiative for the last 6 years with a strong focus on partnering with Public School Districts to enhance collaborative partnerships to ensure that Students and Families have their basic needs met to be successful and creating opportunities for all.

What advice do you have for students? -

You don't have to have this all figured out today, through trials and tribulations, you will learn what fuels your passion to make a difference in our community! This journey is one that YOU build, step by step with learning life lessons along the way. Surround yourself with people that are like minded and passionate as well!



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MEET THE HERIZON HUB LEADERS

Leadership & Entrepreneurship



KATIE DRAKE

VICE PRESIDENT OF CLIENT STRATEGY & GROWTH

DANELI PARTNERS

Katie Drake is the Vice President of Client Strategy & Growth at Daneli Partners LLC, where she partners with leaders across commercial and education sectors to align people, performance, and purpose. With more than 20 years in local, regional, and national television sales and sales leadership, she brings a strong commercial lens to leadership development, helping executive teams translate vision into measurable growth while building cultures rooted in strengths and high energy leadership. She resides in Little Falls with her partner Christian and her six year old son, Nolan.

What advice do you have for students? -

Bet on yourself early, use your voice even when it shakes, and remember that your unique strengths are not something to downplay, they are exactly what the world (and your future team) needs.



KATIE ULLMAN

VP MARKETING & COMMUNITY

FIRST SOURCE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Katie has spent more than 12 years with First Source in progressive marketing roles, with over 25 years experience in the industry. She leads a dynamic team overseeing branding, communications, advertising, and community engagement including sponsorship, education & public relations. As a member of the Senior Leadership Team, Katie contributes to organizational strategy and long-term planning, with a strong focus on member engagement and community impact.

What inspired you to choose this career?

Creating something that moves others to take an action.



BARBARA WELCH-DROZD

PRESIDENT, CEO & MWBE OWNER

AndroMeta-X

Barbara Welch Drozd is a Rome, NY-based entrepreneur and community leader focused on STEAM workforce and youth development. After a career in behavioral health and clinical social work, she founded AndroMetaX in 2017, building it into a New York State-certified Minority/Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) that supports drone education and hands-on learning initiatives across Central New York. She is also actively involved in regional STEAM programming and has contributed to the Project Fibonacci Foundation through volunteer leadership and program support.

What advice do you have for students? -

Find the career or job you truly like and you will enjoy your work!

Enter the AndroMeta-X raffle to win a drone! Two winners will be selected



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Technology, Coding & Cyber Safety



CAROLINE BONOMO

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER

BAE SYSTEMS

A 2018 graduate of SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Caroline has been with BAE Systems since March 2019. She has played many roles in the company from beginner Java developer to now leading a small team in their delivery system. In her free time, she enjoys cookie decorating, baking, pottery, reading, knitting & crocheting.

What advice do you have for students? -

Don't overlook the colleges in your own backyard. Nobody cares where your degree comes from!



MAUREEN MUMPTON

SOFTWARE ENGINEER

ASSURED INFORMATION SECURITY (AIS)

Software Engineer at AIS thriving at the intersection of high-level development and a bustling family life. Dedicated to maintaining a strong work-life balance that keeps technical problem-solving sharp. Beyond shipping code, energy is channeled into the local community as a youth soccer coach and a supporter of Utica City FC. Home life is defined by a rewarding "organized chaos" shared with a husband, two children, and a "mini-herd" composed of a Great Dane and a Great Pyrenees.

What inspired you to choose this career?

I traded design tools for a terminal after discovering that coding was the ultimate puzzle. My background in visual design fuels my logic-driven work, a path I solidified by returning to school later in life to become the engineer I am today.



TIFFANY MAHONEY

SENIOR ENGINEER, OFFENSIVE SECURITY

VF CORPORATION

Versatile Reverse Engineer and Cyber Security Researcher with nine (9) years of professional experience in analyzing, deconstructing, and securing complex systems. Experienced Technical Lead for red-teaming initiatives targeting a variety of cutting-edge technologies, ensuring robust security and resilience against potential threats.

What inspired you to choose this career?

I enjoy a challenge, and when you're in reverse engineering everything is a puzzle waiting to be solved.

