

GAMMA ZETA BOULE FOUNDATION &
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.® - PASADENA CHAPTER PRESENT

BUILD YOUR FUTURE ON

STEAM

FINAL REPORT

SPONSORED BY:



Caltech



Saturday, March 21, 2026



9TH ANNUAL CAREER STEAMPOSIUM

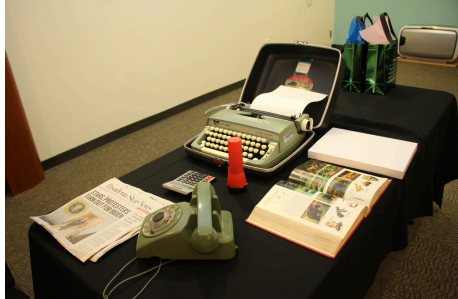
The 9th Annual Career STEAMposium took place on Saturday, March 21, 2026 at Pasadena City College (PCC). We promoted the event and said that it would take place rain or shine – and we got the heat with plenty of sun. Over 400 students, parents, exhibitors, speakers and volunteers came out as the theme for the day was **Build Your Future on STEAM**. It was truly a STEAM filled day with 18 Speakers across 10 workshops, 14 Hands-on/ Interactive Activities and a networking lunch with STEAM professionals.

Our emcee, Danny Parker, kicked the day off by tying it down and helping the attendees see the impact of STEAM fields as STEAM has lead the way to solutions over time. He exhibited old phones, a typewriter, cameras, encyclopedia, etc and stressed how all these devices are now in a single small device that we carry around with us.

Motivational Speaker – Ramsey Jay, Jr.

A motivational speech was delivered by **Ramsey Jay, Jr.** who highlighted \$100 Trillion is the size of the global economy and the largest opportunities are in the STEAM fields. He shared that if you are not connected to STEAM, you are not connected to where the future is being built.

He also challenged each attendee to **Learn** something new, **Ask** every speaker at least one question. **Meet** at least one person in each workshop and **Promise** to apply what they learn from who they ask and who they meet during the day.



9TH ANNUAL CAREER STEAMPOSIUM

Keynote Speaker - Dr. Thomas Parham

Dr. Thomas Parham, Ret. President from Cal State Dominguez Hills was our Keynote Speaker. He dropped 25 minutes of gems that students can carry forward through life to be healthy and have successful careers as he encouraged them to stand on truth and live a principled life.



He encouraged students that in whatever field they engage in, they should produce excellence. He asked them **“Who Am I?”** and then he provided the following definition. “Each of us is a seed of divinely inspired possibility which when nurtured in its proper context will grow into the fullest expression of all I am supposed to become.”

He noted that the biggest problem we face is the need for mental liberation. He encouraged students to seek validation from people that are trying to encourage your dream, and to never be limited by other peoples limited imaginations.

Student Feedback

“I enjoyed the workshops, and I wanted to be able to attend more workshops.”

“I enjoyed that they gave me life advice and food.”

“I enjoyed the opportunity to speak with new industry specialists and also share my experience to those younger than me.”

“I enjoyed that the event gave information to kids who haven’t any ideas about their future.”

“I enjoyed being able to talk to professionals in my major/industry as a chemical engineering student.”

“I think the activities were great, but weather makes it a risk. The professionals were all great to talk to.”

“I think getting the networking time is most important.”

I enjoyed the networking during lunch and the presentations.”

9TH ANNUAL CAREER STEAMPOSIUM MOTIVATIONAL & KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Ramsey Jay, Jr. fired up the crowd and got them engaged from the beginning of the event. Mr. Jay is a seasoned executive, strategic thinker, and former Division 1 Track athlete with 20+ years of successful experience partnering with corporations across a myriad of industries, pension funds, professional trade organizations, and senior executives to solve multifaceted and complex business challenges. As a discerning global thinker, Ramsey is particularly adept at combining rigorous technical and fundamental data analytics, with unique civic and social trends to prescribe scalable solutions of impact. Ramsey is the Founding Principal of Ramsey Jay, Jr. and Associates, a strategic consulting company specializing in corporate finance, commercial sales and marketing, business communications, human capital, enterprise team leadership, and diversity, equity, and inclusion programming.

MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER



RAMSEY JAY, JR
PRINCIPAL
RAMSEY JAY & ASSOC.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



DR. THOMAS PARHAM
PRESIDENT (RET.)
CAL STATE DOMINGUEZ HILLS

Dr. Thomas Parham , Keynote Speaker, then took the reigns and dropped many gems that students received as they also participated in his speech. Dr.

