





7th Annual Career STEAMposium

STEAM to the Future

Gamma Zeta Boule Foundation

Pasadena/Altadena Ivy Foundation

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. – Pasadena Chapter

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Igniting the Torch of Empowerment

7th Annual Career STEAMposium

The 7th Annual Career STEAMposium took place on Saturday, March 18, 2023 at Pasadena City College (PCC). The event was back in-person for the first time since 2019! The theme for this year's event was **STEAM to the Future**, and that is what we did. It was truly a STEAM filled day with 19 Speakers across 10 workshops, 12 Hands-on/ Interactive Activities, a Young Professionals Panel followed by some networking with the STEAM professionals. There were over 350 attendees of all ages, and there was truly something for everyone.

Our Keynote Speaker energized the room with her address entitled **"I, Too, Am a Scientist"** where she based the concept on the poem by Langston Hughes "I, Too." The room was lively as she asked everyone to repeat after her,

"I, TOO, AM A SCIENTIST I, TOO, AM A POET I, TOO, AM AN ENGINEER I TOO!"

She informed the attendees that "Because STEAM education and careers are for every student. STEAM is for YOU!" She shared many gems during her

presentation, but the bottom-line message was, we need young people to remain engaged and focused so they can have

thriving STEAM careers and through diversity, they will bring a different lens to solving the world's problems. I, TOO, AM A MATHMETICIAN.

It was wonderful to be back in-person for this year's event. After the Keynote Address, attendees picked 2 of 10 workshops to enjoy. The speakers for the workshops were phenomenal and each continued to share, demystify and excite the attendees on the possibilities within STEAM. The speakers shared what they do today, but more importantly, they shared their journey from being a student to what they do today. They made themselves available and answered questions. On-going feedback on this event is people appreciate the openness and willingness to listen, answer questions and give advice to our attendees as we inspire them to pursue a future in STEAM.

After the workshops, the students headed to the PCC Quad to partake in all the Hands-on/ Interactive Activities. The committee was adventurous, and we grew this part of the program to include 12 activities that are highlighted later in this report. The weather was kind to us (it rained on Friday & Sunday, but the sun was out on Saturday) so students were able to fully enjoy all aspects of these activities.

Many students commented on how they enjoyed the sessions and appreciated how knowledgeable each speaker was on their topic. At the end of the day, they were Likely to Very Likely to recommend this event to their friends. Some direct verbal quotes and quotes from the evaluations were:

- "Meeting and networking with people, finding new opportunities and advice."
- "I learned a lot, but mostly I learned that someone cares!"
- "I enjoyed all the interesting speakers, the food and the giveaways."
- "I am a student at PCC. After attending today, I finally figured out that I want to major in Biotech."
- "The robotics exhibits were interesting."







- "We attended the science presentation of Billy Almon. His presentation about animal mimicry was very exciting. He talked about his interests and how he ended up in a very cool job."
- One parent stated "It was such an asset to the community and they hoped it would be continued in the future."
- A young adult shared that after attending the workshop with Lawon Carney, he is excited and reevaluating his next steps in his career as he was impressed by Lawon's journey and feels that he can make shifts and changes in his life, also.

Overall, this first in-person event coming of COVID was a resounding success. We had attendees of all ages, and everyone found something that was a match for them as they moved through the day.

Overview of the 7th Annual Career STEAMposium

Motivational Speaker – Dr. Soraya Coley

The day kicked off with a Motivational Speech by Dr. Soraya Coley.

Dr. Soraya Coley is the President at Cal Poly Pomona where she has brought a renewed energy level back to Cal Poly Pomona. She is a veteran administrator with more than 20 years of experience in higher education, and became the sixth president of Cal Poly Pomona in January 2015. Her experience includes serving as Cal State Fullerton's dean of the College of Human Development and Community Service, as administrative fellow, and professor and department chair for the human services department. Dr. Coley has brought a mission to Cal Poly focusing on "The Future of Work



and Human Engagement" to promote integrative learning, discovery and creativity by establishing "centers for excellence" which will capitalize on the school's polytechnic identity, strengths and opportunities for discovery, innovation, research and creative expression.

