NY STEAM Kick Off Conference

Panel Discussion

The Power of Collaboration

Moderator

Renee A. Walrath, President and CEO – Walrath Recruiting

Renee A. Walrath, President and CEO of Walrath Recruiting, Inc., has provided staffing and recruiting services for business in and around the Capital District since 2010. She has maintained a reputation for finding the best of the best for top organizations in her region. Renee was elected Vice-President of the New York Staffing Association (NYSA) in January 2014. Walrath Recruiting has expanded its New York State Certified Woman-Owned Business three times since opening its doors in 2010, and Renee now manages office locations in both Albany and Saratoga Springs. Demonstrating a commitment to community service and an enthusiasm for female advancement, Renee dedicates time to organizations such as Girls, Incorporated.

Panelists

Heather C. Briccetti, Esq., President and CEO – The Business Council of New York State & NY STEAM Girls Collaborative Champions Board Member

Heather C. Briccetti, Esq. is the President and CEO of The Business Council of New York State, Inc., the primary, statewide association advocating for New York’s business community. Ms. Briccetti has created a leading voice for business on economic growth, corporate governance, tax policy, labor, manufacturing, campaign finance reform, value creation, and education, among other issues. She has served on numerous boards and committees, including: New York State Wage Board; American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE), board of directors; the Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation, board of directors; and the New York State Tax Relief Commission. Ms. Briccetti is a nationally recognized leader and a regular speaker at regional and national conferences.
Luticha Andre Doucette, Fellow – University at Rochester

Luticha Andre Doucette is a former Ms. Wheelchair New York (2011) and was the 2nd Runner Up for Ms. Wheelchair America (2012) with a platform of science education for those with disabilities. Her passion for science also translates to her job as a researcher/bioinformaticist in genomics at the University of Rochester. In her free time, she serves as Vice Chair for the Al Sigl Council, a young professional group for the Al Sigl Community of Agencies dedicated to fundraising and building awareness to help people with disabilities be included in their communities. When not engaging in social justice, she loves to travel and has experienced great countries such as Hong Kong. In 2008, she was an ambassador to Costa Rica through Mobility International USA exchange.

Laurel Logan-King, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment & Pupil Services – Ballston Spa Central School District & NY STEAM Girls Collaborative Leadership Team Member

As Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment & Pupil Services for Ballston Spa Central School District, Laurel Logan-King is a member of the core planning team that has developed the Clean Technologies and Sustainable Industries Early College High School Program that began in the fall of 2011. She has secured nine years of grant funding to support the Clean Technologies and Sustainable Industries Early College High School Program including: New York State Smart Scholars Grant Program, New York State Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) Grant, and NYSERDA’s Clean Energy Training for High School Students PON 2664. Focusing on community outreach for the advancement in Girls in STEM, Ms. Logan-King is a member of the NY STEAM Girls Collaborative Project Leadership Team.

Sarah McKinney, Business Evangelist – Microsoft & NY STEAM Girls Collaborative Leadership Team Member

Sarah McKinney is a Business Evangelist at Microsoft, where she has worked for the last 23 years in various roles from Systems Engineer, to PR Spokesperson, to Product Manager. She graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. In addition to her passion in encouraging young women to pursue careers in STEM, she serves on the Board of Trustees for Make A Wish of Northeast NY. Sarah lives with her husband Mark, and their three young girls in Latham. Ms. McKinney is a member of the NY STEAM Girls Collaborative Project Leadership Team.

Philip Morris, CEO – Proctors and The Rep

Philip Morris is the CEO of Proctors, the performing arts center of the Capital District located in Schenectady and The Rep, the region’s only professional producing theater located in downtown Albany. Over the past 12 years, Proctors has raised and invested nearly 50 million dollars to expand its stage, add a flexible use 430 seat theater (the GE), expand public spaces, create conference facilities and build a central heating and chilling plant that supplies 12 neighbor buildings and businesses with utilities and heats a snowmelt system under the sidewalks around Proctors' block, saving users and substantially reducing the carbon footprint of the buildings involved. The Education program of Proctors and The Rep touch over 75,000 young people a year with programs in schools, in the theaters and in a robust summer school.