



Full STEAM Ahead: A K-12 Educator Workshop Saturday, February 25, 2017, 9:00am-3:30pm

Hosted by LeMay- America's Car Museum
2702 East D Street, Tacoma, WA 98421

STEAM Panelist Biographies

Camille Jones – 2017 Washington State Teacher of the Year

Raised on a farm in Quincy, WA, Camille returned there to teach, believing that you have to "bloom where you're planted." A millennial, Camille provides opportunities that help her students (not only rural, but mostly learning English and living in poverty) expand their worldview, overcome obstacles, and strive toward future goals.

She understands that students today need a fundamentally different skillset to become tomorrow's successful citizens, so she overhauled Pioneer Elementary's Schoolwide Enrichment Program to focus on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) and develop future-ready skills like collaboration and critical thinking.

As the Highly Capable District Lead, Camille led a district initiative to identify giftedness and nurture potential in culturally, linguistically and economically diverse students. Today, Camille's advanced programs include students from all backgrounds, including special education, and the gap in access for underserved groups narrows each year.

Camille knows the importance of supporting the whole child and extends her efforts into the family and community. She organizes Monthly Family STEAM Challenges, leads teams in academic competitions, partners in projects with Habitat for Humanity, and facilitates the school's first international collaborative project.

After studying abroad in Spain and Mexico, Camille earned a BA in Spanish and is now in pursuit of an MA in Gifted and Talented Education. All these experiences help her build better relationships with her students. She often cites her mission—to inspire curiosity, create opportunity, and grow potential—because a sustainable future depends on access to a relevant, global education.

Erin Lark

Erin is a secondary science teacher who taught in Arizona and Illinois prior to Washington State. For the last nine years, she's taught science and math in the Evergreen School District in Clark County and currently teaches 8th grade Earth science at Covington Middle School. Erin is a National Board Certified Teacher in early adolescent science and received her doctorate in Interdisciplinary Leadership from Creighton University. Her dissertation studied youths' innovation skills and their interests in STEM academics and STEM careers. Her passion for STEAM in the classroom came as a natural progression from a drive to connect young innovators with the tools they need to activate their full potential. Bringing the arts, both natural beauty and that replicated through technology to students' work engages them in a deeper level of character and community development. She believes that an educator focus on content integration isn't enough; effective STEAM teaching is an intense, reflective process in which resources are leveraged to support student-driven instruction. This use enables the opening of students' perspectives and develops awareness of local and global learning applications. She hopes to continue networking with other educators in this pursuit, opening her classroom and her practice to continual growth in this role.



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Michael Werner

Michael Werner was born, raised and traditionally educated finishing with a 4-year Machining Apprenticeship in the Swiss Airforce Technical School in Switzerland. After military service as a helicopter mechanic, he worked machining endurance race car engines including Audi's first V-8 engine components. His love for flying and vintage aircraft restoration brought him to the U.S. in 1985 where he worked in the aviation industry and international project management for a Swiss Aerospace firm. Always passionate about working hands on - he turned a woodturning hobby into a showing at the Smithsonian Fine American Craft Show and in 2003, then decided to direct his energy toward teaching Career and Technical Education Manufacturing in a small rural high school. In response to a request to develop a program for "women in non-traditional roles" he organized the first ever all girl team that designed, built and successfully raced a prototype diesel car in the International Shell Eco-marathon in 2010. The *ShopGirls* were invited by Shell to present at the Aspen Ideas Festival; the co-ed team *UrbanAutos* was the first High School to take their car to the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah for alternative fuel testing and educational outreach. Of nine girls in his first "ShopGirls" class, two were accepted to MIT and one to Stanford in Engineering. Michael speaks frequently at CTE/STEAM conferences. He lives with his wife Debbie and their Labrador Retriever Heidi, in Stanwood, Washington.

Recognition highlights include:

- 2011 - Recognized by US Sec of Education Arnie Duncan speech at Harvard "Pathways to Prosperity"
- 2011 - MIT Recognition as a "Teacher of Influence"
- 2013 - Shell Documentary "The Road to Houston" educational outreach to 5th grade elementary kids
- 2014 - Innovative Teacher of the Year – Center for Excellence in Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing
- 2015 - Selected to serve on the Shell Eco-Marathon Americas Steering Committee with emphasis on educational outreach
- 2016 - NWESD Regional Teacher of the Year and Washington State Teacher of the Year Finalist. Founding member of the WA State Teacher Advisory Council (WATAC)
- 2016 - *ShopGirls* team winning Diesel Prototype Category (Americas Champions) with 1,115 MPG
UrbanAutos placing second by 1.1 miles in Diesel Urban Concept Car category with 524MPG

Stephen Tibbitts

Stephen Tibbitts is the Managing Director of FabLab. He has a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the Washington State University. At FabLab, Stephen assists artists, students, engineers, designers and entrepreneurs with their projects. Occasionally, he has time to develop some of his own art and design projects, holding a few patents and disclosures of his own. Stephen is motivated to foster design, engineering and art related businesses in the Puget Sound region because he sees the importance of elegance in engineering design and seeks to bring more high level design jobs into the community.