Her speech highlighted the importance of 4 words: I CAN, I WILL

- I Can and I will overcome the difficulties and challenges I face.
- I can and I will not allow others to make me feel unworthy or less smart.
- I Can and I Will be a doer and discover my interests and talents and then use them for great benefit.

Keynote Address

Nicole Leonard, Vice President and Associate Dean of Research and Education for Cedars-Sinai https://www.cedarssinai.edu/research/administration.html – Topic: **"I, Too, Am a Scientist"**

Nicole Leonard is dedicated to improving human health by catalyzing interdisciplinary initiatives which also drive diverse revenue streams. She thrives in organizations where the best minds, intellectual curiosity, and deep expertise address unique problems and strive for innovative solutions. She brings her diverse experience to weaving connections among disparate pieces and working in new areas of investigation. Thoughtful in approach and collaborative in execution, Nicole is both an idea generator and effective leader in evolving organizations. She is a continuous learner who finds opportunities to move the needle while at the same time staying laser focused on the mission and vision. She describes herself as a "Mission driven servant leader."

In her keynote address, she shared that STEAM employees have higher salaries, the importance of having diversity in this field, and the students attending the workshop can be anything they aspire to become.



Workshops

Science Workshop 1

Dr. Tamara Chambers is the Chief Medical Director of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Speech and Audiology at LAC+USC Medical Center. She also serves several other administrative roles, including the Associate Medical Director for Clinical Efficiency, Associate Director of Perioperative Services, and Assistant Designated Institutional Official for Safety, Fairness, and Equity (SAFE). Finally, she is an Associate Professor and the Associate Program Director in the USC Caruso Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery. She earned her undergraduate degree from Stanford University and received her medical degree from the Drew/UCLA Medical Education Program. She primarily works with residents at the Los Angeles County + University of Southern California Medical Center, where she previously completed her residency.

Dr. Earle Charles served as a member of the Executive Leadership Team at Kedren Health (Kedren) as well as Clare | Matrix. At Kedren he was the CIO and at C | M he was the COO. Earle's responsibilities were voluminous however, they minimally included managing customer and vendor relationships, developing and implementing business strategy, aligning information technology with business strategy, and assuring business revenue streams were consistent. These roles



among others occupied the last 20 years of Earle's career. Prior to Kedren and C|M, Earle held several senior executive operational positions in technology firms such as North American President and CEO of Bauerer International Inc.; Senior Vice President and General Manager of Unicom Systems International; Executive Vice President and co-owner of The Paragon Collection, Ltd., among others.

Science Workshop 2

Dr. Michael Scott is the Owner, Director of Michael B. Scott, M.D., Inc. (A Medical Corporation). Upon his graduation from Northwestern University Medical School, he completed his internship and residency at the Los Angeles County-University of Southern California Medical Center. He has held several academic appointments and positions which include Chairman of Urologic Section for the National Medical Association, Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery, Division of Urology, University of Southern California, and the Chief of Staff at St. Francis Medical Center in Lynwood, California.

Billy Almon is a Astrobiofuturistand nature-based inventor. All I wanted to be when I grew up was an inventor. Why? Because that's who my superheroes were. Growing up as an Army brat, it wasn't hard making friends, but it was hard keeping them when you must move every two years. So, my constant friends and companions became the comic book and movie heroes I discovered moving from place to place. They were characters like Meteor Man, the M.A.N.T.I.S., Blank Man, and Black Panther. All of which were black geniuses who harnessed technology to make their communities and the world a better place. In them, I had the blueprint for my future, but I had one problem - I didn't know how to get there. I eventually became an Imagineer and learned how to use storytelling and



creativity to invent cool things, design immersive experiences, and dream up new worlds. After a few years, I found myself at Howard University studying architecture, learning how to be a designer. While I was there, I entered a design competition at Walt Disney Imagineering, where my design led to me being offered an internship and then a job.