Parham served as President of Cal State Dominguez Hills from 2018 to 2025. During his tenure, he provided both steady leadership in challenging times and a bold vision for what the university could become. His tenure has included improved academic outcomes, increased academic excellence, the launch of major capital projects, record-setting fundraising, and multiple athletic championships.

Affectionately known on campus as “Dr. P,” Parham’s commitment to excellence in CSUDH’s fulfillment of its academic mission is evident in the university’s achievements since his inauguration.

Dr. Parham has also served as a licensed psychologist for more than thirty-five years as a scholar and practitioner, with a research focus in the area of psychological negrescence, African psychology, and multicultural counseling.

9TH ANNUAL CAREER STEAMPOSIUM SCIENCE WORKSHOP SPEAKERS



SCIENCE WORKSHOP 1 RM 220

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).

She earned her undergraduate degree from Stanford University and received her medical degree from the Drew/UCLA Medical Education Program.

She is dynamic, interesting and has inspired past attendees of her workshop to pursue careers in medicine.



SCIENCE WORKSHOP 1 RM 220

Loretta Erhunmwunsee, M.D., F.A.C.S., is the Vice President and Chief Health Access and Community Enrichment Officer at City of Hope (COH) Medical Center where she leads the development and implementation of strategy that addresses health disparities and that fosters inclusion across the COH enterprise.

She is a trained thoracic surgeon-scientist who leads a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-funded R37 grant investigating the impact of social determinants of health on cancer biology and recurrence rates in underserved lung cancer patients. Through her leadership and dedication, she continues to drive progress in reducing cancer disparities, creating more equitable healthcare systems, and improving outcomes for historically marginalized populations.



9TH ANNUAL CAREER STEAMPOSIUM SCIENCE WORKSHOP SPEAKERS



SCIENCE WORKSHOP 2 RM 222

Dr. Rosaysela Santos is an Assistant Professor in the department of Biomedical Sciences at the Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine (KPSOM). Dr. Santos specializes in the instruction of anatomy and embryology/developmental biology. Her research focuses on how anatomy instruction can be enhanced through the use of technology, peer-led teaching, and integrating clinical procedures and physical examinations into anatomy curriculum. Dr. Santos earned a BS in Biology at California Irvine (UCI) and earned her PhD in Biomedical Sciences at UCI where she completed graduate research in the molecular etiology of congenital heart defects.

Does the human body fascinate you? If so, come to this workshop and learn what an anatomist is and does, plus you'll get a chance to check out some anatomical specimens while you're here!



SCIENCE WORKSHOP 2 RM 222

Dr. DeVoneia Jordan is an educational leader and the Lead Career Coach for the College of Science at Cal Poly Pomona, where she champions equitable access to career development for diverse student communities. She holds an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Cal Poly Pomona, with dissertation research focused on the lived experiences of undergraduate.

Black women navigating STEM majors with a strong commitment to student success and inclusive excellence, Dr. Jordan has led initiatives that expand career readiness, integrate innovative tools such as Big Interview w/AI, and strengthen partnerships across academic departments. She is also the visionary behind the revitalization of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monument at Cal Poly Pomona, a project centered on community empowerment and Afrofuturism.



9TH ANNUAL CAREER STEAMPOSIUM TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP SPEAKERS



TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP 1 RM 205

Lanny Smoot is a Sr. Research Scientist at Walt Disney Imagineering's Research and Development organization where he has lead R&D groups that focused on innovative sensing techniques, human computer interaction, robotics, imaging, and special effects systems for the Disney Parks. Smoot's inventions include the extendable light saber used in Disney Live Entertainment, the new HoloTile floor, which Disney calls "the world's first multi-person, omni-directional, modular, expandable, treadmill floor," and the interactive koi ponds at Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel. Lanny was recently inducted into the 2024 National Inventors Hall of Fame. Disney's website describes Lanny as "the most prolific Black inventor in American history."

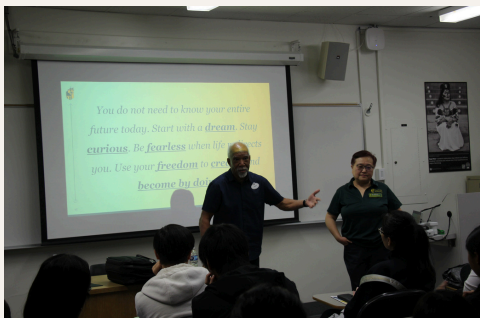
Lanny holds both Bachelors and Masters Degrees in electrical engineering from Columbia University. He has earned more 106 US Patents and counting.



TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP 1 RM 205

Dr. Yao Olive Li is a Professor of Food Engineering at Cal Poly Pomona and Faculty Director of the Student Innovation Idea Labs (CPP iLabs), where she supports hands-on learning, prototyping, and interdisciplinary innovation through campus makerspaces. She holds a Ph.D. in Chemical/Food Engineering from the University of Toronto, along with advanced engineering degrees from institutions in China and Canada, and has nearly 30 years of experience spanning academia, research, and industry. At CPP iLabs, she focuses on building inclusive innovation ecosystems that help students translate curiosity into technical skills, prototypes, and real-world career pathways.

At Pasadena City College's Career STEAMposium, Dr. Li shared practical insights on how foundational STEM training, maker skills, and collaborative problem-solving can open doors to technology-driven careers.

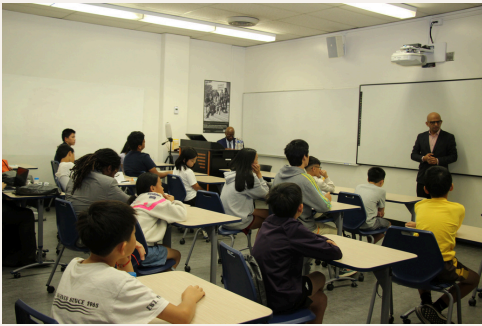


9TH ANNUAL CAREER STEAMPOSIUM TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP SPEAKERS



TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP 2 RM 209

Dr. Sandeep Krishnamurthy is the Singelyn Family Dean of the College of Business Administration and the Singelyn Graduate School of Business at Cal Poly Pomona. Dr. Krishnamurthy is an interdisciplinary academic scholar where his academic research has been cited over 5,000 times with an h-index of 29 and an i-10 index of 41 (as of January 15, 2024). His work has been featured in journals such as Harvard Business Review (HBR.org), Research Policy, Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes, Journal of Business Research, Marketing Letters, Journal of Advertising Research and Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication. His most recent work has been focused on the technology innovation ecosystem, especially on the impact of AI on business.



9TH ANNUAL CAREER STEAMPOSIUM ENGINEERING WORKSHOP SPEAKERS



ENGINEERING WORKSHOP 1 RM 217

Edward 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.

Edward was educated at San Francisco State University, Cal Poly Pomona, and USC. He has 33 years in the industry working for General Dynamics, NASA, and Northrop Grumman. Projects involved in include: Standard Missile I & II, Phalanx, Hyper X43A, B-2 Spirit Bomber, Global Hawks UAV, X-47 JUCAS, and the most recently revealed - The B-21 Raider.

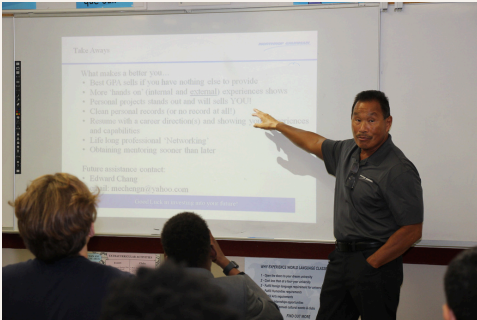
Attendees were encourage to think about their future. What is your goal? Do you want to make a living or do you want to build a career!



ENGINEERING WORKSHOP 1 RM 217

Carlos Gomez is currently working in logistics and has over 10 years of management experience. He has worked with various prominent companies including Frito Lay, Pepsi, Oakley, and Walmart. Carlos is currently developing an e-commerce business.

Coming to this workshop will help you to see things different and try different things!



9TH ANNUAL CAREER STEAMPOSIUM ENGINEERING WORKSHOP SPEAKERS



ENGINEERING WORKSHOP 2 RM 219

Ewurabena Mensa-Wood P.E. is a Section Head at the Chevron El Segundo Refinery where she oversees the day-to-day operations at the Coker and Sulfur acid areas. She joined Chevron in 2013 and has held various leadership positions within the Technical, Operations and Maintenance & Reliability organizations. Prior to that she spent 11 years in the nuclear industry with Southern California Edison where she worked in numerous engineering roles.

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 mechanical engineering from California State Polytechnic, Pomona.

Fuel your curiosity! Stop by to hear about the dynamic world of STEM careers, blending energy industries and a high-flying passion!



ENGINEERING WORKSHOP 2 RM 219

Heather O'Rourke is a Logistics Quality Engineering Supervisor at Mazda North America Operations. Her overall experience includes 10 years of Automotive experience in Quality Operations for Parts and Finished Vehicles at Field, Regional, National and Global levels.

Heather's Education includes a Technology & Operations Mgmt. degree from Cal Poly Pomona College of Business. Her core competencies include Lean Processing, Quality, Operations/Supply Chain, Gemba, leadership.