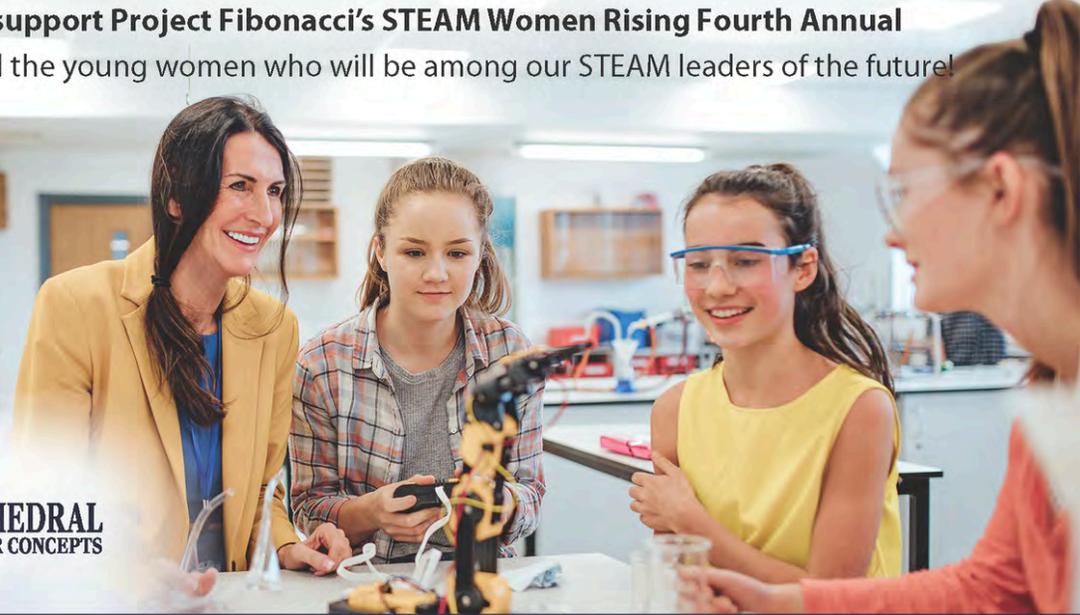


Cathedral Letter Concepts

is proud to support Project Fibonacci's STEAM Women Rising Fourth Annual Symposium and the young women who will be among our STEAM leaders of the future!



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Investing in Your Future

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and supporters, each participating school will receive one full scholarship for a student to attend the Project Fibonacci® STEAM Leadership Conference this summer.

This all-inclusive, week-long experience is designed to take your learning even further—through hands-on projects, real-world problem solving, and leadership development alongside students from across the region.

What This Means for You

- A chance to continue your STEAM journey
- Hands-on, immersive learning experiences
- Building confidence, independence, and leadership skills
- Connecting with a broader network of students and mentors

Making It Accessible

We believe every student deserves access to opportunities like this—regardless of financial background.

In addition to these full scholarships:

- Additional scholarship support is available
- Payment plans are offered
- Schools and community partners often provide assistance

Don't decide for yourself that you can't attend. Apply first—then explore your options.

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This opportunity is made possible through the commitment of organizations who believe in the next generation:

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THANK YOU TO OUR TABLE SPONSORS

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



LUNCH & LEARN

Real Conversations. Real Insights.

During lunch, you'll sit with professionals, sponsors, and leaders from across our region. This is your chance to ask questions, hear real career journeys, and learn what different paths can look like.





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opportunities for women and girls!*



Empowering Women and Girls

MEET OUR KEYNOTE



GIANNA MICHALAK, MS, CNS

Board-Certified Clinical Nutrition Specialist

Co-Founder, Root AI Health | Founder, Autoimmune Babe Wellness

@autoimmune.babe

SPONSORED BY:



Gianna Michalak is more than a speaker—she is a powerful example of resilience, innovation, and what it means to challenge the status quo.

After being diagnosed with a serious autoimmune condition at a young age, Gianna spent years navigating chronic illness and uncertainty—often being told there were no real solutions beyond managing symptoms.

She refused to accept that.

Through relentless research and a root-cause approach to health, she achieved long-term remission and transformed her personal struggle into a mission to help others do the same.

BREAKING BARRIERS WITH SCIENCE & AI

Today, Gianna is not only a Board-Certified Clinical Nutrition Specialist—she is also at the forefront of a new wave of healthcare innovation.

As Co-Founder of *Root AI Health*, she is helping lead efforts to integrate artificial intelligence with personalized health and nutrition, using data to better understand the body, uncover root causes, and create more effective, individualized solutions.

Her work is breaking barriers in how we think about health—moving beyond one-size-fits-all approaches and toward smarter, more adaptive systems powered by both human insight and technology.

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR

Gianna's keynote goes beyond health—it's about thinking differently, embracing uncertainty, and taking ownership of your future.