Technology Workshop 1

Lanny Smoot is a Sr. Research Scientist at Walt Disney Imagineering's Research and Development organization. Lanny has held leadership positions in telecommunications research at Bell Labs, Bellcore, and Telcordia. At Bell, among other things, he designed some of the first fiber optic, and video-on-demand systems. Lanny spent 10 years in Walt Disney Imagineering's Research and Development organization where he led R&D groups that focused on innovative sensing techniques, human computer interaction, robotics, imaging, and special effects systems for the Disney Parks. At Disney Research, he has helped create new 3D displays, robotic, and ride, systems. Lanny holds both a Bachelor's and a Master's Degrees in electrical engineering from Columbia University. He has earned more than 75 U.S. Patents for his work. This is sure to be an exciting workshop that integrates technology with innovation and entrepreneurship.

Heather O'Rourke is a Logistics Quality Engineering Manager at Mazda North America Operations. Her Education: Technology & Operations Mgmt. Cal Poly Pomona College of Business. Core Competencies: Lean Processing, Quality, Operations/Supply Chain, Gemba, leadership. Background:10 years of Automotive experience in Quality Operations for Parts and Finished Vehicles at Field, Regional, National and Global levels.

Technology Workshop 2

Ehab Gerges is an Executive Vice President with Harris & Associates, a consulting firm that is focused on improving communities and creating

better places to live through smart, safe, and sustainable solutions. Ehab has over 30 years of professional consulting experience in helping California government agencies build infrastructure projects. He graduated from California State University, Long Beach with a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering. He is a licensed civil engineer in California. Ehab started his career in the consulting industry as a designer, working on roadway, drainage, and utility projects. He held many positions throughout his career leading design and construction teams take part in delivering landmark projects throughout California. He is currently leading the firm in delivering the first phase of the High-Speed Rail project in California.



Olukemi Sawyerr is the Associate Vice President, Office of Academic Innovation at Cal Poly Pomona. Dr. Sawyerr is the functional leader of the Innovation labs at Cal Poly Pomona. She has been the primary driving force behind encouraging student thinking "outside the box.".

Engineering Workshop 1

Ed Chang is the Senior Engineering Manager (Ret) for the Aerosciences

organization of Northrop Grumman which includes engineering design, aero test, stress analysis, project engineering, and management of aero laboratories for developmental aircraft performance validation and verification. Ed was educated at San Francisco State University, Cal Poly Pomona, and USC. He has spent 32 years in the industry working for



General Dynamics, NASA, and Northrop Grumman. His projects have included: Standard Missile I & II, Phalanx, Hyper X43A, B-2 Spirit Bomber, Global Hawks UAV, X-47 JUCAS, and the most recently revealed B-21 Raider.



Engineering Workshop 2

Ewurabena Mensa-Wood is the Coker Operating Assistant, where she is responsible for the safe and reliable operation of the Coker unit at the Chevron El Segundo refinery. She joined the Chevron Corporation in 2013, and has held various leadership positions in the Operations, Technical and Maintenance & Reliability organizations. She spent 11 years in the Nuclear Industry where she worked in numerous engineering roles at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. Ewurabena has a passion for aviation and is a licensed private pilot. She holds a Bachelor's in Aerospace Engineering from Queen Mary College, University of London, and a Master's in Engineering with emphasis in Mechanical Engineering from California State Polytechnic, Pomona.

Lawon Carney is an Avionic Systems Design Engineer for Aerojet Rocketdyne responsible for designing component hardware used in Avionic Sub-Systems. He joined Aerojet Rocketdyne in 2022, once finishing his Electromechanical Systems Engineering degree at California Polytechnic University-Pomona. Lawon also has a passion for entrepreneurship as he is the Co-Founder of a tech-startup in the entertainment industry.





Arts Workshop 1

Shannon Baker Davis is an award-winning television and film editor. After 10 years editing unscripted series for iconic

shows Project Runway and Top Chef, Shannon jumped to scripted television and features. She has edited projects such as Grown-ish, Queen Sugar, The Photograph, The Obituary of Tunde Johnson, #blackaf, and Impeachment: American Crime Story. Her latest projects include Kindred (FX/Hulu), From Scratch (Netflix), and she is currently editing a Marvel series (Disney+). Shannon is an emerging writer/producer, having written web series (Colored People), pilots (Alkebulan), and features, all of which have earned laurels at various festivals and screenwriting competitions. Shannon was recently inducted into the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, becoming only the fourth Black woman to be inducted into the Editors Branch. She is a member of ACE, where she is a mentor in their Diversity Mentorship Program. Shannon grew up in Augusta, GA and has earned degrees from Howard University and The American Film Institute.