If you don't know where you're headed, no problem! Put the pedal to the metal and attend this workshop to learn more about the possibilities!



9TH ANNUAL CAREER STEAMPOSIUM

ARTS WORKSHOP SPEAKERS



ARTS WORKSHOP 1 RM 216

Leah Pears, professionally known as Marie Finch, is an actress, host, and speaker focused on reinvention and career pivoting. She is the host of *Up and Comers* of Hollywood and has appeared in projects including *Ultra Red* and *Under the Palm Tree*, with films streaming on Amazon Prime. Prior to becoming an actor, she worked in Mortgage Finance, Banking, State Service and as a Realtor. Leah shares her journey of confidently pivoting careers and acquiring new skill sets to pursue purpose and opportunity in entertainment business. Leah will be joined by Jasmine Pears who is an entertainment professional at The Walt Disney Company and an MBA candidate at UCLA Anderson. Come to this workshop to hear how taking a leap to follow your passion can lead you on an unexpected journey.



ARTS WORKSHOP 1 RM 216

Shelley Wallace has been making television and film projects come to life as an art director and set designer in the entertainment industry for the past 30 years. She has been an integral part of designing numerous television shows such as *Moesha*, *The Agency*, *Leverage*, *The Office* and the current CBS dramas, *SEAL Team* & *Black Mafia Family* on STARZ. Her film credits include, *Tuskegee Airmen*, *Mr. Deeds*, *Akeelah* and *The Bee* and *King Kong*, *Skull Island*.

Ms. Wallace's design career began when she was accepted to the High School of Art and Design in New York City. Subsequently she attained an academic scholarship to Cornell University's architecture program.



9TH ANNUAL CAREER STEAMPOSIUM

ARTS WORKSHOP SPEAKERS



ARTS WORKSHOP 2 RM 218

Sarah Meyer is a professor and a program coordinator of Visual Communication Design at California Poly Pomona (CPP), and program lead for the CPP STEAM Academy, whose mission is to connect students across the community, collaborate with CPP and its industrial partners, and create knowledge through team-based, hands-on projects and online courseware. Sarah serves on the board of the National Council of Art Administrators (NCAA) and the presidential board of the United Designs Alliance (UDA), an international organization whose mission is to encourage the next generation of design voices "through shared creativity without prejudice against color, convention, culture, economy, education, history, nationality, race, religion, sex, skill set, or social status."



ARTS WORKSHOP 2 RM 218

Kelcey L. Newman is an award-winning Creative Director and founder of ATTAIN Design and Marketing Communications, where he leads creative work in art, design, and visual storytelling across education, media, public service, entertainment, sports, and community-based organizations. With more than 25 years of experience, Kelcey has built a career by turning ideas into opportunity and creative vision into real-world impact.

He is passionate about helping young people see creativity not as a hobby, but as a viable and powerful career path.

In his workshop, students will be encouraged to trust their talents, understand how creative careers are built, and gain practical insight into developing their skills, presenting their work with confidence, and take meaningful steps toward their future.



9TH ANNUAL CAREER STEAMPOSIUM MATH WORKSHOP SPEAKERS



MATH WORKSHOP 1 RM 221

Robin S. Thorne is a chemical engineer and business leader with over 23 years of experience developing and implementing OSHA- and environmentally compliant programs across multiple industries, including aviation and construction. Her work helps organizations reduce risk and minimize liability.

Committed to expanding opportunities for others, Robin founded DemoChicks in 2019, a nonprofit organization that introduces girls to engineering and construction careers while supporting women in nontraditional industries through mentorship, scholarships, and hands-on programming. She is a graduate of Drexel University where she was inducted into the Drexel University College of Engineering Circle of Distinction.

Attend this workshop to receive tips on how you can achieve your goals!



9TH ANNUAL CAREER STEAMPOSIUM MATH WORKSHOP SPEAKERS



MATH WORKSHOP 2 RM 224

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.

Go to this workshop to learn how to set and reach your goals while enjoying your journey to the best version of yourself.



MATH WORKSHOP 2 RM 224

Dr. Rueben Smith is a distinguished leader with 25+ years of experience in client relations, strategic growth, facilities management, and educational infrastructure development across both public and private sectors. As Chief Growth Officer & CM Education Lead at Harris & Assoc., Dr. Smith drives strategic growth initiatives, ensuring Harris continues to address the industry's evolving needs with innovative solutions.

Dr. Smith holds undergraduate degrees in Civil Engineering and Mathematics, an MBA in Environmental Sustainability and a doctorate in Computer Science.