Students will walk away with:

- A new perspective on challenges and uncertainty
- Insight into how AI and innovation are shaping the future of health and beyond
- Tools to think critically and make empowered decisions
- The confidence to question limits—and push beyond them

WHY IT MATTERS

Gianna's story sits at the intersection of human resilience and technological innovation.

In a world shaped by rapid change, she represents what's possible when you combine curiosity, courage, and the willingness to challenge what's "known."

You are not defined by your circumstances.

You are not limited by outdated thinking.

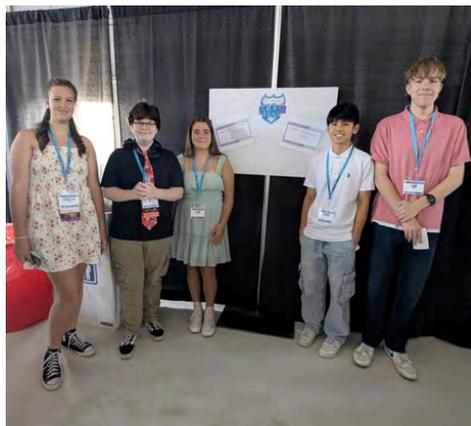
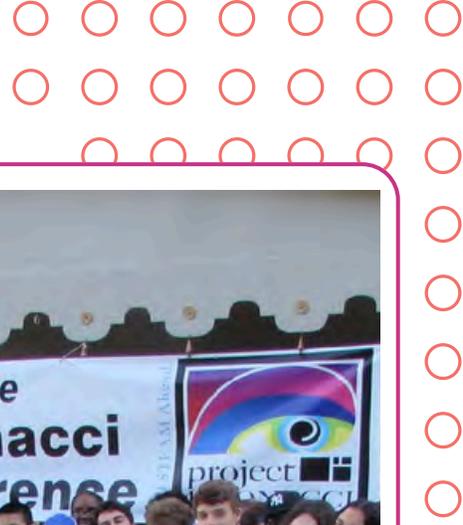
And your future is yours to shape.



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The Women's Fund
OF HERKIMER & ONEIDA COUNTIES, INC.
Empowering Women and Girls to Realize Their Dreams

2026 STEAM LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE





8TH ANNUAL

PROJECT FIBONACCI®

STEAM LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE
THE QUANTUM REALM

One-Week All Inclusive Experience

Students 15-19

Now Accepting Nominations



July 26- August 1, 2026

Griffiss Business & Technology Park
Rome, NY

The Project Fibonacci Foundation announces its 8th Annual STEAM Leadership Conference, themed: “The Quantum Realm: Time, Teleportation & Entanglement.” The conference will explore quantum science’s impact on our understanding of space, time, and reality, covering topics like quantum computing, cyber systems, and dimensions of reality. Topics on Quantum-inspired music and art will be presented by subject matter experts. This week-long event aims to delve into the scientific, ethical, and philosophical aspects of technologies that may reshape human existence.

- ✓ Hands-On Learning
- ✓ Celebrity Keynote Speakers
- ✓ Academic & Professional Advantage
- ✓ Enhanced Critical Thinking Skills

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 ProjectFibonacci.org



STEP INTO YOUR FUTURE

STEAM Leadership Conference 2026

The Project Fibonacci® Foundation STEAM Leadership Conference is a one-week, all-inclusive summer experience designed to help you build confidence, think differently, and prepare for your future.

This isn't school—it's hands-on, team-based, and built for real growth.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Hands-on, team-based projects (no experience needed)
- A Quantum-themed experience focused on real-world problem solving
- Collaboration with students from across the state and beyond
- Leadership, creativity, and critical thinking development
- Mentorship from professionals across STEAM fields

HOW TO SIGN UP

1. Talk with your parent/guardian
2. Submit your nomination form
3. Get a teacher/mentor reference
4. Complete a short virtual interview
5. If accepted, register to secure your spot

Spots are limited—don't wait.

ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY

Your school has already received one full scholarship to attend. And if you're interested—we will work with you to help make this experience possible.

THE IMPACT

You'll leave with:

- More confidence in yourself
- New friendships from across the region
- Stronger leadership and communication skills
- A new way to approach challenges and uncertainty

Nervous? That's normal.
You might surprise yourself.



READY TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP?



Apply Now
Limited Spots
Join Students From Across NYS & Beyond!





**WE WANT YOUR
FEEDBACK**



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

We encourage you to complete this short survey for an opportunity to win a virtual gift card. Your input is incredibly valuable and greatly appreciated!