Kristin Ford is the Co-Founder and Director of Media for Creative Branding Agency–Ten X Talent Inc. Kristin has vast experience in entertainment journalism, branding, and partnerships. She attests her achievements to her education and community involvement. Kristin says her motivation for working hard is to break



barriers and become a gateway for future leaders no matter what industry they chose. Kristin received her B.S. in Public Relations from Eastern Illinois University in 2012. She worked for Nike Inc. as the Digital and Sportswear Lead; product/brand development, media tracking, crisis management, social media handling, event production. While with Nike Inc. Kristin worked first-hand with FLOTUS, Michelle Obama, styling team for the 2013 "Let's Move" campaign.

Arts Workshop 2

Victor Jones is the Graduate Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Architecture

at Cal Poly Pomona. Victor Jones is a designer, writer, and cultural activist. His creative and intellectual work stands at the intersection of architecture, community engagement, and the urban experience. Infrastructure as a social, political, and spatial instrument is central to his design research, scholarship, and teaching. Jones's written works include "New Orleans -Ecological Urbanism" in Shaping the City: Studies in History, Theory, and Urban Design (Routledge, 2013); (IN)FORMAL L.A.: The Space of Politics (eVoloPress, 2014); and Un pontà part | A Distant Bridge (MétisPresses, 2016). In addition, Jones is design principal of Fièvre+ Jones Inc. Projects include Bywater Houses (2015), Watt House Project Platform (2011), and a skate park in New Orleans (2009).

Richard Molina - Professor of Architecture –Cal Poly Pomona-Richard Molina is an architectural designer, educator and practitioner. He is currently a Lecturer in the Department of Architecture at Cal Poly Pomona and a Faculty in the School of Theater at CalArts. Previously, Richard has been an invited critic and taught in both graduate and undergraduate programs at SCI-Arc, New School of Architecture & Design and Woodbury University in San Diego. He is the founder and principal of ANIMOL –a multidisciplinary design and research studio based in Los Angeles.

His practice experiments within the architectural discipline through a range of projects and artistic endeavors at various scales. Prior to starting his own practice, Richard has worked at Platform for Architecture + Research, Durfee+Regnand IMStudioMI/LA. He earned an M.A. degree from the Southern California Institute of Architecture.



Math Workshop 1

Bri Kennerson is a transformational change leader with over 25 years of extensive management experience in a Fortune 50 company. Her expertise is in building strategies and programs focused on improving customer experience, sales, risk management resulting in loyal employees & customers which positively impact revenue, risk management and operational priorities. She has proven abilities in design and delivery of extraordinarily complex national programs, collaborating with cross functional teams, and working in a fast-paced matrix managed environment. Bri holds a Bachelor of Science, Business Management from the UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX. She is a graduate of the Wells Fargo "Trailblazer" Management Program. Bri's hometown is Pasadena, CA. Her professional passion is to coach and guide women to develop and advance their careers.



Louis Richards is a Sales Director at Mutual of Omaha. For the past 17 years, Louis

has worked in financial services to serve his community to help protect what is most important - plan for the future and prepare for the unexpected. It has been his passion to make financial literacy and well-being something that is available to all people not just wealthy people. As a Sales Director and Financial Advisor for Mutual of Omaha, he has had the

unique ability to either help people. This means that he has the licenses, knowledge and skill set to help individuals and families directly. He has also had the pleasure of leading and mentoring other advisors as they have developed in the business. Louis graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a BS in Business and earned his MBA from Claremont Graduate University Drucker School of Business. He currently holds his Series 7, 65, 63 and L&H licenses.

