

Conference Committee ♦ 2020-2021

Get to know the STEAMz Committee! Committee members are alumni, faculty, and staff:



Sharon Christian

Sharon is the Director of Learning Support Services and the Chair for the STEAMz Conference Committee. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Wayne State University, and is currently pursuing her masters degree. During her free time, Sharon enjoys writing fantasy novels, visiting a wolf sanctuary, and is known to close friends as a coffee aficionado.

Erica Bednarski

Erica is the Administrative Assistant for Learning Support Services. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Multimedia Production and Post-Production, and a Master's in Film Theory and Criticism, both from Central Michigan University. Outside of Schoolcraft, she enjoys Jazzercise, cross stitching, and is a referee with Detroit Roller Derby.



Sherrye Bailey

Sherrye is an Academic Success Coach for Learning Strategies and Writing and has been at Schoolcraft College over 20 years, as a supervisor of tutoring and testing services at the Radcliff Campus. Sherrye has over 16 years as an instructor in Pre-K, K, and at Schoolcraft College, where she taught CAB classes for several semesters. Her hobbies include painting, drawing, reading, and taking online classes. She is a published author, holds certificates in English and Resume Writing, among others. She is a Schoolcraft graduate of 2005, receiving a degree in Graphic Design. Most recently, she received a Master of Arts in Education-Instructional from Central Michigan University.





Raymond Falkiewicz

Raymond is a 20-year-old alumni of Schoolcraft College. They graduated in December 2020 with their Associate's in Arts. In June 2020, Raymond presented their own research on the mental health of the LGBTQ+ community in the first SteamZ conference. This life-changing experience showed Raymond how to work with multiple mentors, conduct and summarize their own research, and present their findings to a virtual audience. Raymond joined the SteamZ committee because they want to see SteamZ inspire & teach others as it had done for them.

Laura Haldane

Laura Haldane has undergraduate degrees in English and Environmental Science, so she understands the importance of bridging the arts, humanities, and sciences to better understand and improve our world. She supports the new student experience at Schoolcraft as the Admissions, Orientation, & Early College Coordinator. She also works as an adjunct instructor of English at a local university, teaching college composition and literature courses.



Paul Holody

Paul is an Associate Professor of Physics at Schoolcraft College, joining the faculty in 2002. He enjoys engaging students in the topics of mechanics, thermodynamics, electricity, magnetism and optics. While at Schoolcraft, he has served on the Curriculum Committee, advised the Math and Physics Club, helped organize Middle School Science Day, taught Continuing Education classes and is currently the team leader for the Use Mathematics Core Ability. In 2014, Paul received the NISOD Excellence award in recognition for outstanding contributions to teaching and learning. Professor Holody earned his Ph.D. from Michigan State University where he studied electron transport through magnetic multilayered materials.



Mark Huston

Mark Huston is currently an Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophy at Schoolcraft College located in Livonia, MI. He has published articles and essays in the journals Ratio, Film and Philosophy, The Journal of Philosophical Research and in the books Tennis and Philosophy and Golf and Philosophy. He has also published book reviews in the magazine Philosophy Now and the journal The Community College Enterprise. In 2012 he received a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholar award as part of the "Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops" and in 2016 he received the Roueche Award for "Excellence in Teaching."





Elizabeth Kenney

As the Learning Center Coordinator at Schoolcraft College, Elizabeth Kenney is passionate about education and supporting students as they work to achieve their academic and professional goals. Elizabeth is a proud graduate of both Saint Mary's College (Notre Dame, IN), where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in English Writing, and Georgia State University, where she earned her Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics.

Nicole Margosian-Galindo

Nicole Galindo has been in education since 2003. She is currently an adjunct faculty member and Honors Program coordinator at Schoolcraft College. Nicole also teaches 6-12 grade English for an innovative private school in Ann Arbor. Nicole holds an MA in Reading, BS in Literature, BA in English and Sociology, and professional certification in Michigan for K-12 education. In addition to STEAMz, Nicole serves on the NCHC Two-year College Committee, the NCHC Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and the Galileo Alumni Board.



Olga Martinez

Olga “hearts” college students! In previous roles within academics, enrollment, and student affairs, she advised student organizations, co-presented with students at conferences, co-facilitated diversity and inclusion events, provided individualized academic support, and served with them at numerous community service-learning locations. Joining the STEAMzSchoolcraft planning committee wasn't a difficult decision. While being new to Schoolcraft College, as soon as Olga learned STEAMz was an opportunity to support a student-led event with a focus on igniting awareness for the interconnectedness of Arts, Humanities, and Sciences, she was all in! STEAMz is committed to highlighting the value of liberal arts in a way that's practical and engaging and she looks forward guiding students and providing them with feedback as they prepare for their presentations. She's also excited to learn from the STEAMz experience and is proud to be part of a college community that values and supports creative learning opportunities.



Michael McCoy

Michael McCoy has been a full-time faculty member in the math department since 2009. Originally from Kalamazoo, MI, he earned a B.S. from Western Michigan University and a M.S. from the University of Nebraska. Professor McCoy has taught a wide range of courses at Schoolcraft, ranging from pre-algebra to differential equations. He also serves as the faculty adviser for the Math & Physics Club.



Emily Podwoiski

Emily Podwoiski is an aspiring writer and poet from Metro Detroit. Currently, she is earning her Master of Art degree with an emphasis in Creative Writing at Wayne State University. She works as an Assistant Honors Program Coordinator at Schoolcraft College. In her spare time, Emily loves reading and of course, writing!



Jennie Rokakis

Jennie Rokakis is an On-Call Assistant for Learning Support Services, focusing on mentoring programs such as the PAL and STARS DEI programs. She has a Master's Degree in Higher Education/Student Affairs, a Graduate Certificate in Academic Advising, and a Bachelor's Degree in Women's and Gender Studies from Eastern Michigan University. Jennie is passionate about educational access for all students and working on systemic changes to create a more equitable campus and society.



Annika Sholander

Annika is Schoolcraft College's Academic Success Coach for International Learning Support services. She has earned her Bachelors of Science at Central Michigan University and uses her expertise in linguistics and teaching English as a second language at her position. At CMU, she majored in communication sciences disorders, double-minored in child development and American Sign Language, and gained her certificate in TESOL. Her professional interests include communication disorders, spoken and signed linguistics, and cultural awareness and competency.





Deborah Taracuk

Deborah is a seasoned educator with 18 years' experience at Schoolcraft College as an English and Communication instructor. While at Schoolcraft, she has also served as a program administrator, curriculum designer and faculty and student mentor. In her previous career, she was a professional communicator with 20+ years' experience in marketing, public relations, and organizational communication. Throughout her career, she has served on a number of non-profit boards and volunteered as a tutor.

Christopher Wood

Chris Wood teaches physics at Schoolcraft College. He is also the instructor mentor for the Engineering Club and the SCE Project (special/honors projects in Science, Computer, and Engineering). Prior to teaching, Wood held several engineering and director positions for various companies and consulting organizations in Detroit, Chicago, Silicon Valley, and Asia. A graduate (bachelor's and master's) of UM-Ann Arbor, Wood spends much of his spare time advocating on behalf of Tortoiseshell Cats--an alarmingly under-appreciated cat breed in the US.



Questions?

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