His background in managing complex facility projects, along with his passion for advancing educational infrastructure, positions him to make a lasting impact at Harris and reflects a focused investment in the company's growth.



9TH ANNUAL CAREER STEAMPOSIUM HANDS-ON INTERACTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- **Tech Attack:** Robotics team from Walnut CA. Team tech ATTACK is composed of 6 middle school students. This year is our second year in robotics. We built and programmed a robot to compete in FTC (First Tech Challenge). Last season, we were first place in our interleague and got the Design award in the qualifiers tournament.



- **Cal Poly Pomona: Bronco Motorsports CPP Formula SAE:** Formula SAE (FSAE) is a collegiate design competition providing University students with the challenge to conceive, design, fabricate and compete with a small formula-style racing car.



- **Cal Poly Pomona Baja SAE Team: Baja SAE (BSAE)** is a collegiate design competition providing University students with the challenge to conceive, design, fabricate and compete with a small Baja racing car.



9TH ANNUAL CAREER STEAMPOSIUM HANDS-ON INTERACTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- **Cal Poly Pomona: Liquid Rocket Lab Team:** The purpose of the Cal Poly Liquid Rocket team is to establish a Liquid Rocket Lab to expose students to the advancement of design and educational practices in both liquid rocket propulsion and structural design. Additionally, to provide current and future generations of engineering students consistent and evolving access to a means of designing and testing liquid rocket engines.



- **Urban Wildlife GO!** - Pictures of urban wildlife will be hidden around the quad area and attached to shrubs, trees, and other accessible locations. Students will receive a bingo sheet and a QR code to access Survey123 before being going to locate wildlife images to complete your bingo card.
- **CPP iLabs 3D Printing Demo** – This group will host a demo session or workshop with some interactive activities for 3D printing.

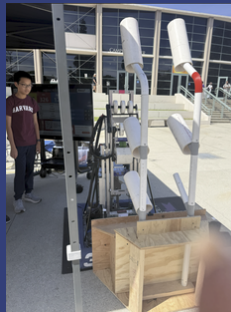


9TH ANNUAL CAREER STEAMPOSIUM HANDS-ON INTERACTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- **Beyond Robotics:** Beyond Robotics, is a community team based in San Gabriel Valley and is currently competing in FTC (FIRST Tech Challenge). FTC is a globally recognized robotics competition for students. Last year, we won the Winning Alliance Captain and Motivate award in the SoCal ILT 4 competition, allowing us to reach the SoCal Championships, where we won the Finalist Alliance Captain and 3rd Place Control award. This makes us 2nd place overall in Southern California.



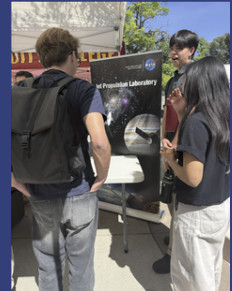
- **Diamond Bar High School Robotics Team “Team Sprocket”:** The theme of this activity will be How Robotics Works. This activity will be led by high school students who delight in sharing how to build a Robot from nuts to bolts and discuss why they got into Robotics.



- **AI Demonstration** – Demonstrate how AI integrates science, technology, engineering, art, and math, and highlight future career paths. Learn about Agentic AI and how one can build a career with their core interests.

9TH ANNUAL CAREER STEAMPOSIUM HANDS-ON INTERACTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- **JPL Team** - Calling on all budding scientists and engineers. Think critical Earth observations, rovers and a helicopter operating on Mars, probes to the outer planets and in interstellar space. You too can “Dare Mighty Things”.



- **NOMA** - SoCal NOMA provides opportunities and a platform to discuss, analyze and interpret the impact of design, art and architecture on the built environment. The team will bring their kit of imagination and create a space for building and understanding the structure of our environment and lives.



- **Axle-OtIs Robotics Team** - This team comes to us from Hacienda Heights High School. This self-funded, community-based FIRST Tech Challenge team united by a love for STEM, our community, and the FIRST program is excited to share their robotics achievements during this event.



9TH ANNUAL CAREER STEAMPOSIUM HANDS-ON INTERACTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- **LA Sanitation and Environment** - Settleable Solids Comparison to observe reclamation process, calibration curves and lab equipment practice. Settleable Solids Comparison: Students compared sealed jars of HWRP influents and 5-Mile effluent side-by-side to observe the reclamation process.



NETWORKING AND PROGRAM CLOSE

The event came to a close with networking where students enjoyed lunch with the STEAM professionals. During this time, students asked questions in this informal setting that allowed them to build relationships and explore opportunities.



Special Acknowledgements

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9th Annual Career STEAMposium

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