Math Workshop 2

Ed Magee -"Math is Music to Our Ears" –Ed Magee brings over 25 years of diverse work and life experience. He is currently the Vice President of Strategic Operations at Belmont University, and his former role was Executive Vice President of Operations at Fender Musical Instruments Corporation (FMIC), one of the world's leading musical instrument manufacturers, marketers and distributors, transforming music history since 1946. Having spent a decade at Harley-Davidson, Magee knew what it felt like to be at a company with an incredibly passionate consumer base and a true sense of purpose, and was immediately drawn to Fender knowing the opportunity to once again be at a company with immense passion, purpose, history and further potential Prior to falling in love with the guitar-making process and the opportunity for continuous improvement at Fender, Magee spent 15 years flying the A-6E Intruder and



the F/A-18 Hornet for the United States Marine Corps, earning the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Ruben Miranda is an Industrial Mechanical Engineer and graduated from CESUES in Mexico. He currently is the Vice President of Advanced Manufacturing in Fender Musical Instruments Corp, one of the world's leading musical instrument manufacturers, marketers and distributors. As an engineer and passionate guitar player, he believes that math, science and music not only go well together, but also have deep intrinsic connection where they are made for each other. The scientific method is not only an academic tool but is continually used and applied to improve all aspects of manufacturing operations. From an automotive industry background, he has since held varied roles in Fender, including Engineering, Manufacturing and Artist Relations.

Hands-On/ Interactive Activities

The Back to The Future Delorean - The 1.21 GigaWattGuy Delorean from the movie *"Back to the Future"* was on full display. This aligned with our theme of *"STEAM to the Future!"*





Cal Poly Pomona: Bronco Motorsports CPP Formula SAE is a collegiate design competition providing University students with the challenge to conceive, design, fabricate and compete with a small formula-style racing car. SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) sanctions FSAE through specific rules and regulations that encourage students to test their knowledge, utilize their creativity, and implement innovation. Cal Poly Pomona has their Formula SAE car on display.

They discussed how they have studied the dynamics of multiple Engineering areas to build a Formula Race Car and win competitions. Students also had the opportunity to sit in the car to get a full experience.



Cal Poly Pomona: Cal Poly Pomona: Baja SAE is a collegiate design competition providing University students with the challenge to conceive, design, fabricate and compete with a small Baja racing car. SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) sanctions BSAE through specific rules and regulations that encourage students to test their knowledge, utilize their

creativity, and implement innovation. Cal Poly Pomona had their Baja SAE car on display. They discussed how they have studied the dynamics of multiple Engineering areas to build a Baja Race Car and win competitions.







Cal Poly Pomona: Rose Float Team has a learning by doing ethos that is exemplified in all facets of the float program, as students from throughout all six of the polytechnic university's colleges get hands-on experience welding, metal shaping, machining, foam carving, woodworking, painting and flower harvesting —ultimately competing against professional **float** builders with corporate sponsorships. This presentation showed students the planning and engineering that goes into making a float.



Diamond Bar High School Robotics Team "Team Sprocket" is an aspiring robotics team from Diamond Bar High School in Los Angeles, California. Team Sprocket is a quickly advancing team that is making a difference in the school, community, and broader society. Since their debut in 2011, their team has taken the necessary steps to create unique opportunities for our dedicated members. They also support STEM in the community and form connections with sponsors to spread the reach of FIRST Robotics and the importance of STEM in the modern world. They demonstrated their robot that had the ability to pick up the ball and toss it into the "basket."



Pasadena High School Robotics Club consists of two teams that design, build, and program their robots from scratch. They also have other jobs for people who are less interested in robotics.







Tech-Attack Robotics is a rookie robotics team consisting of six middle school students from grades 6th to 8th. They design, build, and program their robots to attend First Tech Challenge Robotics competitions and host community outreach events to inspire children in Robotics. This season they participated in 9 outreach events where they brought their robot for kids to drive and shared with them how they built and programmed the robots. They also ranked third in robot performance and won the design award at their Interleague.



Sick Sniffer Project – Caleb Kodama: The Sick Sniffer project aims to determine if the volatile organic compounds of our breath can be used to diagnose fungal pneumonia, by developing an Electronic-Nose utilizing A.I. technology, while simultaneously transmitting patient data wirelessly. My project is about developing a diagnostic tool to aid doctors in disease detection. This is merely the framework for a network of E-Noses that can detect different diseases in the body and transmit that data wirelessly on a network like Azure IoT.



Art Center College Design: Not since the birth of the automobile has the transportation industry seen such rapid change—and with these changes come great opportunities for designers. In ArtCenter's Transportation Design program, we help students gain fluency in drawing and in physical and digital modeling, as well as develop an understanding of vehicle architecture, materials, process and aerodynamics. Students choose to focus in one of three advised areas: Vehicle Exteriors, Vehicle Interiors (including UX/UI), and Alternative Transportation (including motorcycle, personal mobility and public transit). No matter what type of transportation draws your passion, we'll help prepare you to make an impact in the field. Attendees stopped by and talked to current Transportation Design students, asked questions about their experience in the program, checked out live sketch demos and learned how to sketch a car!



Azusa Pacific Gaming: "What goes into the making of The Game". He will show photos and videos of what it is like in the gaming environment when the gamers are "creating". The purpose of this exhibit was to prepare students to want to pursue an innovative career bringing their creative ideas to life as a video game designer with Azusa Pacific's Bachelor of Arts in Games and Interactive Media.



JPL Planetary Protection Center of Excellence - Dr. Alvin Smith, Manager is Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Lead Planetary Protection Engineer for Backwards Contamination for Mars Sample Return and Manager for the JPL Planetary Protection Center of Excellence (CoE). In these roles he provides scientific oversight to several research & development projects to meet stringent engineering requirements for planetary protection, as well as program management for training programs, university outreach, and interagency collaborations. This activity will feature a representative from JPL that will highlight the Mars Sample Return Project that is currently in progress. He will share a video and answer questions on this remarkable project where the data that is being collected today won't be seen for years. If you are a student going into the field of astro-physics, biological engineering today, you will be the ones that will take the information gathered and determine the impacts to life as it will be known at that time.





NCRF STEAM Trailer – This exhibit helps to rekindle the community's enthusiasm for science. Attendees conducted fun science experiments to give students hands-on experience with science. Attendees also participated in an E-sports component within the Steam mobile, where students had a chance to win prizes.



Young Professionals Panel

Emmanuel Valencia-Ruiz – Currently works at Raytheon Technologies Intelligence & Space in the electromagnetics department also known as EMI/EMC. He is attending CSULA as an Electrical Engineering student. Emmanuel is a first-generation college student with a background in robotics.

Quintin Hollomand – Quintin is a GZBF LAMP Program Alumni and is currently attending Loyola Marymount University where he is pursuing his degree in Entrepreneurship.



7th Annual Career STEAMposium - Press Release - Final

STEAM to the FUTURE!

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She informed the attendees that "Because STEAM education and careers are for every student. STEAM is for YOU!" She shared many gems during her presentation, but the bottom-line message was, we need young people to remain engaged and focused so they can have thriving STEAM careers and through diversity, they will bring a different lens to solving the world's problems. I, TOO, AM A MATHMETICIAN.

It was wonderful to be back in-person for this year's event. The workshop speakers and hands-on activities were phenomenal as they strived to share, demystify and excite the attendees on the possibilities within STEAM. The speakers shared what they do today, but more importantly, they shared their journey from being a student to their current roles. They made themselves available and answered questions. The hands-on activities gave the attendees a chance to touch and learn more about each project. On-going feedback on this event is people appreciate the openness and willingness to listen, answer questions and give advice to our attendees as we inspire them to pursue a future in STEAM.

Through attending this event, some students made education and career decisions. Other students truly networked and will follow-up with professionals on potential internships. A couple of direct quotes were "I am a student at PCC. After attending today, I finally figured out that I want to major in Biotech." and "I enjoyed meeting and networking with people, finding new opportunities and advice."

Overall, this first in-person event coming out of COVID was a resounding success. We had attendees of all ages, and everyone found something that was a match for them as they moved through the day.

This event that prepares our workforce of the future for the jobs of the future is presented by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Pasadena Chapter, Gamma Zeta Boule Foundation and the Pasadena/Altadena Ivy Foundation. The sponsors for this event are Edison International, Harris & Company, The Boeing Company, Pasadena City College, Art Center College of Design, City of Hope and Northrop Grumman.